

Thu, May 11, 2023

CALIFORNIA



Twenty of our CA PPC team will head to the nation's capital this summer, joining delegations from across the country for a Moral Poverty Action Congress—but we need the support of the whole CA PPC family in order to get there. Read on for fundraising details, plus an update on the police brutality case in Marin and an article by Rev. Liz on the end of pandemic benefits.

Announcement



Support the CA delegation to the National Moral Poverty Action Congress!

***King: A Filmed Record* fundraiser screening announced**

Sunday June 4, 4pm | [RSVP](#)

This June, PPC activists from across the country will be gathering in Washington D.C. for a three-day Moral Poverty Action Congress. The gathering will include panels, workshops, trainings, and lots of opportunities to meet with and learn from other states' PPC campaigners, with the aim of strengthening our capacity across the country. It's a continuation of our work of building power to change policies that are hurting the nation's 140 million poor and low-income people.

Each participating state will send 20 delegates—and California will be in the house! Our delegation will come back inspired and equipped with skills to deepen the work of ending the wealth gap within our state. To get our moral fusion delegation there, we need to raise \$30,000 to cover travel and part of the housing expenses. That's where you come in.

You're invited to a very special virtual film screening on Sunday, June 4 to support our delegation. [RSVP](#) to hold your spot for the *King: A Filmed Record... Montgomery to Memphis*.

Last spring, the California PPC aired the first part of this rarely seen documentary. Many of you asked to see the second half—and here's your chance! In this fantastic film, you'll see rare footage of Dr. King and learn more about his work.

We hope to raise at least \$10,000 of the needed funds through this screening. Please save the date and share the [invitation](#); we need as much support as possible to meet our fundraising goal. If you'd like to show your support in advance of the screening, [click here to make a donation now](#).

Upcoming meetings

Third Reconstruction Agenda/Close the Wealth Gap, CA! planning Wednesdays, 6:30pm | [RSVP](#)

Join our Close the Wealth Gap, California! initiative and help build momentum for the Third Reconstruction Agenda to Heal the Nation. [Drop by online any Wednesday](#) to find out how you can be involved.

News



Demand Justice for Mateo

"When I was on the ground, I thought 'I'm gonna die.'" —Julio "Mateo" Lopez

Speaking out after nine months of foot-dragging, the San Rafael City Attorney Robert Epstein announced the conclusion of the eight-month investigation into the incident captured on body camera footage worn by the officers who arrested and brutalized a man the community has lovingly dubbed "Mateo" as he tried to comply with their conflicting demands. (More about the case in this [ABC7 article](#) from last week. The photo above was taken at a recent city council meeting.)

Protected by the California Police Bill of Rights, San Rafael police officers Daisy Mazariegos and Brandon Nail have avoided public scrutiny as to the details of the investigation. Justice for Mateo is held at bay by the police chief David Spiller, who has yet to announce a formal decision regarding the findings and any possible discipline.

Mateo's attorneys have filed a California Public Records Act request for the complete investigation files. The deadline for their response is May 18.

PPC activists are working with community members to put pressure on local officials—and they're asking for our help. You can use the email template and addresses below and send emails to the region's officials and urge them to take action.

Please take a few minutes to support the call for Justice for Mateo:

Email Subject: Justice for Mateo (Julio Lopez)

Message: Dear <official's name>,

I am writing to urge you to demand that the San Rafael Police Chief immediately terminate both officers who brutalized Mateo, and that criminal charges be brought against them by the Marin County District Attorney.

We demand justice for Mateo.

Sincerely,

<your name>

Write to:

Kate Colin (city mayor)	kate.colin@cityofsanrafael.org
Maika Gulati (city council member)	maika@cityofsanrafael.org
Robert Epstein (city attorney)	rob.epstein@cityofsanrafael.org
David Spiller (police chief)	661@srpd.org
Cristine Alilovich (city manager)	cristine.alilovich@cityofsanrafael.org
Francine Tournour (city consultant)	tournour.francine@gmail.com
Lori Frugoli (Marin Cty District Atty)	lfrugoli@marincounty.org

Support the California PPC!

When over 140 million Americans are poor or living with low-wages, it's time for systemic change. We are building a movement led by poor and impacted folks, building across all lines of division, in order to topple the interlocking pillars of racism, poverty, militarism, environmental destruction and this country's distorted moral narrative. Please help us achieve this goal by clicking below and chipping in whatever you can.

DONATE



The Pandemic Portal View

Lessons for Moral Standard-Bearers in a Sick Society

“The portal of this pandemic”

Rev. Theoharis reflects on the end of COVID protections

In a recent [TomDispatch](#) article, Rev. Theoharis examines the enduring state of sickness in the U.S. as the government declares an “official” end to the pandemic, retiring free testing and other public-health measures. She reminds us that the COVID death rate in 2020 and 2021 was two to five times higher in poor counties than in wealthy ones; and that life expectancy in the U.S. continues to decline while peer countries have seen an increase in life expectancy thanks to effective Covid-19 responses.

Rev. Theoharis also reflects on the potential for change: “While contending with great challenges—widespread poverty, unprecedented inequality, racial reckoning, rising authoritarianism, and climate disaster—it’s important to reflect on just how we’ve chosen to walk through the portal of this pandemic. The sure-footed decisions, as well as the national missteps, have much to teach us about how to chart a better path forward as a society.”

Reflecting on the temporary policies created, she reminds us how millions experienced relief, and how we could house, feed and care for one another—that another world is possible. In closing, she shares the concept of *kairos* time from ancient Greece: a time of imminent danger and tremendous possibility. “However briefly the pandemic showed us that such an American world is not only possible but right at our fingertips.”

Thanks for reading. If you have any questions, you are welcome to reply to this newsletter or email california@poorpeoplescampaign.org.