



**ANTI-GENTRIFICATION DIRECT ACTIONS
PHILADELPHIA 2013 - 2018**



Property is for weaklings, do what you will



Gentrification has been completely changing Philadelphia to cater to yuppies, while at the same time erasing the memory and culture of the poor and black and brown people that make up the majority of the city. What this looks like is an increased cost of living (more expensive housing, food, entertainment), more policing (from the police and from residents), and a sterilization of life in the streets, as a new demographic of hip young people, students, and affluent professionals swarm in and push previous residents out. Some might say gentrification is an unstoppable force, a monster that is too far gone and is irreversible in its devastation. Although some of that may be true we don't want people to forget the struggles of resistance to it or for those struggles to become invisible.

This leads us to the reason for writing this zine. This zine is the latest in a decentralized series of posters and zines recording resistance to gentrification. We are not writing this to create a false sense of strength, but so that we remember what is possible and what has happened. A chronology of past actions does not mean resistance to gentrification is thriving or will continue. However, memory and imagination are two forces rapidly being extinguished and we want to counter that. At the same time, memory and imagination alone cannot oppose gentrification, but, must combine with the choice to fight, leading to action. As always people need to *choose* to fight. We feel personally inspired by some of the more recent anti-gentrification actions, which led us to compiling this text (with hopes of inspiring others into action).

Some anti-gentrification actions were not included in this zine. There are countless actions that never made the news, were not claimed, or simply did not cross our radar. Others we have intentionally excluded. Certain groups that emphasize respectability have been excluded, by respectability we mean an approach to struggle that prioritizes main-

taining an innocent reputation over ruffling feathers. Respectability relies on parading one's weakness and victimhood and begging one's oppressors. The Point Breeze Organizing Committee is one such group. They condemned the anonymous smashing of an OCF cafe. We refuse to grace the pages of this zine with the efforts of liberals who cannot differentiate friends and foes.

To better understand why certain gentrifiers were targeted we want to offer some context of who the major gentrifiers in Philly are. These are some of the more notable gentrifiers in Philly even though there are countless smaller developers, landlords, and business owners:

Temple University, Drexel University, and University of Pennsylvania, are the biggest gentrifiers of North and West Philadelphia. These universities have taken a ruthless approach to literally demolishing surrounding neighborhoods and destroying communities to build excessively luxurious skyscraper dormitories and university facilities and push their expansion further and further into neighborhoods yet untouched by gentrification. In addition to that the universities use more discrete methods to transform space. Professors are given financial help to buy houses near the schools and private security patrol areas around student housing (University City District, UCD, is one such group). Universities maintain their own police forces distinct from PPD and fill the streets with surveillance cameras and telephones to snitch from.

In South Philly OCF Realty is a realty company that strategically places their coffee shops in neighborhoods they plan to develop to make them more welcoming to yuppies. They are notorious for rapidly gentrifying Point Breeze. They are also advocates of surveillance and policing.

Amazon has the potential to play a big role in the ongoing dramatic gentrification of West Philly. If they decide to build their new headquarters here, West Philly and the entire city will suffer irreversible change. Additionally they work to make cybernetics, surveillance, and yuppie convenience a normalized part of city life. This facilitates the gentrification of areas that otherwise seem less appealing by allowing yuppies to live comfortable lives without ever walking anywhere, having their tastes catered to by an army of gig workers and delivery people.

Within this text you will also find a number of attacks against small local businesses. Many of these have caused controversy where supporters of small businesses expressed their outrage and confusion as to why someone would attack them. We hope to set some confusion straight and provide context as to why small businesses are still shit and therefore worthy of being attacked. First of all, small businesses are businesses, they are not exempt from all their capitalist trappings. Second, they are just as much contributors to gentrification as realtors, universities, etc. because they create islands of consumption that cater to yuppie tastes (expensive coffee, gourmet foods, cutesie trinkets, etc.). Bougie stores make yuppies feel at home and make them more likely to move in/take over. Whereas bodegas, Chinese food, and fast food spots make them uncomfortable (because of “crime”, racism, unfamiliarity?) and when they say they want to “make the neighborhood better” what they really want is to take away all of these social hubs that aren’t for them. Small businesses create social spaces for yuppies where their social needs can be met without having to exist with the harsh realities of the rest of the city. Therefore, we recognize small businesses are not neutral in the fight against gentrification.

What follows is a timeline of different actions and attacks against gentrification in Philadelphia that we've found:

2013

January *Three new housing developments are covered in spray paint scribbles in Point Breeze. (Front cover)*

August 24 *OCF Coffee House in Point Breeze has its windows smashed with pieces of concrete. (Below)*



2015

March *Anti-Ori Feibush (owner of OCF Realty) posters and graffiti are put up in Point Breeze.*

March *Ori Feibush's campaign office vandalized with paint.*

Late March *An OCF Realty car has its tires slashed in West Philly.*

April 28 *The windows and locks of two vacant OCF Realty properties are broken at 20th and Reed.*

May 3 *A few surveillance cameras are removed from unfinished developments in Mantua.*

June 25 *Fence of approved condo development tagged "FUCK CONDOS" at 43rd and Baltimore Ave.*

Early July *Philly specific anti-gentrification posters published online.*

July 7 *White paint poured onto an OCF Realty car. (Next page)*

August 13 *Call for "A Concerted Effort Against Gentrification" is posted online.*

August 23 *Banner is hung against gentrification at 43rd and Baltimore. "NO CONDOS ON BALTIMORE AVE NO CONDOS ANYWHERE" (Next page)*

November *Paint thrown on Cedar Park Neighbors Civic Association signs in West Philly.*

November *Banners from a commercial and residential development at 41st and Market tagged. "FUCK RACISM FUCK"*

November 19 *The Bar(n) is tagged "first world lounge" and has paint sprayed on its windows and door.*

December 11 *Clarkville at 43rd and Baltimore is tagged and has its windows Xed out less than a week after opening. "Merry Christmas" "fuck you"*

December 12 *Open discussion on fighting gentrification.*



2016

March 3 *Four University City District buildings are attacked. A camera is removed, locks are glued, and anti-police and anti-gentrification slogans are painted.*

March 28 *An OCF construction site banner is tagged at 44th and Ludlow. "FUCK OCF (A)"*

April 2 *Construction site banner tagged at 41st and Ludlow. "NO CONDOS"*

May 26 *Clarkville has paint thrown on its windows, cameras, and signage. An anti-gentrification slogan is painted on the wall. "GENTRI GO HOME" (Below)*

June 5 - July 5 *A construction site is sabotaged. Machines are smashed, survey markers removed, and pieces of the construction are stolen and destroyed. The action is part of the month for the earth and against capital.*

November 25 *OCF Realty office in South Philly vandalized with spray paint and paint balls by masked individuals.*

December 9 *OCF Realty office in South Philly vandalized with glass etch.*



2017

January 12 *A University City District building has its windows smashed in memory of Feral and Denalda, anarchists who lost their lives in the Ghostship fire. Claimed by “some kids in Philly”.*

January 20 *A black bloc marches on South St attacking businesses and cars, and barricading streets before dispersing without arrests. (Back cover)*

Late February *OCF Realty construction site has windows smashed out at 20th and Wharton.*

March 24 *#DisruptMAGA fliers and anti-fascists graffiti and stickers are put up along South St and in South Philly. OCF Realty banners are also targeted and taken down.*

April *Posters against gentrification and Ori Feibush go up in Point Breeze.*

May Day *An arson fire damages eleven OCF owned under construction in Point Breeze, collapsing two completely. (Front cover)*

May Day *Anti-gentrification march through Kensington smashes and paints new buildings, construction sites, and high end cars causing over 100,000 dollars in damages. Two arrests. (Next page)*

Early June *Four Cameras, four ticket checking machines, and a security forces building's door are sabotaged, an electronic billboard is altered or vandalized. Actions are in solidarity with J20 arrestees and anarchists facing repression world wide. Claimed by “Mutinous Machines Solidarity Cell - Philadelphia”*

July 24 - July 25 *Two residential construction sites and a back hoe have their windows broken in Greys Ferry, in solidarity with grand jury resisters, J20 rebels, and imprisoned anti-fascists.*

August 29 *Attempted arson at OCF owned condo and apartment construction in Kensington.*



2018

Early January *Anti-gentrification/anti-progress graffiti on a condo in West Philly.*

February 4 *Eagles fans riot across the city, destroying city infrastructure and stores, lighting fireworks, fighting police, and looting.*

February *Concrete thrown through a window of the Gold Standard Cafe.*

Mid February *Machinery at gentrifying construction site sabotaged with glass etch and sugar in solidarity with anarchist prisoners.*

Mid February *Vacant lot at 43rd and Baltimore slated for condo development has its locks cut and is liberated into an autonomous garden.*

Late February *Swirl Cafe construction site has its windows smashed twice.*

Late March *Anarchist graffiti against yuppies and condos in South*

Philly.

Early April OCF Realty has two of its windows smashed.

Early April Condo building tagged on 46th and Baltimore.

April 15 Sabotage of a construction vehicle in solidarity with the ZAD and Camp White Pine and against progress.

February - April Twenty to thirty ATMs and twelve bike rental kiosks are sabotaged with glue, PVC cards, and paint. Construction sites are tagged with anti-gentrification slogans in solidarity with community efforts against Temple University's proposed stadium. OCF Cafe toilets are sabotaged by having concrete flushed down them. Claimed by "Summer of Rage preseason softball team"

May Day Resnik developer buildings in Brewery Town windows painted black and locks sabotaged. Yuppie clean energy company car painted with black paint. Claimed by "SORAC".

May Day Locks of two gentrifying realty offices glued and locks of UCD police headquarters glued.

May Day Twenty security cameras and twenty doorbell cameras in gentrifying neighborhoods destroyed.

May Day Construction site vehicles' windshields painted green. Claimed on behalf of SORAC.

May Day Anti-Amazon banner and anti-Amazon fliers dropped at Whole Foods. "AMAZON WANTS CONTROL WE WANT FREEDOM (A)"

May Day Five Amazon locker power cables cut.

May Day Amazon Treasure Truck graffitied and set on fire.

June 19 Anti-gentrification propaganda on walls of autonomous garden. "We don't want more condos, or concrete"

July 12 Up and coming real estate developer (i.e. gentrifying former football star with a history of violence) is stabbed after he drunkenly stepped out of his friend's Mercedes and allegedly ha-

rassed and tackled a young black poet near Rittenhouse Square, in part because of his race. The developer died of his wounds.

July 16 Anti-yuppie graffiti on Brewery ARS in South Philly. (Next page)

July 27 Twenty three Indigo bicycles have their tires slashed in solidarity with the prison strike. "Burn all prisons! Fuck gentrifying transport period. Fuck the world!"

July 29 Around three hundred youth descended on North Broad street in the area of gentrifying Temple University. Some fighting, trashing of a Wendy's, and the hurling of a rock through the window of a cop car was reported. "It was chaos."

September 24 A brick is thrown through the window of an OCF coffee house on South St.

October 12 Businesses near 44th and Spruce have their windows smashed.

Nothing is finished

Everything continues...



We found most of this information on phlanticap.noblogs.org, its-goingdown.org, Philadelphia's anarchist newspaper *Anathema*, and the local news.





Gentrification has been completely changing the city to cater to yuppies, while at the same time erasing the memory and culture of the poor and black and brown people that make up the majority of Philadelphia.

Some might say gentrification is an unstoppable force, a monster that is too far gone and is irreversible in its devastation. Although some of that may be true we don't want people to forget the struggles of resistance to it or for those struggles to become invisible.