



# THE DEMAND LETTER

## Ring in the First of May by Committing to Another Year of Struggle.

"Class consciousness is in fact the premise for being able to divert the opposition movements from their mechanical, spontaneous course, which leads them to always remain clinging to small claims, small reforms, to activism that is as sensational and mediatically profitable as it is impotent and cowardly, to the ultimately illusory forms of pressure on governments and institutions, so that they "mend their ways" and renounce their bellicose and predatory intentions." - NUOVA EGEMONIA

The history of the first of May is a history of class struggle. First chosen by the American Federation of Labor to commemorate the general strike of 1 May 1886 which culminated in the Haymarket massacre where a likely police provocateur threw a bomb at the police who responded by shooting into the crowd killing at least 4 and injuring hundreds. After this the government used it as a excuse to round up labor leaders and hung 4 without evidence of their involvement. Since then it has become a proletarian holiday celebrated by the world proletarian movement.

## Exposing NAYA's Lies



Oscar Arana, pictured here, as CEO of NAYA has overseen the influx of evictions at NAYA-owned properties

The essential contradiction between landlord and tenant exists no matter who the landlord is. Tenants need a safe and dependable place to live, and landlords exploit this to maximize revenue by any means necessary – regardless of what mission or values they believe they could trust.

For the last several years, vulnerable indigenous tenants in Portland have been neglected, abandoned, harassed, and forcibly evicted by the native organizations that they believed they could trust.

The Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA) is a non-profit that co-owns 6 housing complexes supposedly intended to create and sustain affordable housing, particularly for indigenous tenants facing homelessness. The story in each complex is the same: unhealthy and unsafe living conditions, ignored maintenance, hostility and retaliation from management, suppressed cultural practices, lack of promised services, unaddressed violence, grossly inaccurate ledgers, and aggressive evictions.

Since 2017, there have been at least 76 evictions filed against tenants at NAYA's properties, with 54 of them filed just since the start of 2024. With only 205 units in total, this represents about a quarter of all their households. When Underscore News, a native news publication, recently covered a portion of the tenants' stories – NAYA CEO, Oscar Arana, took the opportunity to deflect blame by stating that the tenants themselves were at fault.

Among other malicious statements, Oscar said "...a lot of the residents may not necessarily have the experience or the skills of knowing how to maintain or upkeep an apartment, so cleanliness might be an issue, right?" He continued, "This is a challenge that every single affordable housing provider is facing right now, issues of not clean units, issues of hoarding, issues of bed bugs." What Oscar intended to deflect from was the fact that the unhealthy living conditions have been created by management and owner neglect: burst pipes, leaks, water damage, mold, broken appliances, pests, collapsed walls, and structural failings – all of which have been reported by tenants and more often than not ignored.



## Ring in the First of May cont.

Since the beginning the government of the USA has attempted to suppress the holiday placing other things on the day such as "Loyalty day" and "Law day" and creating so-called Labor day on the first Monday of September which was explicitly created to attempt to separate the workers from their holiday and was proclaimed by reactionary president Grover Cleveland. These attempts have largely failed as the working people have continued to hold militant protests on the first of May.

In the coming year we should re-commit ourselves to another year of "serving the masses" and "clean living and hard struggle". This means that we should try to put the interests of the masses before our own and work everyday to build the class consciousness of the masses so they increasingly understand that their struggle is not democrat vs republican but Class (proletarian) vs Class (bourgeois / landlords).

## Residents resist eviction and protest in Terra Prometida, Brazil



March 7, 2025

Originally printed in Red Herald. Printed here to broaden our perspective on the housing struggle and incorporate lessons and tactics from our comrades abroad.

After realizing they were being exposed for years of neglectful treatment of their own clients and tenants, NAYA decided to do further damage control by publishing a response on their blog full of outright demonstrable lies and misdirection.

To start, they say: "Several residents in NAYA housing have recently received non-payment notices, but most of these notices are resolved without renters having to leave."

Every non-payment eviction is preceded by the mentioned termination notice, meaning "several" numbers more than 50. This is an under-count, because not every termination notice becomes a court-filed eviction – sometimes the resident moves out on their own once they learn their tenancy is being terminated. In every single building we've heard the same complaints: ledgers are incorrect, serious habitability violations have been ignored, and management continues to intimidate and harass tenants. A number of residents have received or been threatened with eviction when refusing to sign backdated income recertifications – a practice FPI Management has employed liberally in order to cover up years of missing or lost recertifications.

NAYA continued in their post: "In 2024 there were four actual evictions out of 165 units in our Cully properties."

This statement intentionally obscures two things: First, NAYA owns two additional properties outside of the Cully neighborhood – one of which, Generations, executed 4 additional evictions in 2024. Second, an additional 10 evictions across all of their properties have been completed since the start of 2025. Fourteen more eviction cases are currently open and ongoing at the time of writing. None of these numbers capture the tenants that decided to move out after receiving a termination notice, under the threat of state violence through sheriff-assisted evictions that NAYA placed against their residents.

Tenants directly refute NAYA's claim that they are willing to help their tenants facing financial challenges. Many of them were not made aware that they had a balance due until they received a termination notice with a vacate date. After pointing out flaws and missing payments on their ledgers, management has refused to correct them – forcing tenants to prove themselves in court by providing years of receipts. Other tenants have been refusing to pay rent in protest of unhealthy living conditions and neglect. NAYA has been more than happy to evict them without addressing the serious code and habitability violations they'd been forced to live with.

When tenants kicked off organizing tenant unions in each of their buildings over the past few weeks, property management cracked down. FPI Management and Guardian Management, employed by the building owners NAYA and Community Development Partners, have invented new rules to block access to community rooms for tenant meetings. They have routinely trespassed tenants and organizers for talking to other residents and knocking doors to invite their neighbors to the union meetings.

How come a non-profit landlord acts identically to the private slumlord we know to hate? How come they slash expenses, evict tenants, and repress anyone who stands up to them? Fundamentally the non-profit and the corporation under capitalism follow the same logic. Housing non-profits get their money from rents (money taken from our wages), government money (taken from our taxes), and donations (once more, from our wages). That money which comes from the rich donating or being taxed is also just the profits of our labor. So, the non-profit landlord subsists solely upon wealth taken from laboring people. Should they want to take this money and pay out their high salaries and advance their careers, the executives of the non-profit slash expenses and maximize profits, only now they rename profit to "executive compensation."

We are not obliged to be grateful for the crumbs we paid for so many times over, even if it is framed as "charity"!

**Down with Landlords!**

**Down with Housing as a Commodity!**



## Residents resist eviction cont.

The residents of Terra Prometida, Guarulhos, protested on February 24 and 27 against the authorities and blocked the main street of the area with burning barricades and banners against their eviction. The military police and firefighters arrived in the area to extinguish the fire and to repress the mobilization.

On February 24, the residents of the working-class neighborhood set fire to the main road and carried banners that read "No Invaders! Struggling for Housing!" and "Neighbors Demand Review of the Process!" The protesters stood firm against the police officers, who decided to throw stun grenades at the demonstrators. The residents resisted and threw stones at the military police. A similar action took place on February 27.

A Nova Democracia (AND) reports that the reactionary governor Lucas Sanches intends to expel all the residents of the area, defending the interests of a private owner against the neighbors. The residents are still involved in a legal process regarding this matter and denounce that the governor and the courts defend the interests of big urban property owners and real estate speculators. Meanwhile, State and local authorities deny being able to do anything, stating that everything depends on a judicial decision.

This struggle now lasts from a long time ago, as AND reports that on November 21, there were already protests in front of the Public Ministry headquarters. The eviction is still scheduled for March 11, and the State is determined to expel dozens of working-class families from their homes.

On March 6, the residents of Terra Prometida protested in front of the Guarulhos authorities' headquarters. In response to the administration's excuses, they decided to set up a camp demanding that their needs be addressed. The residents continue the protest and have blocked the streets close to the institutional headquarters, declaring that they will remain as long as is necessary.



## HAYU Cookout: Call To Action!

Tenants at the Hayu Building, a largely indigenous building administered by non profits NAYA and NARA, have been organizing against evictions, unsafe living conditions, suppression of cultural activities, and other oppression. As part of the organizing effort they have resolved to have a community cookout to have tenants get together, get to know eachother, and establish social bonds to serve struggle against their landlords.

The wrinkle: tenants at the Hayu face a large amount of food insecurity and largely cannot sacrifice the foodstamps and funds on a community event without giving up monthly necessities. So we must call upon the community. If anyone would like to help RAN secure food in the way of funds or donated food, please reach out at our email!

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**"But yeah, there's gonna be people sleeping on the street,"-Progressive Keith Wilson**



These words from Mayor Keith Wilson came from an article in the Portland Mercury in which Wilson was detailing his plans for homelessness. The plans are simple: continue homeless encampment sweeps, continue to impound vehicles and shelters used by homeless people to survive on the streets, and continue to offer temporary and short-term shelter that guarantees a quick turnover back onto the streets. Just with less of the stuff that makes a homeless person both more visible and able to stay alive while there.

These are the same plans that have been proposed by the city's politicians before. They are the same plans that are favored by Portland's business owners, property owners, and developers. They solve nothing about homelessness because they are not meant to. They are simply meant to stage the streets of our cities so that wealthy people will be encouraged to continue to buy property that raises rents and business owners will be able to continue to exploit their workers under the unspoken threat that things could be worse.



# On The Tenant: Non-profit Contradiction Don't be Grateful for Table Scraps

The housing sector is drowned in non profits offering rent assistance, legal defense, services for oppressed communities, etc. These services can be very important for some individuals and this truth fuels the demand that we be grateful to them and that we do not voice our grievances. Other working folk pride themselves in not taking "handouts" and living off what they earn. This may derive from a noble impulse, but misunderstands where this "charity" originates. Not from kindness, but from theft.

Non-profits may derive their funds from three sources, which we will find out is only one source. First, working people make donations from their hard earned wages. Second, capitalists make donations from their profits. And profits are stolen from the fruit of worker's labor. Third a non-profit may receive grants from the government. Government money comes from taxes on income and on profits. Income either derives from the wages of working people or the exploitation of working people. Profits, as we have established, are stolen from the workers. So all three sources are ultimately one source: the sweat of working people. Every cent in a non-profit's bank or in the government coffers came from the value generated by laboring people.

Must we then be grateful for these 'alms'? No, they simply return to us some of what has been taken from us. They are not alms, but what we are owed. This does not mean at each and every step we need to be outright hostile to non profit organizations. However when these organizations fail us, mislead us, or harm us we can and should be angry. When the time comes we should organize against them. They are not all friends by virtue of giving us some of our money back.

Take for example, the Impact Reduction Program (formerly called by its full name, the Homeless/Urban Camping Impact Reduction Program), which was implemented in 2015 with the intention of making homeless encampment sweeps easier to justify by citing broad safety concerns. Prior to this, police only had 1980's Portland Reaganite Mayor Ivancie's anti-crime ordinances to point to if they wanted to clear people out. The Impact Reduction Program claims to help those living on the streets but ultimately its goal is to remove homeless people from public areas, particularly sidewalks and storefronts in order to please business owners.

The Impact Reduction Program also makes it very easy for anyone to report encampments for sweeps, and I've personally witnessed when working jobs downtown, business owners and managers doing this frequently. Of course, to my bosses, any group of two or more homeless people doing anything on a sidewalk within a ten foot radius of their store was considered an encampment.

I also witnessed heavy reliance on the programs that the Clean & Safe Districts offer. The Clean & Safe district was established by Portland property owners in the late 80's as a way to keep up appearances and to cater to business owners. It touts on its website a "close partnership with the Portland Police," and doesn't boast a lot of affordable housing options within its borders. According to the Street Roots article, City adopts Enhanced Service District recommendations amidst criticism (Feb. 21, 2024), the Clean & Safe District is managed by a nonprofit that is run entirely by the Portland Business Alliance, which only business owners can join. This means that renters who live in the district are essentially doubly paying their landlords because Clean & Safe's contract with the city comes from tax-payer money. Can you afford to pay your landlord twice and not end up homeless? I know I can't.

Let's do some math - according to Apts.com, the average rent in downtown Portland is \$1,500 a month for a 646 sq. foot apartment. The minimum wage in Multnomah County is \$15.95 per hour before tax, which, if you are working 40 hours a week, only gives you \$1,276 at the end of the month. And again, that's before tax. So yeah, I would agree with Mayor Wilson here, there's gonna be people sleeping on the streets.

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## Stretched Thin: Call To Action!

Renters Action Network currently faces an acute case of far more work than we have organizers. The rate of evictions and crimes against working people only accelerates and our numbers have not grown to match. More than anything we need some new people in the door. If you or someone you know has the time to check out one of our meetings and see if you can get involved it would be a great service to us and the working people of our city. Prior experience organizing is not needed, we are happy to teach all those who are happy to do the work!





May Day Puzzle

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s	c	i	n	g	w	h	i	n	g	r	k	e	h	e					

Unscramble the tiles to reveal a message.

Each tile is used only once.

Use spacing, punctuation and common words to find adjacent tiles.

Some words may be split into two lines.

Some Terrible Reviews from RateYourLandlordPDX.com

"Never met him in the 3 years I lived at this property. His creepy maintenance worker let someone into our unit to tour without our notice or knowledge (until they walked in on us in the next room!!) Maint. also damaged the unit while doing repairs, never fixed this new damage, and our deposit was subsequently dinged. Had the city inspect the property and the threat of a lein was the only thing that got him to take care of the SEWAGE Gas seeping from our bathroom sink. Not a single outlet in the unit was grounded, or even 3-prong. Charged us to upgrade ONE OUTLET PER ROOM to GFCI."

"Despite never being late on rent and always paying in full, once he was interested in selling the property he started trying to look for lease violations that were not occurring, potentially to avoid paying any relocation costs."

"Landlord wanted to sell property and started fishing for lease violations to attempt to evict us. Used intimidation, attempted to enter the unit multiple times without proper notice, had work and maintenance done on the house without telling us, which disrupted our work as well as moving out. Exaggerated the state of the apartment when we left to try and keep more of our deposit. The house and appliances weren't in great condition when we moved in and he attempted to blame this on us."

"Landlord (Gilson Lipp) was always very hesitant to help with any issues, complained a lot about having to attend to any issues, threatened us with litigation with every issue brought up, and was generally rude. He resisted updating out-of-date documents, raised rent excessively, and threatened to evict us."

"Assholes. Would not recommend if you value peace of mind in spaces that you live. Landlords are HATED by the neighborhood, (for good reason), they are professional emotional manipulators, and make empty promises at every chance they get. They tout that "they want to make young people learn how to be good renters." Unfortunately this manifests as them creating a surveillance state with Mike making excuses to check on the house and attempt to enter the property without prior notice. Mike sends threatening voicemails despite us always paying rent early and bending to their unreasonable requests."

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If you would like to get involved in housing organizing  
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And finally, if you haven't, rate your landlord here!

