

David Denton

To: Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Plan Bay Area

RE: Draft 2015 Public Participation Plan

Something has gone terribly wrong at Plan Bay Area. Under the banner of opposing 'Gentrification', your agencies have funded studies that extol pseudo-science race-based wedge politics. Funds have been given to fringe groups with no accountability for the accuracy of the reports. Finally, with MTC and HUD funding in hand, these wedge groups have lead followers on a path of property destruction, illegal transportation stoppages and outright intimidation of local planning authority.

Plan Bay Area has funded a 2013 grant of \$74,516 to 'Causa Justa::Just Cause' (CJJC) to prepare a report entitled "Development with Displacement". It is a pseudo-scientific attempt to point blame at Caucasians for the displacement of the African American community in the East Bay, an assertion that is not supported by census data. Furthermore, the group has coordinated with violent anarchists in attempting to unlawfully shut down a meeting of the Oakland Planning Commission.

These 'Gentrification' reports have not been of any help to MTC planning staff. The Public Participation Plan is really nothing more than an illegal transfer of funds to groups attempting to obtain political power by creating a race-based wedge issue. CJJC reports are filled with incomprehensible graphs, propaganda and outright misinformation meant to create racial and economic divisiveness.

- **CJJC attempted to shut down Oakland Planning Commission meeting.**

On June 11, 2014 the Oakland Planning Commission held a meeting to finalize the West Oakland Specific plan, an attempt to foster development near the West Oakland Bart Station and on industrial lands which have been languishing for over 40 years. CJJC provided links to the anarchist web sites and called for its followers to meet at Defermery Park. The mob then proceeded to the meeting at Oakland City hall with the goal of stopping the West Oakland Plan.

At the Planning Commission meeting, the CJJC/anarchist mob attempted to shut down the meeting, requiring the Oakland Police to be called. As the SF Chronicle reported:

“At one point the crowd chanted, "Satan! Satan! Satan!" and drowned out Ed Manasse, a city planner, as he tried to introduce the plan. Two people were handcuffed by police and marched out of City Hall after they tried to block people from entering the meeting.“ (June 11, 2014, SF Gate.com)

The plan specifically avoids displacement of low income residents, however, CJJC claims that even the presence of market rate units destroys a minority neighborhood. They want all of the land (which is privately owned) to be zoned for low-income housing.

- **CJJC Urged Participate in the Oakland-Berkeley Ferguson Riots.**

Night after night, CJJC used social media to urge supporters to attend the nighttime demonstrations that inevitably ended in violence. Police budgets were wracked with overtime costs and crime surged in other parts of the East Bay. Freeways were shut down and there was severe property damage.

A SF Chronicle reporter sought out CJJC co-director Adam Gold about the purpose of freeway closures and violence.

“People are mad, everyone’s trying to figure out how to make the killings stop, and you’re going to have a diversity of tactics that include the freeways,” said [Adam Gold](#), 42-year-old co-director of Causa Justa: Just Cause and a participant in the latest demonstrations. “I’m sure everyone would rather be home with their families cooking for the holidays, but we’re out protesting because justice isn’t being done. (December 9, 2014, SF Gate.com)

In fact there has not been a police involved shooting for over 17 months at the time of his statement. Furthermore, all OPD have body cameras. But facts are lost when extremists seek power. Residents would certainly be surprised that MTC funds groups that shut down freeways.

- **CJJC Employee Chained To Other Protesters At West Oakland BART Station.**

On November 28, during the morning commute hours Robbie Clark an employee of CJJC and others chained themselves to a BART train at the West Oakland Station shutting down the entire system for over 2.5 hours. The financial damage was significant. Not only did BART's reputation for reliability diminish, but Phil Matier reports that the International Olympic Committee took notice. Will the MTC provide funds provide more funds to CJJC to pay the protesters fines?

This year, funds are being requested for 'early warning systems for Gentrification'. What will MTC do if houses are being repaired and new businesses open in Temescal? Will you cut off transportation to those districts? Or just send money to thugs who will break windows and intimidate shop owners. Will you roll out race-based Clipper cards that will prevent gentrifiers from moving freely about?

In summary, MTC has used transit funds to groups engaged in race-based wedge politics. MTC does not have any authority to impose restriction on residents seeking to improve their neighborhoods.

I am asking that no additional funds be granted to for these 'Gentrification' study's and mandate that all grantees must sign pledges to neither orchestrate, support or participate in ANY illegal acts.