



**Critical Resistance**

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Dear Attorney General Carr, District Attorney Boston, District Attorney Willis, and Prosecuting Attorneys' Council Chair Mosley,

As a national social justice organization that exists to expose and fight some of the most urgent injustices of our time, **we join the chorus of demands from individuals and organizations across the world that you drop all charges and cease all proceedings against all people** closely or loosely affiliated **with the Stop Cop City movement**. We demand that you **immediately release people who are detained, support the expungement of their arrest records**, and come out in strong opposition to the proposal to build the facility known as Cop City that is designed to train police to terrorize our communities.

We vehemently **denounce the use of draconian domestic terrorism charges against protestors** who have bravely put their bodies on the line to protect our forests during a moment of extreme climate crisis. We denounce the targeting of the **Atlanta Solidarity Fund** who have been practicing a tactic of supporting civil protest through grassroots bail funding, a communal practice in the long tradition of social justice movements that goes back to the days of the desegregation movement during the Civil Rights era. These attacks are clearly intended to quell any form of resistance to the construction and operation of the enormous militarized police facility and to instill fear in the community who have stood up in opposition to Cop City.

This facility, known as **Cop City**, if erected will exacerbate existing [crises of policing as a public health issue](#), will make the city of Atlanta [more vulnerable to climate disaster](#) by **decimating the Weelaunee Forest** known as "the lungs of Atlanta," and will set a precedent across the US for further militarization of police. We know that these will be the outcomes of building this facility, and so do the citizens of Atlanta.

The people of Atlanta have repeatedly spoken out against Cop City, yet are continuously ignored. Despite **a 98% opposition** to the initial project proposal by local residents, **years of clear demands to cancel the contract and stop the construction**, and a **record-breaking 7+ hours of public comment from local residents** in which not one single minute was spent supporting the project, the Atlanta City Government is refusing to hear the clear "no" coming from the collective voices of the people they were elected to represent and serve. The Atlanta City Government, the Atlanta Police Foundation, and everyone involved with the violent attacks on human rights, the safety of our communities, and our earth must be stopped in their destructive path and held accountable for the harms they've committed - including the murder of environmental activist Manuel Esteban "Tortuguita" Paez Terán.



Nationally, the opposition to militarized police training is not new. For over five years, Critical Resistance members in coalition with advocates, lawyers, community-based organizations and other concerned Bay Area residents and organizers waged **a campaign to end Urban Shield**, which was the largest militarized SWAT police training and weapons expo in the world. Organized by the Alameda County Sheriff's Office, Urban Shield brought together local, regional, and international police-military units to collaborate and train on new forms of surveillance, repression, and state violence until the Stop Urban Shield coalition successfully defunded and ended it in 2018.

Just as with Cop City, the proponents of Urban Shield falsely claimed that it was needed to bolster public safety. Yet, because we have already seen the devastating impacts of Urban Shield when it was operational, we can be certain that the building of a brick and mortar facility like Cop City would cause serious threats to the Atlanta community – and communities across the country and world whose police forces would be trained in urban warfare. Resistance to Urban Shield was not a flash point that was easily quelled or able to be dismissed by elected officials, but **a sustained cross-community and cross-sector movement building effort** that worked to erode the power of policing in our communities in the Bay Area and also internationally by **dismantling** a specific police training program, and **changing** the conditions of poverty and divestment our communities face, while **building** solutions to violence, inequality, emergency response and disaster preparedness that our communities need. The victory in the campaign to end Urban Shield is proof that the protestors and organizations opposing Cop City have history on their side. The people of Atlanta can and will win – and it's clear that opposition to Cop City will only continue to grow.

For these reasons **we call on Atlanta and Georgia public officials to drop all charges and cease all proceedings against #StopCopCity protesters, release them immediately, and expunge their arrest records.** We call on Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens and the Atlanta City Council to **cancel the lease for construction of Cop City.** And we **denounce any effort to expand the prosecution dragnet to target the other protest support infrastructure and community organizations.**

Signed,

The members of Critical Resistance