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STATEMENT ON OUR DISRUPTION OF THE BERKELEY LANDLORDS' EVICTION CELEBRATION PARTY

On Tuesday, September 12, Tenant and Neighborhood Councils (TANC) mobilized more than 100 tenants to disrupt Berkeley landlords' obscene celebration of eviction.

With less than a day's notice, our members rallied with banners and signs outside Freehouse pub, where the Berkeley Property Owners Association hoped to celebrate the end of local pandemic-era eviction restrictions. We later carried a cake decorated with the words, "Hey landlords! Get a real job!" into the party and chanted, among other things, "Eat the cake."

As reported, BPOA members were quick to anger, attacking tenants unprovoked. We stand with our members who were assaulted by landlords, just as we stand with any tenant facing eviction. We are not surprised by BPOA's behavior. The landlords' cocktail party was a celebration of the violent process of eviction. This is why TANC intervened.

As a Bay Area-wide tenant union building power through tenant organizing, TANC is preparing for a long-haul fight. If you have issues with your landlord, join the union and organize with your neighbors!

The Bay Area's double crises of extreme rent profiteering and homelessness come from the landlords' business model. Landlords are structurally invested in skyrocketing rents, extracting money from working-class people under threat of eviction. Real estate capital's unchecked profits have corroded the Bay Area's culture and life. It must be stopped.

We reject the notion that landlords have a right to a return on their investment. Rents should be immediately rolled back regardless of how this impacts landlords' balance sheets. Tenants deserve a high quality of life, dignity in our housing, and a life free from landlord exploitation and harassment.

By disrupting the Berkeley landlord group's cruel party, we have proved that tenants aren't passive. Tenants will fight back! We call on tenants across the Bay Area to [join the tenant union](#). We will beat back the forces of gentrification together. The union makes us strong!

The Tenant and Neighborhood Councils (TANC) is an autonomous tenant union with hundreds of members, dozens of affiliated councils and several neighborhood-based locals. The member-run organization stands against the capitalist housing system and aims to stop landlords, developers and police from continuing to loot and exploit our communities.