

RICHMOND COPWATCH

(804) 303 5449

www.wingnut RVA.org

2005 BARTON AVENUE, RVA 23222

4TH TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7PM



RICHMOND
COPWATCH

STOP POLICE BRUTALITY

RICHMOND COPWATCH

Richmond Copwatch is a non-hierarchical organization dedicated to ending police abuse. We believe that monitoring and recording police interactions with community members is a vital first step towards ensuring accountability and protecting ourselves and our communities. We are committed to anti-authoritarian principles and seek to transform the nature of the police and explore alternative methods of community conflict resolution.

Objectives:

- 1) Reduce police violence by directly observing the police on the street, documenting incidents and keeping police accountable. We provide support to victims whenever possible. We also seek to educate the public about their rights, police conduct in the community and issues related to the role of police in our society.
- 2) Empower and unite the community to resist police abuse. We will do this by sharing information with the community, conducting "Know Your Rights" trainings, sponsoring rallies, supporting victims and other community based efforts to deal with the problem.
- 3) Encourage people to solve problems WITHOUT police intervention. We want to explore alternatives to calling the police.
- 4) Encourage people to exercise their right to observe the police and to advocate for one another.
- 5) Provide assistance in the formation of neighborhood Copwatch groups in areas where they do not currently exist, and provide networking information for neighborhoods that do already have copwatch groups.

TEAR DOWN ALL THE JAILS!

**JOIN THE RICHMOND ANARCHIST
BLACK CROSS-
A PRISON ABOLITION AND POLITICAL
PRISONER SUPPORT GROUP.**

WRITE LETTERS TO PRISONERS
FIND OUT ABOUT POLITICAL PRISONERS AND THEIR STRUGGLES
LEARN ABOUT THE PRISON INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX
SHOW YOUR SUPPORT OUTSIDE OF RICHMOND CITY JAIL TO THE INMATES
BUILD A COMMUNITY STRONG ENOUGH TO WORK FOR ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION
PRESSURE LOCAL OFFICIALS TO BUILD NO NEW PRISONS AND HARM NO PRISONERS
SHOW SOLIDARITY TO PRISONERS STRUGGLING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOM AROUND
THE WORLD

**MEETING THE 2ND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7PM
AT THE WINGNUT ANARCHIST COLLECTIVE (2005
BARTON AVENUE)**

RVAABC@GMAIL.COM OR 804 303 5449 OR
WWW.THEWINGNUTRVA.WORDPRESS.COM



IF A COP TRIES TO TALK TO YOU, ASK:

"AM I BEING DETAINED?"

IF THE COP SAYS 'NO', LEAVE.

**IF THE COP SAYS 'YES', YOU ARE ONLY REQUIRED
TO TELL THEM YOUR NAME AND YOUR ADDRESS. DO
NOT SAY ANYTHING ELSE OR ANSWER THEIR
QUESTIONS.**

**REMEMBER: YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN
SILENT AND THE RIGHT TO AN ATTORNEY. COPS
ARE NO LONGER REQUIRED TO REMIND YOU OF
THESE RIGHTS.**



**KEEP SAFE. KNOW YOUR RIGHTS.
RICHMOND COPWATCH.**

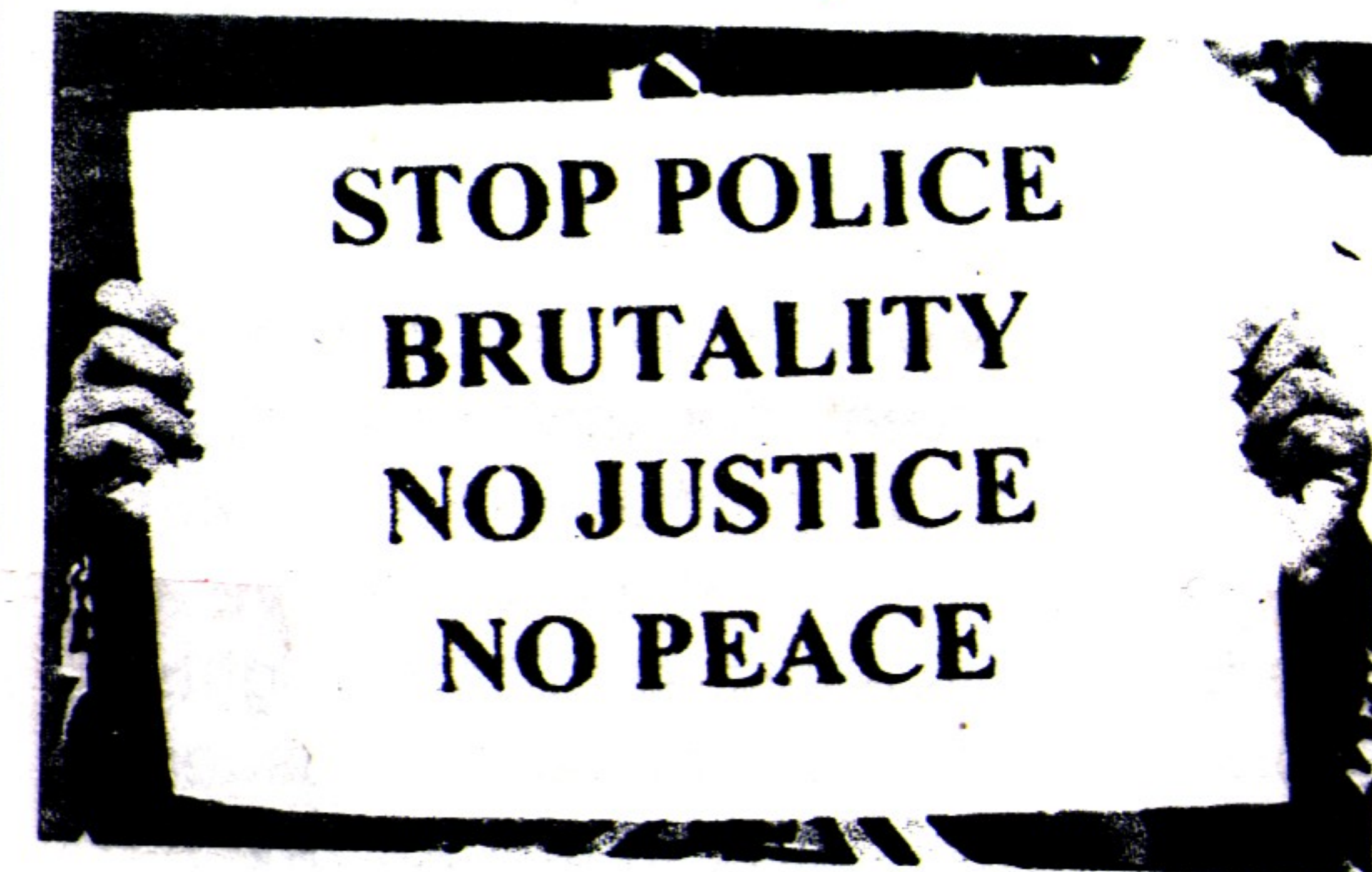
WWW.THEWINGNUTRVA.WORDPRESS.COM

804 303 5449

2. PHONETIC ALPHABET:

A	Adam	N	Nora
B	Boy	O	Ocean
C	Charles	P	Paul
D	David	Q	Queen
E	Edward	R	Robert
F	Frank	S	Sam
G	George	T	Tom
H	Henry	U	Union
I	Ida	V	Victor
J	John	W	William
K	King	X	X-Ray
L	Lincoln	Y	Young
M	Mary	Z	Zebra

Richmond Copwatch is always looking for support- everything from donation of money, cameras, recording devices, etc. to contact with pro-bono lawyers, advice from legal experts, etc. to help with creating a website, fliers, logos, and graphics.
If you would like to have Richmond Copwatch come do a Know Your Rights training for your group or organization please contact us at wingnut_collective@yahoo.com



If you would like to become involved with Richmond Copwatch there are monthly organizational meetings on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7pm at the Wingnut Anarchist Collective at 2005 Barton Avenue. Call [804 303 5449](tel:8043035449) for more information or check the [rvaradicalendar.blogspot.com](http://www.rvaradicalendar.blogspot.com)



O
RLY?!!

← HA.

Talk to Neighbors Not to Cops

Why not call the cops?

- The police are often an outside force with no genuine investment in the communities in which they work.
- Lots of calls can increase police presence and increase harassment of innocent people and nonviolent offenders.
- The police are an inherently racist and classist organization. Race and class profiling often leads to a "guilty until proven innocent" mindset on the part of the police when interacting with people of color or the economically disadvantaged.
- By using the police as intermediaries we sacrifice our personal accountability and autonomy, allowing our communities to become divided.
- The police are the strong arm of the state and have historically pitted community members against both each other and other oppressed communities. Solidarity makes us strong, and it is in the interests of the state, corporations, and the rich that people remain weak and divided.

COPWATCH

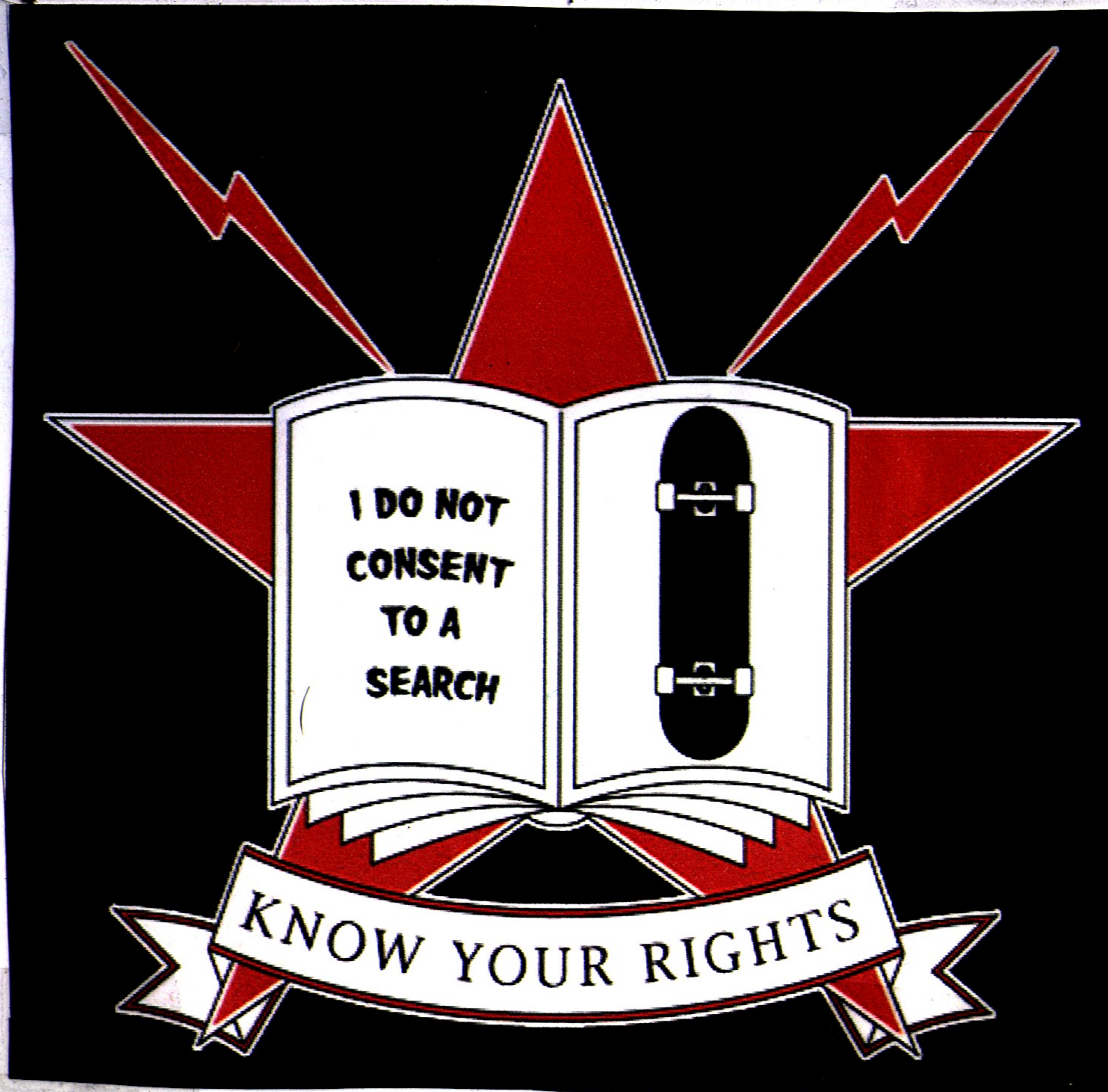
If you listen to RPD on a scanner or in person you might hear the

following codes!

1. TEN CODES:

10-1	Signal weak	10-19	Contact
10-2	Signal good	10-20	Location
10-3	Stop transmitting	10-21	Call by phone
10-4	Affirmative (OK)	10-22	Disregard
10-5	Relay to	10-23	Arrived at scene
10-6	Busy	10-24	Assignment completed
10-7	Out of service	10-25	Report to meet
10-8	In service	10-26	Estimated arrival time
10-9	Repeat	10-27	License/Permit Info.
10-10	Negative	10-28	Ownership information
10-11	On duty	10-29	Records check
10-12	Stand by	10-30	Danger/caution
10-13	Existing conditions	10-31	Pick up
10-14	Message/information	10-32	Units needed
10-15	Message delivered	10-33	Help needed quick
10-16	Reply to message	10-34	Time
10-17	Enroute	10-36	Felony Warrant on File
10-18	Urgent	10-37	Misdemeanor Warrant on File

This is from info we FOIA'd! More on that!



Know Your Rights

Richmond Copwatch facilitates Know Your Rights Workshops. Sometimes these workshops are held at the Wingnut Anarchist Collective or other radical spaces in the city. We are also able to visit different groups and organizations

to present the workshop. We are including Know Your Rights information in this zine, but the workshop offers an interactive format where participants can get experience practicing flexing their rights when dealing with the police.

FOIA

FOIA and the Richmond Police Department Protocols

Online at www.wingnutrva.org under the tab Richmond Police Department Documents or you can come by Wingnut Open Hours on Wednesdays and Fridays from 4-9pm to read the hard copies we have. 2005 Bartone Avenue.

Here are links to PDFs of various Manuals, General Orders, and Protocols of the Richmond Police Department. You can check them out for a better understanding of what the police are and are not supposed to be doing. This can help with fully understanding your rights, as well as when engaged in activities such as copwatching. It is important for citizens to know when cops are breaking their own rules so we can hold them accountable.

The Wingnut/ Richmond Copwatch used the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to get these documents from the Richmond Police Department. We scanned all 595 pages (at no small cost to our sanity), and are posting them online to save others the time and money (about 82 dollars in this case) required to get the documents. However, if you find this information to be useful, please feel free to make a donation to the Wingnut. We have a paypal button on this blog, and can also accept checks written to Moriah Karn and mailed to 2005 Barton Avenue Richmond, Virginia 23222 or cash donations in person.

The Freedom of Information Act is a policy which is Federal, but also exists in most states and localities. It means that if you can figure out what department to ask for information from, you can get the government to give you information not otherwise available. From inter-office emails, to lab reports, to manuals, or even one's own FBI files, FOIA is a very useful tool for everyone.

This website has information about the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, and who at the City of Richmond to contact:

<http://www.richmondgov.com/PublicUtilities/FOIA.aspx>

Depending on the agency you are requesting information from, there will be different fees associated with your FOIA request. Most places charge you a per page copying fee as well as a per hour labor associated with digging the files out fee. If you think that the fees are overly large, as sometimes they are in order to discourage your information request, you can challenge the amount of the fees.

One thing you might notice if you use FOIA is that some sections of the documents you received may be blacked out. This is called 'redacted'. Sections that are redacted are supposedly classified or security related

items. If you strongly believe that things are unnecessarily redacted there are ways of challenging that.

We are using archive.org to host our documents- to see all the documents we have posted you can search for WingnutAnarchistCollective on that site. We have about 50 different documents from the Richmond Police Department posted here. Some are just a few pages, while others are significantly longer.

Look out
for a zine
on FOIA
from the
Wingnut

Alternatives to calling the cops

-Get to know your neighbors. Talking to others in our communities allows us to discuss our grievances in a rational manner. This also gives us people who we can call in an emergency, who are almost guaranteed to respond faster than the cops could.

-Mediation. Sometimes after a heated altercation someone who wasn't involved in the situation can help come up with a solution that satisfies everyone.

-Learn self defense. Taking personal accountability for our own safety, including how to properly and safely use firearms, can make us feel more empowered, safer, and more confident.

-Live and let live. Not everyone has the same opinions and values, but so long as the things others are doing aren't harming us, it's in everyone's best interest to let people do their own thing. Why create unnecessary conflict?



There are three types of interactions with police:

Voluntary stop, Detention, and Arrest.

A voluntary stop is any conversation with police. Cops don't need any reason or suspicion to do this, and it may be something as simple as "hi, do you live around here?" This kind of stop is completely voluntary, meaning you can leave any time. Often, the purpose of a voluntary stop is to get enough

information from you to justify detaining or arresting you!

Cops have the right to detain you temporarily to investigate a possible crime- they need "reasonable suspicion" to be allowed to detain you. When you are being detained, you are not free to go, cops can hold you until they've investigated their suspicions. Then they must release or arrest you. While detaining you, cops are allowed to pat you down [more later on pat downs].

For an arrest, cops need probable cause, a stricter standard than reasonable suspicion. When you're arrested, you'll be taken downtown and "booked". If a cop is talking to you, odds are good they're gathering evidence in hopes of making an arrest. Often their best source of evidence is YOU- some information you give them by talking to them. So if you're allowed to leave, LEAVE! How do you tell whether you can go? Ask: "Am I being detained? AM I free to go?" You may need to repeat yourself- cops might ignore the question. If the answer is not "yes you're being detained", you can just say you're going to leave, then leave. Remember: even once you are detained, cops can't keep detaining you without cause. The most likely way for them to GET cause is something you tell them, or something they find on you. So DON'T talk to them and DON'T consent to any searches.

"I'm going to remain silent. I want to speak to a lawyer."

Mediation Resources

CENTRAL VIRGINIA MEDIATION NETWORK

10308 Woodman Hills Terrace

Glen Allen, VA 23060

(804) 627-0492

VIRGINIA MEDIATION NETWORK

2231 Oak Bay Lane

Richmond, Virginia 23233

(804) 254-2666 Fax: (804) 754-0801

office@vamediation.org THE VIRGINIA ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION JOINT COMMITTEE

The Virginia Bar Association

701 East Franklin Street, Suite 1120

Richmond, Virginia 23219

(804) 644-0041 VIRGINIA STATE BAR

707 E. Main Street, Suite 1500

Richmond, VA 23219-2800

(804) 775-0500

Financial Issues in Divorce in Virginia (PDF)



ROSMY

Richmond Organization for Sexual Minority Youth
Support for queer, gay, lesbian, bi, and trans youth.

www.rosmy.org

Offer trainings, drop in center, youth groups, and more.

Youth Support Hotline 888 644 4390

This phone and internet connection helps youth to be able to contact a trained operator for support, information and referrals. The Youth Support Line

number is 804-644-4390 begin_of_the_skype_highlighting

804-644-

4390 end_of_the_skype_highlighting

Sexaholics Anonymous- Support groups for people addicted to sex. Find out more about meetings online at:

<http://www.sa.org/top/United%20States%20of%20America/Virginia/>

Narcotics Anonymous:

<http://www.rovna.org/richmond.htm> to find out more info and for meetings in your area.

NA is a support group for addicts of narcotics.

Alcoholics Anonymous:

www.aarichmond.org for information about meetings in Richmond and surrounding areas.

A.A. Is, and What it Isn't

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy, neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

Know Your Rights When Dealing With the Police

Why Should I know my Rights?

Cops are not always here to protect and serve you. Unfortunately, there are crooked cops out there who will break the law and violate your rights. But even in these situations, it is important to still assert your rights- that will help you most later on. Cops are also not responsible for telling you your rights while you are being detained. It is up to you to know and confidently assert your rights!

Asserting your rights can be pretty scary. Most people are very intimidated in police situations and will comply with whatever the cops want. We forget that cops are supposed to be here to serve and protect us.

- But What if you are in a situation in which you think you don't have anything to hide? Should you not assert your rights? Well we have to remember that it is the police's job to suspect you and get you arrested. They want to be able to find some reason to take you downtown. So even if you think you haven't done anything wrong, police can manipulate your words and trick you into confessing a crime you weren't aware of. For example, a cop could ask you if you were at the scene of an accident. If you respond that no, you were just walking through the park, the cop could arrest you for being in the park after hours.

Cops will lie to you, and are legally allowed to do so. Lying is considered an accepted and effective interrogation technique. Cops are allowed to lie and say they're not cops- otherwise they wouldn't be effectively undercover.

Undercovers are also allowed to break the law- same reason. This isn't entrapment. To use the entrapment defense, the cops basically have to coerce you into breaking the law, and you have to look like an angel to the jury (no previous record, etc.). The entrapment defense is almost impossible to use successfully.

not their job to decide if you're guilty or not, they assume you are.

- You may accidentally confess to something without realizing
 - e.g. "I was nowhere near there, I just came through the park!"
Well being in the park after sunset is trespassing
- Even if you're innocent you may accidentally tell a "white lie", which can incriminate you
 - e.g. "No, I was nowhere near there, I've never seen the place,"
But you were there a few months ago
- Even if you don't lie, your statements can be taken out of context to make you seem suspicious
 - e.g. "Yeah, some of my friends are into graffiti, but we only ever do it on legal walls."
- Cops may be investigating someone else, your statements could get them in trouble



Break The Silence

One of the best things you can do to help a friend or family member who is experiencing domestic violence is to become informed and direct her to community services. A great place to start is by calling the Virginia Family Violence & Sexual Assault Hotline at [800-838-8238](tel:800-838-8238) (v/tty). While you might think a "hotline" is just for someone experiencing abuse, it's much more than that. It's a place where you, as friends and family members and others in the community who want to learn more about domestic violence, can call and speak to a real, live person in a confidential setting.

Call Hotline For Any of the Following Information

- Advice and help from a trained, professional outreach advocate who will keep your information and inquiry confidential
- Coaching on how to talk with a friend or family member who might be experiencing domestic violence
- Information and referrals for domestic violence programs in Virginia including local resources in your area who can help
- Educational brochures and handouts to help both victims of domestic violence and friends and family members who want to help others who are being abused
- Tailored information for the faith-based community
- Training opportunities and events
- Protective order information
- Batterer Intervention Programs

Richmond Peace Education Center

Our Mission

The Richmond Peace Education Center works for a just and peaceful community by promoting nonviolence locally and globally.

Our Vision

The Richmond Peace Education Center works for a just and peaceful community that:

- Appreciates diversity
- Resolves conflicts non-violently
- Builds safety through cooperation and community
- Shares economic and political power equitably
- Takes its place within the community of earth responsibly
- Empowers all individuals to live full and abundant lives

Address:

400 W. 32nd St
Richmond, VA 23225

Phone:

804-232-1002

Email:

rpec-at-rpec.org rpec@rpec.org

www.rpec.org

Legal Resources

Central Virginia Legal Aid Society

648-1012

Virginia Poverty Law Center

782-9430

Virginia Lawyer Referral

1-800-552-7977

University of Richmond Legal Clinic

955-4011

Richmond



Copwatch

Q: What do I have to tell police?

A: Your name and your address. That is all you have to tell them, ever. If you're detained, you have to identify yourself. Either give ID or tell your name and address. But that's all! If a cop says you have to tell them something else, they're lying!

So how do you assert your right not to talk to cops? Say "I'm going to remain silent, I want to speak to a lawyer". This makes them stop questioning you. Don't talk to the police- police want you to think that if you talk to them, you can explain yourself or get on their good side. This happens approximately once in a blue never. If they want to arrest you, they're looking for evidence against you, not for reasons to let you go. Even small talk can give them cause to detain you. You have a constitutional right to remain silent, and you can't legally be punished for asserting it.

Don't talk to the police because:

- You don't know the law. You may be breaking a law without realizing it.
- It doesn't work, cops basically never get talked out of making an arrest.
- Cops only try to talk to you to try to gather evidence against you. It's

Some Local Alternatives to the Police

Safe Harbor

Mission: Safe Harbor saves lives by providing education, advocacy, counseling & shelter to break the cycle of domestic violence

How We Work

At Safe Harbor, women and their children receive shelter and counseling, participate in support groups, and find help with legal, medical, emotional and work needs. We offer them the knowledge of a healthy and violence-free lifestyle, while equipping them with a plan for safety, a list of resources for permanent housing as well as other life necessities. In order to break the cycle of abuse, we must go beyond treating just the physical injuries. We also address the needs of depression, anxiety, and other emotional wounds. Families spend about a month with us and continue to receive support after they leave. We assist victims in the community as well through our Court Advocacy program, hospital accompaniment, community support groups, individual counseling and educational presentations.

24 Hour Emergency Hotline

804 287 7877

P.O Box 17996

Richmond, VA 23226

Office: 804-249-9470

Fax: 804-249-9472

Safe Harbor is a

501(c) 3 Organization

Richmond Y.W.C.A.

Our vision is of a community that *protects* the vulnerable, *reaches out* to those in need, *honors* personal courage, *celebrates* women's successes and *embraces* diversity and equality.

Need Help Now? Call 804-643-0888.

Free crisis intervention, emergency shelter, counseling, case management, hospital based services and support is available right now. All you need to do is call.

Our 24-Hour hotline provides free crisis intervention, emergency shelter and support. If you've been affected by domestic or sexual violence, we're here to support you and help keep you and your children safe.

I Do Not Consent To A Search

If you're being detained, cops are allowed to do a "pat down" for weapons- they feel the outside of your clothes only. If they feel something they think is a weapon, they can go in your pocket to get it, but nothing else. They're not allowed to do anything beyond that, e.g. looking in your pockets, backpack without either probable cause or consent from you. Consent means that you voluntarily allow the search. This can be verbal ("Yes, you can search." "I guess so." "Go ahead...") or it can be physical (Opening a bag, emptying pockets, lifting your shirt). If they tell you to show or open something, they're asking for your consent (If they didn't need your consent, they'd just go into your pocket, not say "empty your pockets"). They might not ask nicely! It might not sound like a request; "Open your backpack!" Say I don't consent to any searches." Be clear and loud, so witnesses around can hear.

"why not let the cops search me if I don't have anything illegal?"

-If you know you're carrying something illegal, agreeing to search won't help you.

- Cops won't go easy on you if you make their job easier
- -If you refuse the search, and they do it anyway illegally, whatever they find may get thrown out in court
- You might have something illegal without realizing it
 - e.g. you're wearing your friend's jacket, didn't realize it had a pot seed in a pocket.
- even if there's nothing illegal, legal stuff can increase suspicion or even be incriminating
 - -e.g. if cops are looking for a graffiti artist and you have markers in your bag
 - e.g. if cops suspect you were going to buy drugs and you have lots of cash

On the Street

- Don't talk to cops
- Don't allow the cops to search you
- Ask if you're being detained or are free to go, repeat until you're free to go

In Your Car

- You have a right to pull over in a public, well-lit place if you're pulled over
- Only open your window a little way so they can't stick their head in all the way and say they smell something
- Keep hands in plain view on the wheel
- Leaving door open invites cop to smell/look in car, can lead to them trying to stick you with something
- handing over keys is consenting to a search
- Say "I do not consent to a search"
- Get out and lock the door behind you if they tell you to step out of the car
- Ask, "am I being detained? Am I free to go?" until they say yes (or arrest you)
- Keep private items out of sight. If something is in plain view in your car (e. on the seat), cops have the right to seize it.
- Cops may make it seem like you will not be punished or not be punished as harshly if you "comply" (incriminate yourself)- don't believe their lies!!! If they are planning to search you, they will search you. Telling them anything more only hurts YOU!

At your door

- Keep blinds drawn so police can't claim they see something inside
- Non-residents should not speak to the police or deal with them at all
- If you go to talk to the cops, bring a witness out with you. This person can witness you refusing searches, or police misconduct
- Step outside and lock the door behind you. Do not allow them in.
- If they do have a warrant, ask to see it. Make sure all the information is correct, e.g. name, date, address. If not, send them away.
- Do not consent to a search EVER, even if they have a warrant: if something found later that was wrong with the warrant, it will still come down to wheth you consented.
- Leaving the door open for them constitutes consent.
- Do not physically resist.
- You don't have to stay talking to them until they go away. You can go back inside and them them on your doorstep (in fact, you don't have to answer the door at all).

In Jail

Hey, even if you know your rights front and back and assert them perfectly, you might still get arrested.

- When cops are trying to interrogate you, they'll use tactics like snitch/countersnitch (Cops tell you your friend has rolled over on you). Even if it is true, it won't help you to talk. It is never in your best interest to talk to the police. Stay silent!
- Remember, in jails, squad cars, etc., everything is being recorded. Some "prisoners" are actually plants, so don't talk about the incident in jail.

