

TENANTS TALK

NEWSPAPER OF THE ALL-CHICAGO TENANT ALLIANCE

★ WHICH SIDE ARE YOU ON? JOIN THE CITY-WIDE TENANT STRUGGLE! ★

ALIANZA DE INQUILINOS DE TODO CHICAGO



ALL-CHICAGO TENANT ALLIANCE

Issue 26

July 2026

Chicago, Ill.

chicagotenants.com

TEXT ACTA AT (773)770-5650
SEE BACKPAGE FOR LOCAL CHICAGO TENANT MEETINGS

THE 1901 PROJECT

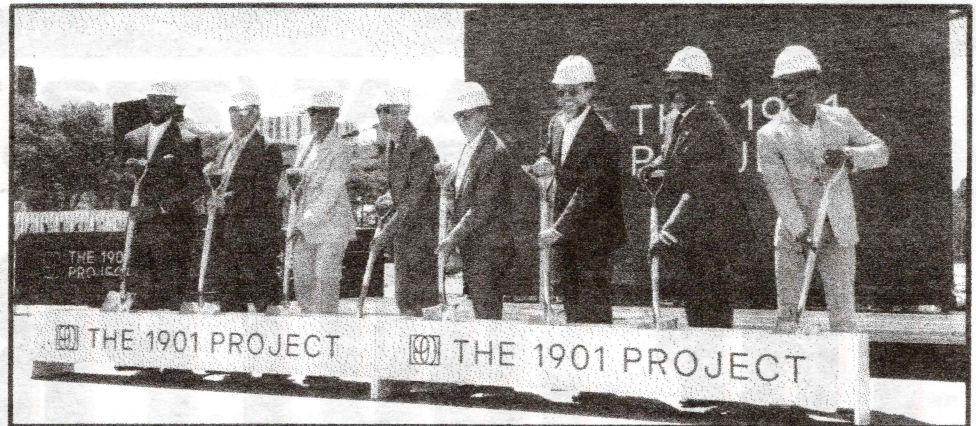
THE \$7,000,000,000 WEST SIDE GENTRIFICATION SCHEME



THE 1901 PROJECT

Gentrification seems like an inevitable process. Block by block, building by building, apartment by apartment, we are priced out of our homes and replaced by people who can afford what we can no longer. Every place we've at one point called ours slowly and surely flips until the entire neighborhood becomes totally monstrous and unrecognizable. Look to Wicker Park, Logan Square, Pilsen: how has this happened? Where does this process begin? What we would call our own displacement, the real estate developer calls "investment in the community." Over the next 15 years, we will see one of the most extreme examples of this so-called "community investment" at work in the largest development project in the history of the Westside of Chicago: The \$7 billion 1901 Project.

When a neighborhood has seen years of disinvestment, whether through racist red-lining legislation or the flight of major industrial, commercial, or public institutions, the people who can afford to live elsewhere find greener pastures, leaving behind only the people who have nowhere else to go. This creates a working class neighborhood, where property value is lower than that in the richer surroundings. As capital investment expands geographically, these disinvested neighborhoods begin to butt shoulders with "up and coming" ones, which for one reason or another, draw the demand of people with greater purchasing power. This happens because a neighborhood sits on a convenient CTA line, or because a trendy coffee shop or music venue opens three blocks over, acting as a beacon for real estate speculators. The working-class neighborhoods close in proximity to these desirable ones draw in transient tenants looking to get close to their fancies and pay cheaper rent than they would living in the desirable neighborhood proper. Landlords in particular identify these working-class neighborhoods in demand and buy up the land and buildings to profit off of these



incoming richer tenants. The landlord speculates that what is cheap today could be worth much more tomorrow, or put in more accurate terms, that they can displace the tenants of today and replace them with the richer ones of tomorrow. This sounds like a betting man's game, but with major headline-making investments, landlords' luck is made for them. This is the sprawling character of the gentrification process, where desirable investment in one neighborhood ripples waves of displacement around it.

For East Garfield Park, West Garfield Park, and North Lawndale, the dawn of this process can be found in the headline-making 1901 Project. This joint initiative spearheaded by the Reinsdorf family (owners of the Chicago Bulls) and the Wirtz family (owners of the Chicago Blackhawks), seeks to expand the surrounding area around of their co-owned United Center into a mixed-use "campus" including over 1,300 hotel rooms, over 9,500 apartments, a 6,000 person capacity entertainment venue, a public park, and potentially a new Pink Line station.

At the project's ground-breaking ceremony on June 3rd, Bulls CEO Michael Reinsdorf and Blackhawks CEO Danny Wirtz, along with Mayor Brandon Johnson and a myriad of investors, contractors, and

city officials, made their empty promises of a bright future to the people of Chicago's West Side.

"This project is ... a commitment to the people who've been here all along. That energy and investment flowing into this campus now flows through the neighborhood and not just around it," Wirtz said. "We are building with this community and not just near it." - Danny Wirtz

What community does Wirtz speak of? The tenants of East Garfield Park, West Garfield, and North Lawndale? If the project succeeds, speculative property values in these neighborhoods will rise within the next few years, and that wave of "energy and investment" will wash the working class further toward the outskirts of the city limits. The "people who've been here all along" Wirtz mentions, will be the very victims of this so-called community investment!

A recent example of gentrification through headline-making investment can be found in the neighborhoods of Woodlawn and Bronzeville. The \$850 million construction of the Obama Presidential Center announced Jackson Park as its chosen location in 2016, and between 2019 to 2026, property values of single family and multifamily homes doubled, increasing far



★ NEWS FROM THE TENANT POINT OF VIEW ★

faster than home values across Illinois. Additionally, out-of-state speculative property purchases in 2019 drove the average low-end multifamily building from \$60,000/unit to \$73,000/unit, boxing out local competitors. While existing homeowners and landlords alike reaped the rewards of increased property values with no effort on their parts, at the brunt end were the tenants, who had no stake in the claim of increased value in their community, being contractually temporary residents of the neighborhoods, and who are now being displaced en masse.

If investments like these cause so much harm, why doesn't the city stop them? In fact, developments like the Obama Center and the 1901 Project all happen with the active assistance from the city, the so-called representatives of the tenants. The 1901 developers have ensured to the public that this is a privately funded venture, meaning unlike the initial proposal of the Bears stadium development on Lake Shore Drive that would have cost tax-payers \$900 million, the people of Chicago will not be footing the \$7 billion bill. However, with great excitement at the prospect of increased tourism, Brandon Johnson and his city council approved \$54.7 million in tax breaks for the 1901 project's first phase.

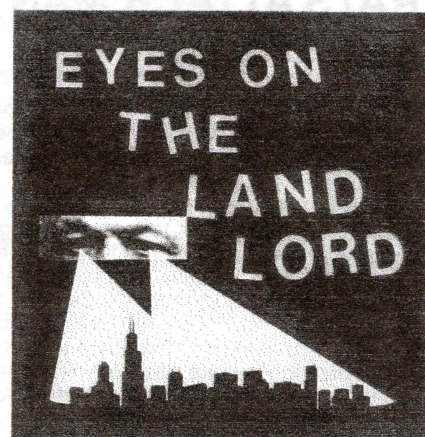
What would you have invested \$54.7 million in? Your community's schools, your roads, your libraries, your grocery stores? "Have no fear dear citizens!", says our mayor, "The Wirtz and Riensdorf families have answered this question for us! Hotels and a concert venue! Now your neighborhood will finally be comfortable for spendy tourists and big businesses!" The city encourages developments like these not on the condition that they satisfy the needs of those they represent, but on the condition that they satisfy the expansion of commerce.

This favorable tax break to the 1901 gentrifiers also comes at a moment where the Johnson administration seeks to pass a populist yet dead-on-arrival ordinance to protect tenants against landlord terror (see pg 4). The mayor is attempting to arm the community with sticks and landlords with cannons.

Of course our neighborhoods should be invested in. At first glance, it is not unreasonable to be excited at the prospect after years of economic degradation. However, in the system we have today, investments exclusively seem to expand the material wealth of investors rather than improve the community. Don't be fooled: these "community investments" come with a catch! Communities never reap the benefit of what these investors sow!

In the face of such a ruthless force, with the backing of billions and the cosign of the city, how can tenants defend themselves against this gentrification wave? Gentrification is only "inevitable" if tenants remain isolated and unorganized. Readers of Tenants Talk might be familiar with the story of Fuerzas Activas de la Damen (FAD). This tenant union has been (and is still!) on strike for 10 months after a cabal of investors including Imran Khan, Faria Ibrahim, and Sattar Ahsan bought their building and then signed leases with rent raises of up to \$700. FAD's building is an example of a working-class building in a neighborhood that is slowly going through a gentrification wave, building by building. The neighbors came together, formed clear demands for their stay at a reasonable rate, and most importantly, collectively withheld all rent as a bargaining tactic. So far the union representing 60 units has withheld just under \$500,000, a figure so eye-watering that the investors could not ignore it. Now, they're crawling to the bargaining table, begging for mercy. FAD is living proof that gentrification is a force that can be fought, and that fight can be won.

Tenants of the West Side: when the investors come knocking with the city on their side, organize yourselves into a force to be reckoned with. This is the only way your community can remain your community. If you are interested in stopping gentrification and organizing a formidable tenant union in your building, the All-Chicago Tenant Alliance is here to help. Please contact us at (773) 770-5650 or visit our contact page on our website at chicagotenants.com. ★



THE EAST GARFIELD PARK TENANT LEAGUE

The tenants at what was previously Monroe & St. Louis have voted to become...the East Garfield Park Tenant League! The Lionesses of EGPTL saw their first full month of existence and struggle. A union-coordinated phone Zap! to Villa Capital demanded maintenance of one of the unionist's apartments which had become hazardous to their health. Within 12 hours property management was on site with promises to send maintenance to assess the situation.

Assessments have been made, but Villa Capital has not abided by THEIR stated timeline. Promises made and promises broken, a pastime Villa Capital trades exclusively in. The Lionesses are planning to up the ante and demand accountability from Villa Capital. One thing is for certain: the crooks at Villa Capital who peddle deception and idleness won't know what hit them! ★



RATS ATTACK MAN IN SLEEP!

What would you do if your landlord wanted to raise your rent by hundreds of dollars while you have to sleep every night afraid of rat bites?

As tenants in Fuerzas Activas de la Damen, a Rogers Park tenant union, fight to stay in their homes, Imran Khan and his fellow owners, Ahsan Sattar (Emaret Capital) and Faria Ibrahim (Hudson Edge Real Estate) have allowed the building conditions to worsen. Recently a tenant in the building awoke to a nightmare situation: **rats in the unit crawling on him in his sleep!**

The tenant reported waking up to a rat crawling on him before throwing it off of his face. His garden level apartment had been infested with rats for months, but neither the management nor the owners resolved the issue. The infestation culminated in the terrifying encounter which has left the tenant concerned for his health and safety in the building.

After the attack, the tenant

experienced a painful shingles outbreak on his face and eye which could have led to permanent blindness. Doctors suggested that this outbreak could have been triggered by the stress of living in these conditions.

This kind of neglect has earned Imran Khan the title of "Slumlord." Don't let him hear you say it though. The sensitive slumlord is currently suing the All-Chicago Tenant Alliance for "defamation" because ACTA and Tenants Talk weren't afraid to call things as they are. The lawsuits are only one of many tactics Imran Khan has tried to protect his tarnished image. After his company ARK Management got hit with mountains of bad press, Imran Khan quickly announced "new" management: several fronts called "Chicago Apartment Managers" and "Rogers Park Apartments". These vaguely named puppet companies have all the same staff and ownership as the last company. The only difference is Khan seems to have forgotten to file the correct paperwork.

As the building issues go unaddressed, Khan and his cronies are currently advertising new units in the buildings, trying to trick uninformed

Rogers Park apartment seekers into signing leases for apartments in which he refuses to complete comprehensive repairs. If you know someone looking to rent in Rogers Park, spread the word! **Don't rent from Imran Khan or "Rogers Park Apartments"!** ★



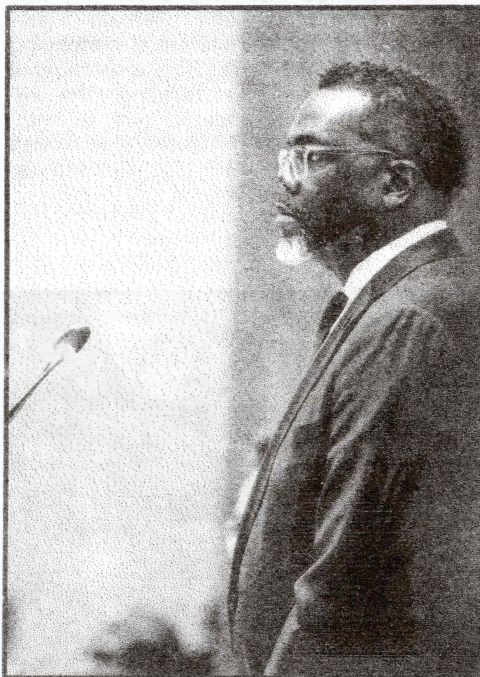
DOES BRANDON JOHNSON REALLY CARE ABOUT TENANTS?

With the mayoral race looming in early 2027, Brandon Johnson is nearly up for reelection. In the shadow of the popularity of New York City mayor Zohran Mamdani, who has made tenant protections part of his platform and cabinet since day one, Johnson is likely thinking about what will set him apart from the other progressive candidates on the ballot here in Chicago.

It is within this context that we analyze Johnson's recent proposal for a tenant-focused ordinance. With the "Protecting Renters Ordinance," the late term mayor claims he will shield Chicago tenants from evictions and predatory landlord tactics while maintaining affordability of rental units. The proposal involves overhauling the Residential Landlord and Tenant Ordinance (RLTO) to prohibit hidden junk fees, requiring disclosure of algorithmic pricing tools, and creating a Tenant Bill of Rights. The ordinance also includes language about just cause eviction practices and a rental registry that would attempt to combat the proliferation of LLCs and the resulting difficulties with tracking code violations. Fees charged to landlords

via the registry would help set up and sustain a new Bureau of Rental Housing Services to enforce tenant protections, which echoes an early Mamdani move.

Should these measures be implemented, the effects could be a positive but small step forward for some base level tenant protections. But we also remain highly skeptical about the ordinance's ability to pass, the reasoning behind Johnson proposing it so late into his term as mayor,



and whether it will actually accomplish its stated goals. Current critics of the proposal in city governance also say the ordinance is a mess of different demands from a long list of Chicago housing nonprofits and is being rushed forward with little chance of passing.

We think it's very fair to ask: does Brandon Johnson really care about tenants? Let's not forget that our "progressive" mayor has fully supported the Obama Center development, the 1901 Project, and the Illinois Quantum Park—all massive displacement projects that have and will continue to push more and more tenants out of their homes. The Johnson-backed right of first refusal program (which supposedly gives tenants a chance to buy their building if it's being sold) has so far amounted to nothing, yet he claims it as a victory for tenants. Johnson has shown throughout his tenure that he cowers in the face of gentrification and will not do anything material to protect tenants.

We think this proposal is nothing more than a feather in Johnson's cap, a way for him to set himself apart from other progressives in the mayoral election, a chance to paint himself as Chicago's own Mamdani. We won't hold our breaths waiting for city officials to decide whether tenants rights have a place in city legislation, and you shouldn't either.

Don't wait for the politicians to decide whether you deserve to stay in your home. Today, ACTA can tell you who owns your building, and we can help you form a tenant union to fight your landlord regardless of whether the city keeps him in check. Give us a call. ★

★ NEWS FROM THE TENANT POINT OF VIEW ★

TENANTS TALK IN LONDON

Every week, ACTA members distribute Tenants Talk on the Westside and Northside of Chicago. We have met and interviewed many people just like you, and published your words in the Tenant Grapevine. ACTA also has another publication, called the International Bulletin, which we publish online once a week. In this Bulletin, we have published interviews with comrades around the world who are advancing the revolutionary struggle. This is how ACTA got introduced to Energy Embargo for Palestine, and this is how I ended up distributing

Tenants Talk in a new location this month. This spot is a bit further out than from our usual route - actually, it's across the ocean. London!

When I got to London I met up with Energy Embargo for Palestine, and we distributed the paper together. I asked leaders of different organizations for the messages and questions they had for you: the tenants, workers, and readers of this newspaper in Chicago.

For the Palestinian and Arab readers: What brought you to Chicago? What is your relationship to returning to the homeland? How committed are you to doing this?

Also, would you like to meet me in London?

(I can't come to the U.S.)

- Asmaa from Palestinian Youth Movement

It might not feel like it, but we're closer to the end of capitalism and imperialism than we have been in hundreds of years.

- Jack from Workers for a Free Palestine

You are part of an international revolutionary struggle. Everything you do in Chicago contributes to progressing the struggle around the world. There is no such thing as an action that's too small.

- Kimia from Energy Embargo for Palestine

What must happen next?

- Sophy from London Renters Union and Energy Embargo for Palestine ★

GRENFELL TOWERS

Eight years ago, on June 14, 2017, Grenfell Tower, an affordable housing building in West London, caught fire. Seventy-two people, including working class tenants, children, and elderly people, died in the 60 hour-long blaze. Dozens more were injured. Both firefighters and tenants were sickened by toxic smoke released by the building's cheap materials.

The cheap cladding that covered Grenfell Tower is a key part of what enabled the fire to spread so rapidly. The Grenfell Tower Inquiry of 2024 confirms this. But tenants and their families had been saying this all along: the British state cut corners and reduced funding for social housing, and corporations prioritized profits over tenant safety. This is what led to the disaster.

According to the Inquiry: "Grenfell Tower came to be clad in combustible materials [because of] systematic dishonesty on the part of those who made and sold the rainscreen cladding panels and insulation products." "They engaged in deliberate and sustained strategies to manipulate the testing process, misrepresent data and mislead the market." Adding to this, privatized certification companies tasked with ensuring safety standards were found to have displayed "an ingrained willingness to accommodate customers instead of insisting on high standards and adherence to a contract that was intended to maintain them." Cutting corners and misleading the market is characteristic of slumlords, whether they are part of the state or private actors. This applies in London just as much as it does in Chicago.

The emergency response was relatively mismanaged and poorly planned because the British state had been cutting support to the firefighting force for years. According to the Fire Brigades Union, one in five firefighter positions was cut between 2010 and 2024 - amounting to a loss of 12,000 personnel. The union has fought for more investment in public services, pointing to the direct link

between underfunding and avoidable disasters like Grenfell.

"The FBU believes that the terrible loss of life at Grenfell Tower was ultimately caused by political decisions made at the highest level," the union stated in 2019. "For at least 40 years, policies relating to housing, local government, the fire and rescue service, research and other areas have been driven by the agenda of cuts, deregulation and privatisation."

Grenfell fire also had long-term consequences for the firefighters who responded. Hundreds of firefighters have reported serious health issues since then. Roughly one in four responders have suffered from respiratory conditions, cancer, or other illnesses. "A majority of the 136 firefighters reporting health disorders had not worn respiratory protection at some point during their activities," the Fire Brigades Union (FBU) noted. "They were unable to follow safety protocols due to the severity of the incident."

An ACTA member visited the Grenfell

memorial in London, which is dedicated to the tenants martyred in the fire. They learned about the building's history from local tenant organizers and discussed the similarities with the slum conditions in Chicago. There are many lessons to learn from the Grenfell fire, but we can focus on two in particular. First, the struggle of working class tenants against landlord and state oppression is ongoing around the world. Secondly, this struggle is, in many cases, literally life or death.

One solidarity mural at the memorial shows a child from Grenfell playing with a green balloon with a child in Gaza. The message is clear: states like the U.S. and U.K. continue to devalue and destroy the lives of working class children internationally - but the next generations can overturn this reality.

Join the struggle of your fellow tenants, whether they are in Chicago or abroad, and fight for working class control of housing! We can bring about revolutionary change on an international level. But only if we out-organize these profit-hungry enemies of the people. ★

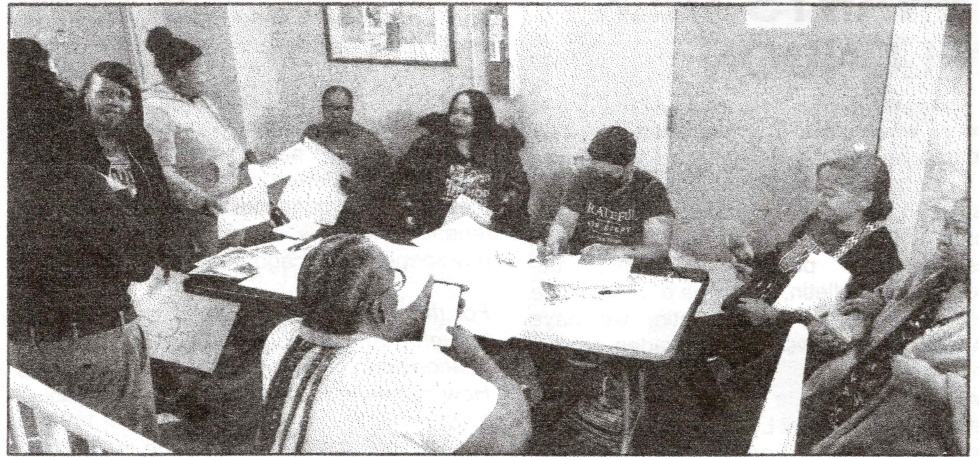


THE BASICS OF TENANT ORGANIZING: THE BUILDING MEETING

The 'Basics of Tenant Organizing' is a running column examining key elements in the process of organizing your neighbors. The first article in this series examined the 'building group chat' and its importance in counteracting the divisions sowed by the landlords and laying the initial foundations of a union. The second article explained what the All-Chicago Tenant Alliance is and how tenants can get in contact with organizers who can assist you in organizing your own building. In this article we'll examine an exciting milestone in any organizing effort: the first building meeting.

Before a meeting is on the cards, you'll need to get to know your neighbors and the issues they're dealing with in the building. This is a process of investigation and understanding: Who are your neighbors? What are the problems your neighbors are dealing with? Are they going through the same experiences as you? The only way to find answers to these questions is by talking together. A great place to start is simply by knocking on their door and striking up a conversation about what's going on. Whether you already know a few people, share a building group chat, or don't know anyone at all, taking this first step matters. We have knocked on many doors over the years, and in our experience, people welcome a neighbor who is genuinely concerned and wants to hear them out.

While you might find neighbors as motivated as you are, it's natural to meet people who feel apathetic to the issues that inspired you to begin organizing. It's important to stay determined and understand the underlying problems behind this, as well as what can be done to fight this feeling. Perhaps the issues that inspired you are not that important to them. It would be good then to find out which issues are. Perhaps they do not understand that something they're experiencing is an issue. It would be good to help them understand this and why it inspires you to act. Perhaps they share the same issues as you, but it's hard for them to see how things could change. It's important to remember that you and your neighbors have legitimate power in the relationship between you all and your landlord, but only if you all work together. Examples of tenant union struggle before you could be inspirational. The recent Chicago rent strikes of Fuerzas



Inquilinos de Broadway y Cuyler, Fuerzas Activas de la Damen, the Belden Sawyer Tenant Association are real examples of tenants' ability to work together and leverage their power against the landlord.

Perhaps your neighbors doubt that others would be interested in meeting and working together. Let's examine how to fight that feeling through the organization of your first meeting. Here are some key principles that guide our meetings:

- **A meeting should feel significant.** If a meeting feels 'skippable', unfortunately some folks might not attend. The way to make the meeting feel significant is to organize it around something that people will want to contribute to. A discussion on a motivating problem people are dealing with, and a decision around a strategic next step, something that people find important. When you're speaking with your neighbors in advance of this meeting, listen to things you think might compel them to come to a meeting about.
- **A meeting should be well organized.** Consider making a clear agenda with the items of discussion and objectives. Allot time for these discussions in order to mitigate the draining feeling of meandering discussion with no clear objective. If people can rely on the meetings to be respectful of their time, they will be more likely to attend. Don't forget to include time to schedule the next meeting!
- **A meeting should be accessible.** When speaking to neighbors in advance of a meeting, get to know their general availability in order to schedule it at a time where people can attend and attend with full participation. The meeting should also be held in a location where it is easy for all to get to. A lobby, a laundry room, or even in a courtyard if the weather permits it.
- Find ways to ensure that all are able to

participate. Call on individuals, and if nobody volunteers to take on an important task, ask people directly. One's attendance should feel significant and they should feel welcomed to contribute.

- **Consider creating meaningful roles and responsibilities for your neighbors.** For example, have someone keep time at the meeting. Perhaps someone can be responsible for checking in on everyone on their floor. Cooperative work is inspiring. If I know that my neighbor agreed to do something and is doing it, I will be more inspired to complete what I agreed to do, or to take on something I otherwise would have not. At the end of the day you're building the union together.
- **At the end of the meeting, agreed upon next steps should be recalled and made clear to all, as well as a clear definition of who is doing what and when work is expected to be completed.** If tasks feel too unclear or undefined, people might have a hard time doing them. Consider all the factors of agreed upon steps. Will this person have time to do this? Do they need help? Is the task small enough to be completed by the next meeting?

If you can ensure that meetings will operate like this, you will have a much easier time engaging your neighbors and counting on their attendance. Beyond these basic principles, we encourage you to take a meeting as an opportunity to experiment together. Perhaps you feel that the group needs some inspiration. Or maybe the group needs to educate itself about something. Allotting some time to address this in the meeting creatively is a great way to keep meetings meaningful and push the collective forward.

Naturally, if you would like help with anything described here, the All-Chicago Tenant Alliance is here. Reach out to us by texting (773) 770-5650. ★

★ NEWS FROM THE TENANT POINT OF VIEW ★

JUSTICE FOR THE MICHIGAN 8!

On June 10th, 2026, the FBI and local law enforcement, working closely with the University of Michigan conducted violent raids against eight activists, smashing down their doors and waking them with flash grenades and armed officers. The operation took place across multiple state lines, in Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin and involved months of surveillance and monitoring by agents of the US government.

What crime warranted this excessive response? The activists had been involved in a protest campaign against the University of Michigan, demanding that the university no longer invest in israeli companies and corporations assisting the genocide in Palestine.

Why a public university in the midwest of America has financial ties to israel—a nation which rejects human dignity and funds major legal campaigns to force independent institutions around the globe to conform to their zionist line—is no mystery. Money is power, and a portion of the billions of dollars the United States sends to israel each year indirectly floats the over \$730 million israel pumps back into manufacturing propaganda to keep people around the world looking the other way. The rest pays out by supercharging the israeli war economy, which American schools can invest in for a quick buck.

Of course, despite being a "democracy" the deeply unpopular funding and support of israel is untouchable at every level of American society, from the federal budget down to the academic institutions like the University of Michigan, which are funded in part by taxpayer money. The average citizen or student understands how powerless we are when it comes to those decisions that happen behind closed doors, such as the decision to interlink American schools and a genocidal state in the middle east. What option do people have except to turn to direct

resistance?

When the ruling institutions turn their back on the interests of the people, their legitimacy crumbles. This is why the FBI has so violently and heavy-handedly attacked the Michigan 8, eight activists standing against the corruption of a university funding genocide. These eight activists were abducted unarmed and unaware in their sleep in order to send a message. As the government and its institutions lose their credibility they must increasingly turn to harsher and harsher violence to maintain the absolute rule of the state.

As the state loses control, repression will only grow. Onlookers have two options: either go on with life as usual, hoping that things don't grow worse, or begin to build connections across the neighborhood, city, and country in order to come out ahead no matter what happens next. Because I choose the second option, I know that any attack on those fighting for the power to take control of our society is an attack on the cause of liberation. Because of this, I support the Michigan 8. If you are tired of israel's influence in the United States, and think people should be able to stand up against it, I think you should support them too.

Below we include an excerpt from a statement by the Revolutionary Student Union on how to find more information about the Michigan 8:

"The Michigan 8" will need ongoing support. One way that the state wears down defendants is with grueling legal costs in the form of lawyer fees, travel fare for going to court, and mandatory payments for things like ankle monitors and court services. Donate to their legal defense fund here: bit.ly/umlegalfund. Strong community support at court hearings shows the government that behind each individual defendant are thousands of people who stand ten toes down with them – You can stay updated on the 8's court dates and other news by following @safexmich and @tahrirxmich [on Instagram].

★

TENANT GRAPEVINE

WHAT DO THE PEOPLE HAVE TO SAY?

WHAT, IF ANYTHING, HAS OBAMA DONE FOR WORKING PEOPLE IN CHICAGO?

NOAH FOODS:

"He didn't do anything for us. This library is just for his image."

"He has too much money to know what to do with. He could've just given that money (\$800 million) for people's rent."

BIG MOE'S:

"Politicians just do what's good for the small circle around them."

R&M:

"I don't know what Obama did for working people."

"Obama Care, and the library."

WOMAN AT M&S CAFE:

"The drug problem in Chicago is bad. Things got worse after Obama."

G&N FOOD AND LIQUOR:

"It's better that the center was done by someone from Chicago than someone from outside. But we can't expect much for people coming from the rich."

AFRICAN FOOD AND LIQUOR:

"Obama opened doors for people and inspired people."

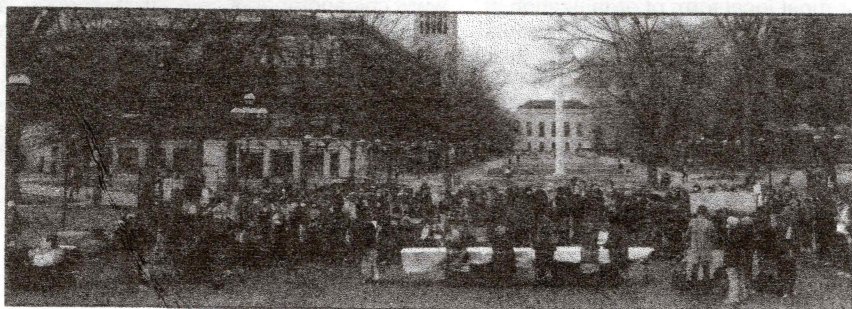
TELL US YOUR BAD LANDLORD STORIES

"My landlord locked me out because he didn't like me! And said I'd be trespassing if I returned."

"He didn't shovel the snow off the steps and I slipped and knocked all my front teeth out."

"We need rent control. The only way to get elected officials to listen is to embarrass them."

"As long as he had his rent it was okay, but none of my shit was fixed."



★ NEWS FROM THE TENANT POINT OF VIEW ★

WHAT IS THE ALL-CHICAGO TENANT ALLIANCE?

The All-Chicago Tenant Alliance (ACTA) is a socialist organization of Chicago tenants. The time is right for workers and tenants across Chicago to stand together and fight for control over our housing and our lives.

In the neighborhoods, control means:

- **Housing Control** – Housing out of the hands of landlords and into the hands of the workers
- **No Poverty Profiteering** – No more politicians or capitalists getting rich off of people's exploitation
- **Neighborhood Self-Determination** – The people determine the future of our own neighborhoods—not corporations, out-of-state investors, or greedy slumlords

To win this, we have built a dedicated, militant group of organizers prepared to bring the fight to your landlord.

How does this work? We want to build power for tenants so we cannot do it without you. We'll come to your building and help put together a Tenant Union, an organization that can demand more from the landlord and back it up. Over the last two years this strategy has been proven. ACTA unions have carried out protests and rent strikes in response to arrogant slumlords. At the end of these struggles, tenants come out ahead—but only because they take power into their own hands.

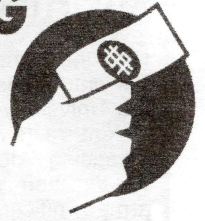
As landlords and capitalists intensify their exploitation in our city and around the world, working people will be the first to suffer. Be a part of the movement that meets these challenges head on: contact ACTA today. ★

CONTACT ACTA TODAY

FILL OUT OUR
'ORGANIZE
WITH ACTA'
FORM →



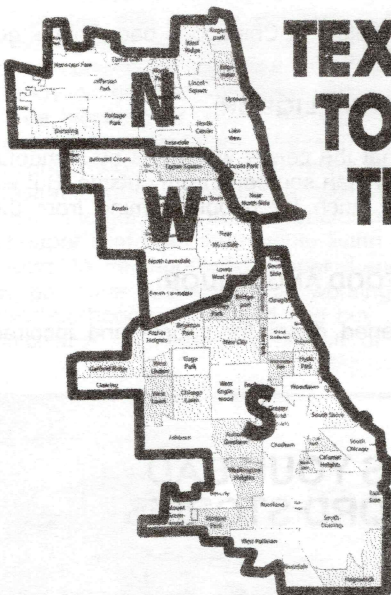
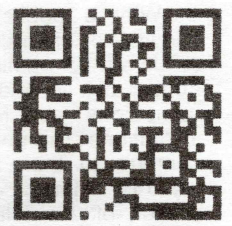
ACTA NEEDS FUNDING TO FIGHT THE WAR AGAINST SLUMLORDS!



Want to support ACTA and Tenants Talk, but don't have time? **You can contribute money instead.**

\$10 a month or a one time donation helps pay for operating expenses and Tenants Talk printing costs.

FUND
THE
FIGHT



TEXT (773) 770-5650 TO JOIN YOUR LOCAL TENANT MEETING

But even these three areas of Chicago are **big**. A tenant who lives in Uptown and one who lives in Rogers Park both fall into the Northside Chapter, but they are hardly neighbors and cannot easily get together. For this reason, an even more local kind of organization is necessary: the **section**. Sections are based on neighborhoods or even on a few blocks or major intersections; wherever a group of neighbors want to get together and take control of their housing together.

As the most local form of organization in ACTA, section meetings are where tenants get educated and collectively solve their housing issues with the help of ACTA's militant organizers. Sections are where tenant unions in buildings can be born and bring the rest of the neighborhood into their fight. Sections will become the center of the tenant power movement in the neighborhood and, through ACTA, it will be connected to the whole chapter which in turn will be connected with the whole city.

In addition to building tenant unions, in order to function smoothly over such a large area, there are detachments of ACTA organizers who focus on each of Chicago's three sides: the northside, the westside and the southside. These are the three chapters of ACTA. Depending on which part of the city a person lives in, they will come to know ACTA through one of these three **chapters**.

ACTA's goal is to fill up our chapters with sections for every neighborhood where tenants are, so that everyone dealing with landlords has an organization that they can easily join and fight back in. But we need your help...

A section has a few basic requirements so that just about anyone can start one.

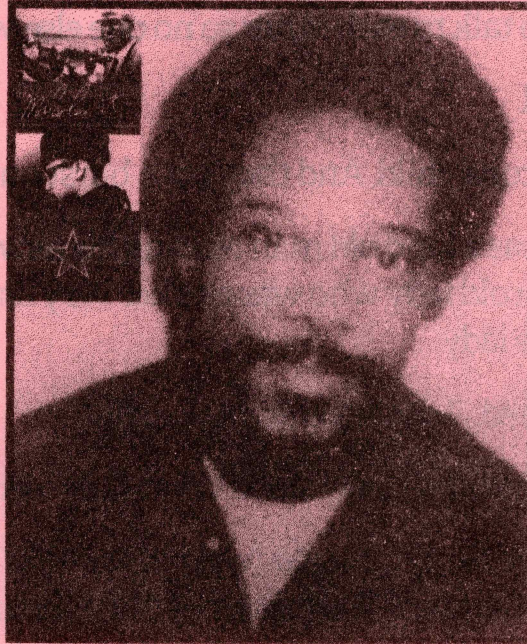
The first thing you need to do is find one other tenant in your area who is committed to helping you organize. You can't do it alone. This can be a roommate, a neighbor in your apartment building, a friend or coworker who lives down the street—whoever! As long as they live in the same neighborhood as you, you can team up. Both of you have to agree that you will host section meetings at least once, but ideally twice, a month.

The next thing to do is join ACTA as a general member. You can do this in person at one of our meetings, on our website www.chicagotenants.com or by phone at 773-770-5650. General Members have to pay at least \$1 per month in dues, that's it.

The last thing is to contact ACTA and tell us that you want to start a section, this can be done in the same way that you join; at meetings, online or by phone. At this point, an ACTA organizer will begin to work with you to build and grow your section into a fighting arm of the All-Chicago Tenant Alliance! ★

Yaki Sayles

New AFrikan Revolutionary From Chicago



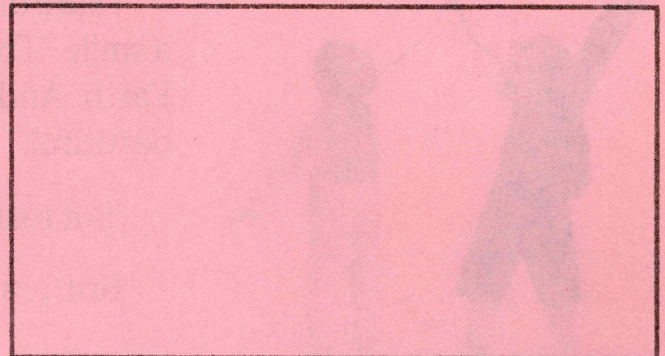
The All-Chicago Tenant Alliance guides its members in their individual and collective self-transformation. We take internal obstacles to our aims of organizing working class tenants very seriously. Through committed study, debate, and critique, we adjust old habits, attitudes, and ways of thinking. This is necessary for a revolutionary organization.

Yaki writes:

“Critical review of one’s own life is the first step in the process of personal transformation. It’s also the hardest step to take, because it requires that one be brutally honest and unreserved in the examination and critique of one’s fears and shortcomings.”

What does it feel like to look back on your life and reflect critically?

Draw a symbol that represents your process of self-transformation ----->





BRIF, BRAF, BRUF

By Giovanni Rodari

Two little children in the quiet of the courtyard were playing at inventing a special new language that they could use to talk to each other so no one else would understand.

"Brif, braf," said the first child.

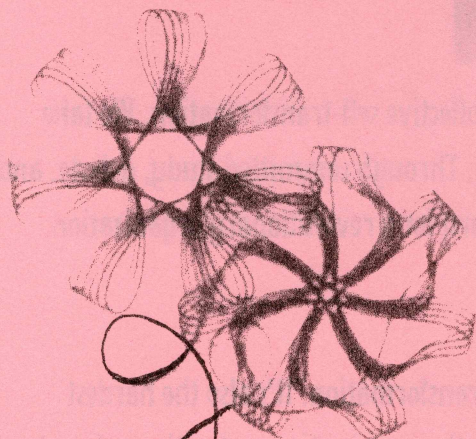
"Braf, brof," answered the second child. And they both burst out laughing.

On a second-story balcony was a kind old man reading his newspaper and looking out the window. Across the way was an old lady who was neither very kind nor very mean. "How silly these children are," said the lady.

But the kind old man disagreed. "I don't think they're silly."

"You're not going to tell me that you understood what they were saying?"

"I understood every word. The first child said, 'What a nice day.' And the second child replied, 'Tomorrow will be even nicer.'"



The old lady wrinkled her nose but said nothing, because the children had started talking again in their special language.

"Maraski, barabaski, pippirimoski," said the first child.

"Bruf," replied the second child. And they both burst out laughing again.

"You're not going to tell me that you understood this time, too!" exclaimed the old lady indignantly.

"I sure did—every word," answered the kind old man with a smile. "The first child said, 'How happy we are to be here on Earth.' And the second one answered, 'The world is beautiful,'"

"Is it really so beautiful?" insisted the old lady.

"Brif, braf, bruf," answered the kind old man.

