DO INSTEAD OF CALLING THE COPS / 12 THINGS TO DO INSTEAD OF CALLING THE COPS / 12 THINGS TO DO INS

IF YOU SEE SOMETHING,

DO SOMETHING!

STRONG COMMUNITIES MAKE POLICE OBSOLETE

FOR THIS AND RELATED PROJECTS, SEE:

MAY DAY COLLECTIVE

www.facebook.com/MayDayCollectiveWashtenaw

AND

WASHTENAW SOLIDARITY & DEFENSE

www.facebook.com/solidarityndefense

TUCSON RAPID RESPONSE HOTLINE:

520-221-4077

Calling the police often escalates situations, puts people at risk, and leads to violence. Anytime you seek help from the police, you're inviting them into your community and putting people who may already be vulnerable into dangerous situations. Sometimes people feel that calling the police is the only way to deal with problems. But we can build trusted networks of mutual aid that allow us to better handle conflicts ourselves and move toward forms of transformative justice, while keeping police away from our neighborhoods.

4

If you see someone pulled over with car trouble, stop and ask if they need help or if you can call a tow truck for them. If the police are introduced to such a situation, they may give punitive and unnecessary tickets to people with car issues, target those without papers, or worse.

5

Keep a contact list of community resources like suicide hotlines. When police are contacted to "manage" such situations, people with mental illness are sixteen times more likely to be killed by cops than those without mental health challenges.

6

Check your impulse to call the police on someone you believe looks or is acting "suspicious." Is their race, gender, ethnicity, class, or housing situation influencing your choice? Such calls can be death sentences for many people.

7

Encourage teachers, coworkers, and organizers to avoid inviting police into classrooms, workplaces, and public spaces. Instead, create for a culture of taking care of each other and not unwittingly putting people in harm's way. If you're part of a group that's holding a rally or demonstration, don't get a permit or otherwise cooperate with the police.

8

If your neighbor is having a party and the noise is bothering you, go over and talk to them. Getting to know your neighbors with community events like monthly block parties is a good way to make asking them to quiet down a little less uncomfortable, or to find another neighbor who is willing to do so.

9

If you see someone peeing in public, just look away! Remember, for example, that many houseless people do not have reliable access to bathrooms.

10

Hold and attend de-escalation, conflict resolution, first-aid, volunteer medic, and self-defense workshops in your neighborhood, school, workplace, or community organization.

11

Street art is beautiful! Don't report graffiti and other street artists. If you see work that includes fascistic or hate speech, paint over it yourself or with friends.

12

Remember that police can escalate domestic violence situations. You can support friends and neighbors who are being victimized by abusers by offering them a place to stay, a ride to a safe location, or to watch their children. Utilize community resources like safe houses and hotlines.

1

Don't feel obligated to defend property—especially corporate "private" property. Before confronting someone or contacting the police, ask yourself if anyone is being hurt or endangered by property "theft" or damage. If the answer is "no," then let it be.

2

If something of yours is stolen and you need to file a report for insurance or other purposes, consider going to the police station instead of bringing cops into your community. You may inadvertently be putting someone in your neighborhood at risk.

3

If you observe someone exhibiting behavior that seems "odd" to you, don't assume that they are publicly intoxicated. A traumatic brain injury or a similar medical episode may be occurring. Ask if they are OK, if they have a medical condition, and if they need assistance.