
June 21st 2020

To our C.H.O.P organizers, leaders, and community as a whole,

First, we would like to acknowledge that no organizations, protests, or revolutions are perfect. We must all be willing to collectively learn and react quickly to mistakes within our movement. We do not want to see what was started with the intention of lifting the BLM message destroyed before us all. We want to learn and react now.

In light of recent events we, a group of BIPOC and white ally volunteers and activists, would like to propose a few changes that we hope can be discussed at today's community meeting and going forward.

1. It has been made immensely clear that we need to help our community with drug/alcohol use within the C.H.O.P. We want to discuss the idea of safe use areas near the outskirts of C.H.O.P. and different signage (that we are willing to provide) encouraging intoxicated folx to:
 - a. Keep safe distance away from C.H.O.P. while intoxicated.
 - b. Seek help if needed while stating free resources/hotlines for mental health and substance abuse.
2. The late hours of C.H.O.P. tend to give way to some problematic behavior as well. As such, to help lessen the load of overnight volunteer security, medics, and residents we propose **suggested** C.H.O.P. hours of 8am-8pm. This way organizers, supply tents, education/petition tents, medic stations, and other resources at C.H.O.P. can be together when needed to seek community, organize, and protest. These suggested hours would hopefully:
 - a. Thin out the bodies at C.H.O.P. to just those intended for peace keeping and occupy purposes.
 - b. Encourage those protesting and keeping the message alive to REST. Which is important to keeping our community healthy and level headed as well.

This will not be intended to stop marches and outside events/efforts outside of these hours but it will, hopefully, encourage C.H.O.P. to stop being a chaotic, immobile zone in the late/early morning hours.

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3. We *need* better communication routes than standard social media. Collective Signal/Telegram groups need to band together to make safety comms and organizing easier. Our small group of ~25 has our own but we need to find a way for this to become community wide. Even if it's several large groups, we must organize this.

We want to keep fighting and stand our ground. We want to take back the purpose of this all. We want to raise the correct message. We developed a space that could accomplish this. A hub for organizing, learning, and protesting. Before it is dismantled from inside out or vice versa, let's make a collective effort to change. Let's grow from this.

Sincerely,

Activists and Volunteers of C.H.O.P