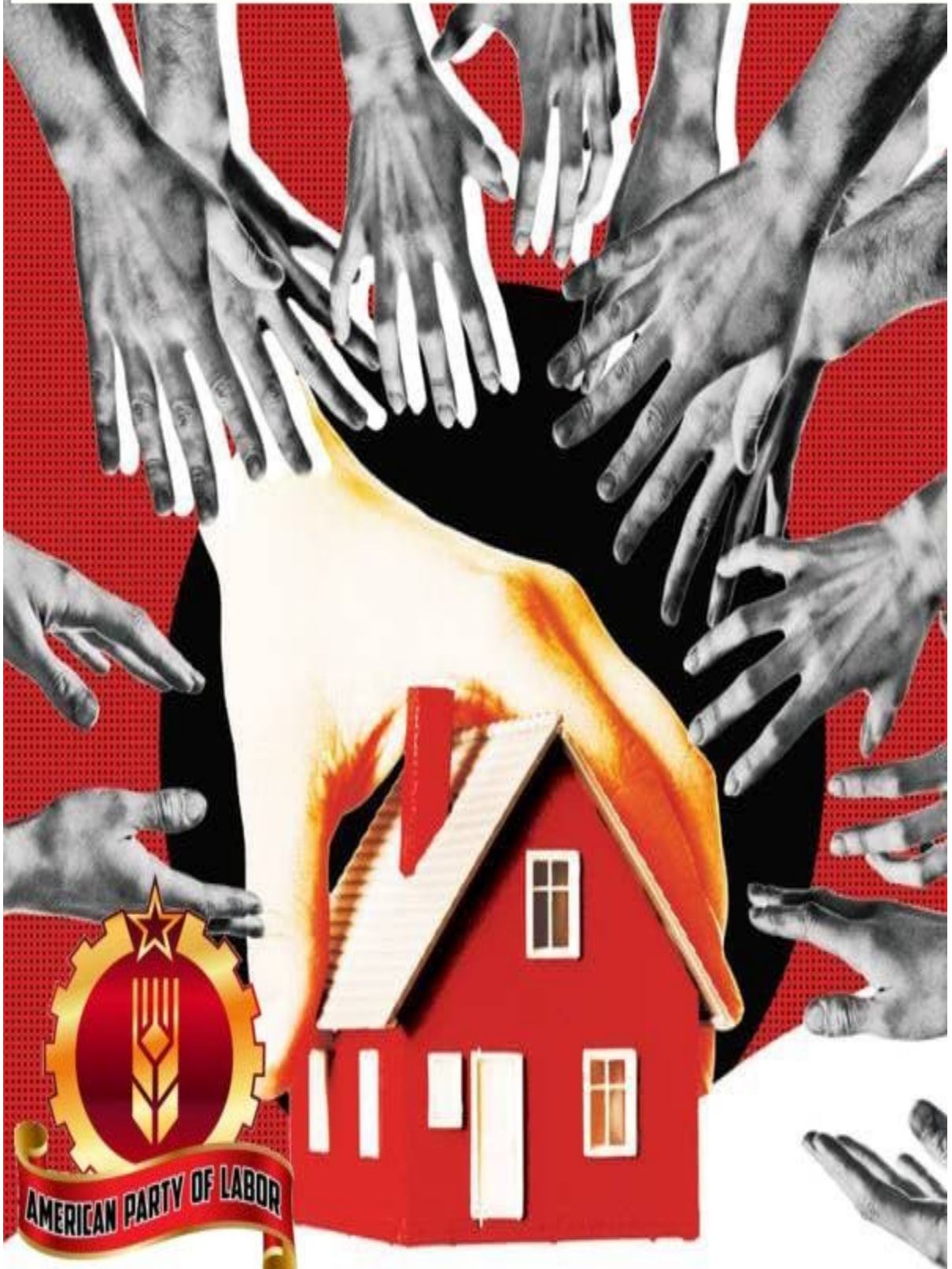


AFFORDABLE HOUSING, THE NYPD, AND PRIVATE PROPERTY



Across the country and globe, poor and oppressed communities are consistently under attack from the public institutions who supposedly support them, but the private interest behind that public support turns its openly hostile face to people. This can be vividly illustrated by looking at the relationship between the New York City government, the NYPD, Affordable City Housing, and the wealthy elite which puppet all these factors simultaneously.

Before looking into particular cases of modern-day affordable housing in NYC, let us first take a glance at the history of the relationship between the police, the wealthy, and the “projects” of the **New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA)**. A cursory glance at this history will show that this relationship is not new and has been cultivated and advanced for quite some time now. Where poverty exists, and especially within cities, police brutality follows. Around the world, we can see this to be true. We find that the exploited and oppressed peoples of the world have much more in common with one another than they do points of difference. One of these commonalities is the commonplace of police brutality amongst the oppressed peoples, the exploited, and all those under imposed¹ poverty. **This police brutality is not done arbitrarily but with a concrete goal in mind. The degradation of the poor and oppressed, and the destruction of the community; done out of hate, racism, private profit, and the growth of private wealth for the already wealthy.**

Within communities of poverty and color police violence is off the charts. This is said to be due to high crime rates within these communities. The narrative the people as a whole are sold is that communities are poor and full of crime because the people who make up the community, as individuals, are inherently problematic and incapable of living a “decent life”, so they put themselves in NYCHA. This is a 100% lie concocted by the wealthy, espoused through their media outlets, enforced by the government², and created by their hoarding wealth with the never-ending goal to expand.

You see, under a system of markets, wealth culminates into the hands of a small group of individuals. “The 1%” is a common phrase to refer to this group. In order for these people to accumulate so much wealth, they take it from everyone else. With communities of color being hit the hardest as this group of the wealthy elite has spent centuries now cultivating structural and social racism. The wealthy not only use their wealth to dictate law and civil organization, like controlling, lobbying, etc. the city government which controls public housing but by using the police to enforce and maintain the poverty-stricken.

¹ We say that poverty is imposed because it is created and enforced. In order for individuals and small groups to amass a great amount of wealth, they must take it from the majority of people who make up the exploited working class oppressed peoples. The police is one means of which poverty is maintained and imposed on the innocent.

² Which, contrary to the false narrative sold by the wealthy, is controlled by the wealthy elite and not in conflict with them.

As can be seen around the world, all communities have high levels of crime and civilian violence. Crime is a symptom of poverty, not the other way around. Due to this condition of imposed poverty, public housing has been hit the hardest by destructive programs and the police enforcement behind it. **The current opioid epidemic, created by big-time players on the market, the pharmaceutical companies, gives the cops another excuse to harass the NYCHA residents.** This gives the wealthy controlled media to use this vile orchestration to flash public images of the exploited and oppressed as degenerates, progenitors of the crisis, and the police as heroes. While the reality of the situation is that pharmaceutical companies have been lobbying and pushing the use of opioids to city governments in public initiatives. This not only elevates crime but creates addicts of good honest people trapped in a system of oppression.

Just as in the 80's when the Reagen administration flooded crack into the inner cities, using the CIA³ to control and move cocaine from South America into the United States, the opioid epidemic is followed by a created crime world that destroys the community and the individuals who make it up, creating disunity, fear, and a sense of helplessness against an already exploited and oppressed people. And, of course, the international drug trade has the same effects on the people in South America where so many drugs are trafficked from by the CIA⁴ who was held at gunpoint to grow, purify, and traffic the drugs, and much of the money went to funding terrorists to overthrow democratic governments of the people. Another direct connection among the oppressed of the world.

And of course, the elite continues giving the excuses, and the prevalent crime brings in great amounts of money for them. The police make continually high numbers of busts, arrests, and murders "under threat". All of these contribute to the merits of the precincts and **allows these organizations of the oppression to acquire more and more money, much of which is spent on pensions for these brutalizers, and their military-grade equipment which is bought from the surplus of big private weapons manufacturers and used on the people at home and abroad.** The courts receive money from fees, lawyers are paid, and the private prisons, where a majority of these offenders are sent if they survive the altercation⁵, profit greatly.

The police are also backed by private organizations and peoples highly interested in the gentrification and privatization of public housing and the destruction of those who are currently forced to live in their squalor conditions. This is not accomplished alone by overpolicing NYCHA with a racist police force that fetishes violence and racial violence especially. Through control of the city's money by legal tax evasion, private interest controls city resources. Through the influence and palm greasing of elected officials and bureaucrats, the private interest of the wealthy controls the policymakers directly. **Through the owning of**

³ An organization funded and led by the wealthy elite since before its beginnings. *The [Dulles] Brothers* by Stephen Krinzer is a good introductory read to this.

⁴ *Dark Alliance* by Gary Webb, and *the Politics of Heroin* by Alfred McCoy are good introductory reads to this.

⁵ Private prisons have contracts with the state which not only removes oversight from prisons, which accounts for continued abuse without repercussion, but also demands and inmate quota.

private property, the wealthy use their land and buildings as leverage against positive community policy and funding.

Before looking at the difference in budget between housing assistance and the NYPD let us first look at how the wealthy elite directly fund and influence the NYPD. **Starting in 1971, the New York City Police Foundation (NYCPF) was founded by powerful financiers, bankers, and real estate magnets as a “charity” to the police.** They raised over \$5.5. million dollars for the NYPD alone, in public donations. Private donations are not on the public record, nor does this include the various benefits and events the NYCPF holds for the NYPD. Like all money from the wealthy, it comes attached with strings. The wealthy get to directly influence the police face to face. Racism, which was developed centuries ago by the elite and cultivated violently amongst the general population so that the wealthy could justify colonial brutality around the world and oppression at home, is directly passed into the NYPD which already is full of racists from day one, passed into the NYPD which, like most police forces in the United States have direct historical relationships with oppressive organizations such as the Ku Klux Klan, the Aryan Brotherhood, and other violent far-right organizations.

Just like when the NYCPF was founded today’s current leadership is held by the wealthy elite:

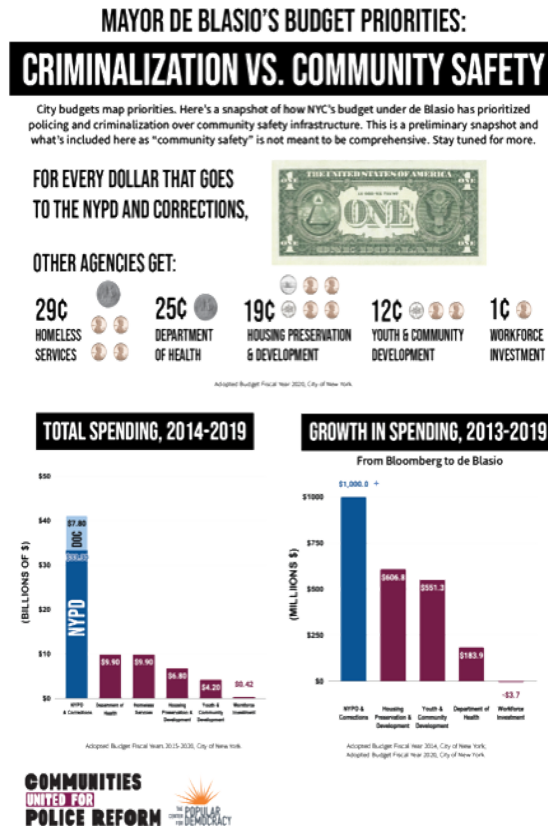
“The foundation's current board of trustees is overwhelmingly white. The collection of past and former members reads like an invite list for a party you're not invited to:

*H. Dale Hemmerdinger, mega real estate developer; Abby Elbaum, real estate developer; Laurence Fink, CEO of Blackrock, the world's biggest financial management firm; Benjamin Winter, real estate developer; Eric J. Gertler, former co-publisher of the New York Daily News; John Greed (you read that right), CEO of Mutual of America; Bob Kraft, New England Patriots owner; Stephen J. Meringoff, billionaire commercial property owner; Ron Perelman, billionaire businessman; Mort Zuckerman, real estate titan and former owner of the New York Daily News; David Millstone, CEO Standard Industries; Ivanka Trump, Donald Trump's daughter, and several Rudins, the dynastic real estate family”.*⁶

The racist elite are only concerned with the degradation of oppressed peoples, especially black people, but with expanding their wealth. By using the police against those in NYCHA, they generate fear, the community becomes ripped apart, and great hesitation to resist is cultivated. Combined, this gives more and more footing for the private interests to acquire the city-owned property and gentrify the neighborhood, leaving the poor oppressed with nowhere to go as living prices rise overnight.

⁶ <https://gothamist.com/news/do-cops-serve-the-rich-meet-the-nypds-private-piggy-bank>

Below will illustrate how money is used for the police and against community welfare, especially housing.



As we can see, the NYPD and Department of Corrections receive many times more funding than any public assistance program while also seeing more growth. Welfare investments have even seen a decline in negative numbers. **Public programs are given cents for every dollar the NYPD gets in annual funding.**

By using little funding the living conditions within NYCHA continue to degrade and with it, so does the psychology and ability to live of its residents. **Public housing received \$9.9 billion dollars over five years -- over three times less than the NYPD budget. This kind of funding makes it impossible to improve living conditions, which continue to degrade.** The City says that the NYCHA take billions to maintain. Marcy Houses, among the largest projects in all five boroughs, is estimated at \$3.7 billion dollars. That's over 1/3 of the budget just for one development. Yet, Marcy continues to suffer from decaying infrastructure, faulty if not non-functioning utilities, job closings, and rent increase. Yet, policing in the community which has always been strong, continues to rise and become more militant. The Vernon development has gotten to the point where its residents no longer have gas. Instead of repairs, the City provided the 303 Vernon Avenue residents with used two-coil electric hot plates. The same small, flimsy hot plates that are banned from college dorms and hotels because of their danger

now fill the Vernon Ave units. Baruch Houses in the Lower East Side likewise endured several months without cooking gas and were forced to use unreliable hot plates. Families are expected to cook meals on a single hot plate. Brownsville continues to decay with an \$2.8 billion in maintenance. Of course, even when the basic needs of residents will not be met, the idea of expansion of public housing is a pipe dream even though the city receives over 30 applicants for every one apartment, on average.

What we have seen is that the exploited and oppressed peoples are continually targeted at every facet of their life, even in their homes; even the homes themselves are attacked. The wealthy control the government, the government controls the police and housing. The NYPD continues to rake in the cash while policing oppressed people with continual and ever-increasing brutality. These actions bring great private profit to the already wealthy. Tax evasion of those same wealthy forces lower budgets. The lobbying of the commercial, financial, and racist interests of the elite work to degrade and remove the exploited and oppressed, only keeping them around when there is an advantage to their presence, such as exploited labor or prison profits.

The solution can only be collective control. **Collective control over the community, the city, the government on all levels, any and all police, the resources needed to live, and the resources needed to make and fill our needs. We must come together to resist the brutal power held against us and build a community of action and control.** Not just in Marcy or Vernon but across the city, across the state, the country, and the globe. But it all starts at home. By resisting those who degrade all facets of our life and building something powerful and wholesome amongst ourselves, for ourselves, for each other.

The American Party of Labor is...

a revolutionary working class organization. Our aim is to abolish the capitalist system and replace it with a socialist, working democracy, a system based on the principle laid out by Marx, "from each according to his ability, to each according to his need." There can be no true freedom or democracy, we argue, when billionaires have more wealth than the bottom 90% of Americans.

Who Can Join? How Do I Get Involved?

Every working person who is open to our plan for change, agrees with our Program and Platform and is over the age of 18 is welcome to join.

To look at our joining procedure, activity, membership FAQ, and more: please visit:

bit.ly/JoinTheAPL

You can find everything that you should know about us here, and you can contact us and connect to members in your area.

If we don't have a presence in your city, we'll get to know you and help you establish one.

Why be Marxist-Leninists in the USA in the 21st century?

There is an important fundamental difference between Marxism and other so-called anti-capitalist or "third way" theories. Marx, unlike many thinkers of his day, did not just see a problem with capitalism that could be mitigated. Instead, he and his compatriots analyzed capitalism itself to understand how the system worked. Marx's ideas for revolution are based off of that analysis, and the experiences of the struggles in Europe of 1848. Solutions to the problems of capitalism can only be reached by understanding and observing the system itself, textured with the political reality of the country and historical struggles. This is why we think revolutionary history is worth talking about, and making part of our platform.

Regarding the regulation of capitalism and emergent social democratic reform movements, it is not uncommon that capitalist states restrict the private sector for various reasons. The problem is that political power is still stacked in favor of the ruling class, they have every avenue and all the resources necessary undo reforms and regulations. What truly led to the collapse of the socialist bloc was not that these countries pursued communism, which was ultimately too radical, but rather that these nations pursued market style reforms until they had more or less become capitalist countries. As we have seen in the US, liberal victories are short-lived.

Today, social democratic movements would have to do much the same, if not less - regulate capitalism, nationalize some industry, and try to maintain a welfare state without expropriating the ruling class, without giving the nation a clear direction for the future, and worst of all, without putting the working class in power. We cannot face climate change, resurgent fascism, police brutality, the exploitation of oppressed nations, and the threat of American imperialism around the world without a revolutionary, centrally organized movement.

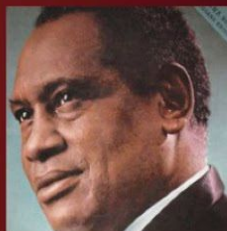
How is the American Party of Labor Different Organizations?

An Anti-Revisionist, Internationalist Party: The American Party of Labor is a dedicated anti-revisionist party, opposed to concessions to capitalists and half-measures that abandon the working class. The APL is an observer member in the International Conference of Marxist-Leninist Parties and Organizations (ICMLPO), and participates in the international anti-revisionist struggle.

A Party of Working Class People: The American Party of Labor is made up of workers fight for workers rights. Many of our members are in active union and unionization struggles, and we all do our political work after clocking out.

A Party of Equals: The APL is active in the fight for the rights of women, oppressed nations, the LGBTQ+ community, and immigrants, and for the community control of police departments. In 2019, the APL was a founding member in the National Alliance Against Racist & Political Repression.

Forever Anti-Fascist: We take the anti-fascist legacy of the Marxist-Leninist movement. Members of the American Party of Labor are dedicated anti-fascists, and active in movements against the Far-Right on college campuses, and the barbaric treatment of immigrants at the border.



"The artist must elect to fight for freedom or slavery. I have made my choice. I had no alternative. The history of the capitalist era is characterized by the degradation of my people; despoiled of their lands, their true culture destroyed... denied equal protection of the law, and deprived their rightful place in the respect of their fellows."

- Paul Robeson



Legalize Workers - No More Detentions, No More Deportations, Abolish I.C.E.!

Guaranteed Work and a Livable Income!

Socialized Healthcare For All!

Nationalized Healthcare!

Free Education For All!

Equal Rights, Pay, and Housing For All!

End All Wars of Aggression!

Abolish Private Prisons, Free All Political Prisoners!

No Platform for Fascists!

Abolish Profit Made By the Exploitation of Labor!

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Labor donated.

Our General Line.

1. The American Party of Labor comes from and represents the American working class. From time to time and place to place there may be individuals who are admitted to the Party who do not have a working class background, or are not currently considered to be working class by Marxist-Leninist ideology and principles. Such individuals are exceptions to the general rule, as they have in effect transcended their class through conscious application of Marxist-Leninist ideology.
2. The American Party of Labor maintains that value in society is produced by human action within the material world. That is to say, value is created by the consumption of labor power. The working classes, which have only their labor power to sell for their daily sustenance, therefore make production possible. We call for the reorganization of society to provide the means of production to the working class to be administered either under an elected or selected management or collectively through a council system.
3. The American Party of Labor demands the abolition of private property and that all means of production be in the hands of the working class. Profit under capitalism is extracted surplus value from the consumption of labor power and constitutes a theft from the working class by the capitalist ruling class. Under our system, the working class will be paid the full value of their production less the necessary deductions to support the state and its various cultural, economic and social support projects.
4. The American Party of Labor demands that all oppressed nations within the context of the American Empire, including, but by no means limited to, Indigenous peoples, Native Hawaiians, Guamanians and Puerto Ricans (within the context of Puerto Rico), be given national self-determination as to whether or not they wish to remain in the American socialist state, which shall be constructed on the remnants of the United States. We call for the end of the so-called commonwealth system in all U.S. imperial possessions. The nations in these political organizations should either choose to become a U.S. state or an independent country.
5. The American Party of Labor demands the cancellation of all current debt held by developing countries to the U.S. These loans were not made with the intention of helping the people of these countries, but rather to enslave those countries with debt.
6. The American Party of Labor is a party against all imperialism. We are opposed to all wars of aggression on the world stage and all other threats of war and military intervention. We call for the immediate withdrawal of all U.S. troops from abroad. We stand shoulder-to-shoulder with all occupied peoples and with all nations living underneath neo-colonial regimes. We call for the end of foreign aid to Israel, Colombia and other outposts of capitalist and imperialist aggression.
7. The American Party of Labor is an internationalist party. All peoples around the globe struggling for their emancipation from their own systems of exploitation are our allies. We extend our hands to all revolutionary organizations guided by Marxism-Leninism worldwide and to national liberation movements of exploited peoples of all countries because our cause is one and the same.
8. The American Party of Labor demands the U.S. withdrawal from NATO and other imperialist alliances.
9. The American Party of Labor stands fully against the militarization of the U.S.-Mexican border. It supports the rights of immigrants and the ending of neo-liberal policies in other countries, particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean, that drive sustenance farmers off their lands and to the United States due to a lack of economic opportunity in their native countries.
10. The American Party of Labor has a more generalized list of our demands and positions in a separate document called the Party Platform.

