

# GENTRIFICATION: DESTRUCTION OF RAZA COMMUNITIES, CULTURE, AND HISTORY

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The Save Our Barrio Coalition (SOBC) continues with its aim to build a community base that can effectively struggle against the destruction of “Barrio Logan” and other Mexican-Raza communities –some of these communities are more than 100 years old!

The SOBC was formed in November of 2009 by the Brown Berets de Aztlán, CPSC (Chicano Park Steering Committee), and Unión del Barrio; organizations with a decades-long history of activism in the struggle for Raza self-determination and against all forms of oppression.

## GOVERNMENT AND RICH CORPORATIONS WANT TO DESTROY OUR BARRIOS

The most recent SOBC “mass meeting” took place on Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2010, at the Paradise Senior Center located near the corner of Logan and Cesar Chavez Place, next to Chicano Park (San Diego, Califaztlán), in Barrio Logan. Over fifty activists and residents attended the meeting.

On the agenda were four areas of work or information that the SOBC felt was important to present to the community. These were: (1) Summation of the question of gentrification from a Raza perspective (2) dividing up the tasks of the SOBC into working committees, (3) feed back and dialogue with those present on the work and proposals being put forth by SOBC, and (4), some agreements on key actions needed to take place immediately.

The first part of the meeting was opened-up by the junta facilitators, Monica Bernal (CMPP) and Francisco Carrillo (CPSC), who summed-up how the SOBC saw the issue of gentrification. They explained that gentrification was a capitalist-rooted (greed and profit based) process in which rich corporations/companies (usually gringos) work in a “mafia-like partnership” with city/gov-

ernment officials to force poor and working people out of a particular community. Once

people are moved out, “redevelopment”, subsidized by public funds, takes place in the form of the construction of new roads, schools, condominiums, apartments, and houses. Then the new apartments and homes are sold to wealthy (mostly white) people who get a “deal” (profit) out of the expense and suffering of Mexicans, African, and other poor people.

trification and the ongoing attacks against Barrio Logan, and felt that immediate actions should take place. Some volunteered to help spread information as a way of getting more people involved in the struggle.

During the last part of the meeting, the SOBC representatives put forth several key actions that could be implemented soon. They included participating in the Zapata March (which will take place on April 10, 2010), outreach actions during Chicano Park Day, and a SOBC marcha through Barrio Logan –as ways of raising awareness and bringing more people into the movement to save our barrios.

## THE PEOPLE UNITED, WILL NEVER BE DEFEATED

Through its activities the SOBC hopes to build a strong community voice. It specifically aims to educate and raise the consciousness of the people to the fact that the main enemy of our barrios is the racist capitalist system, and that only well organized, can the people defend their families, dignity, and freedom.

The SOBC understands the need to inform the community that “Gentrification” not only forces people to move from their homes, but also the history and culture of the community is destroyed. Along with their homes, all the achievements and memories of those who lived in these communities for generations –are completely lost.

Moreover, it is important to understand that the destruction of the barrio is not “accidental” – it is the result of racist/arrogant city officials and greedy corporations/developers, who not only make profits, but also engage in the genocide of our Raza and all aspects of our culture and history.

JOIN THE STRUGGLE TO SAVE OUR BARRIOS! JOIN THE SOBC!

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Pablo Aceves (Unión del Barrio, Frank Carrillo (CPSC), y Monica Bernal (CMPP). Feb. 4, 2010, Sr. Center, Barrio Logan

**BARRIO MEETING!!!**

On Thursday January 7th 2010, Save Our Barrios Coalition listened to the concerns and began to dialogue with Barrio Logan residents and local organizations. The turnout was very good and we have excellent teams of organizers doing a good job. After listening to the communities concerns and questions, we have developed committees to begin forming plans of action. In our next meeting we will:

- Describe the responsibilities of each committee
- Listen to the concerns of residents
- Make further announcements
- Network with local organizations interested

**WHEN:** WEDNESDAY FEB. 3<sup>RD</sup> 2010  
FROM 6:00-8:00PM

**WHERE:** 1880 LOGAN AVE. SAN DIEGO CA. 92113

The “Save Our Barrios” coalition is endorsed and organized by:  
CMPP, Unión Del Barrio, Brown Berets de Aztlán, Chicano Park Steering Committee, SDSU MECHA, Raza Rights Coalition

## WORKING COMMITTEES FORMED

The meeting then moved to the second part, which was to create working committees to take on the goals of the SOBC. Members of the coalition described the work of each of the committees and asked people to join one of them. The committees were: (1) fund raising, (2) research, (3) publicity, (4) logistics, and (4) outreach. It was explained to those who volunteered that the committees would meet to work on their particular areas.

During the third part of the meeting, everyone was invited to dialogue, ask questions or give their opinions on how they saw the question of gentrification of Barrio Logan. Those present expressed their opposition to gen-

