

Home for the Holidays events Dec. 16-19

Press conference

Friday, Dec. 16, noon, 40-42 Fowler St.

4 parts

We assemble 10-20 of our members who have successfully gotten their homes back at a fraction of loan value. Their message is "we won, you can too". 2-3 people speak who had blockades or other struggles in front of their homes before they were able to win. Roberto Velasquez, Ursula Humes, Drusilla Francis, Guy Lebrun are possibilities. Although these folks have won, they continue to give back and are supporting others to win their homes back.

We hope to have the actual owner of the building present (who we found after occupying the building). We will have the current tenant family present, a family with 5 children who was evicted by Aurora Bank in Hyde Park after 4 eviction blockades. We hope to have negotiated an official lease between the owner and the tenant. This will present Deutsche Bank with an occupied building if they re-foreclose. Deutsche will not be able to evict "no-fault". We hope this will put us in a good position to buy the building for a low price on a short sale.

Members of the Occupy movement announce that they will be working with City Life to work against foreclosures and evictions. They may announce that one of their members have offered to let them tent on their back yard in Roslindale. The message here is – Dewey Sq. may have been cleared, but the Occupy movement goes on.

The justice tree. Each year at the home for the holiday event, City Life has erected a "justice tree". Each person in the assembly places a paper ornament on the tree with some social justice message.

Occupation or vigil

Saturday/Sunday, Dec. 17-18

Two of our proposed occupations (Fannie property in E Boston and a B of A property in Hyde Park), are not working out for this weekend. We are still looking at possibilities in the so-called target zone in Four Corners

If the occupation does not work out (and time is running out), we will do a vigil or two on Saturday/Sunday to dramatize the cases of people facing imminent foreclosure eviction. Ideally, these will be cases where an offer has been made to the bank but the bank is refusing to negotiate. This highlights to the max the problem of the bank.

HUD rally at 10 Causeway St.

Monday, Dec. 19, noon

When FHA has insured a bank loan, the lender will get fully reimbursed even if the loan is twice the real value of the home. In response, HUD assumes control of the property. However HUD has been demanding "vacant conveyance". This policy forces the foreclosing lender to evict in order to get their insurance. We protested this policy last year and seemed to have settled on an alternative, but the agreement is not working well.

In addition, since the Tip O'Neill building is a federal building, we will use the occasion to slam Fannie and Freddie again for (1) conducting evictions after foreclosure and (2) failing to do principal reduction.