

Occupy Boston Street Meeting Notes – 1/12/12

1) Bank of NY-Mellon Action

- a. Successful mic check
- b. On Tuesday, BoNY-Mellon took Occupy Pittsburgh to court
 - i. Police in Pittsburgh have stated that they won't evict the group w/out a court order
- c. FRAUD – BoNY-Mellon has taken millions? Billions? From state pensions in at least 5 states, including MA

2) Generally, we need more effective organization in the future

- a. Access to Celly/Text Blast System?
 - i. Currently not being used efficiently/that much at all
 - ii. Discuss access to Celly account with Eli
 - iii. Rene said he'll make an announcement at GA regarding this
 - 1. Rene, did you follow up?

3) MLK Candlelight Vigil

- a. Nicole committing to contacting Erica and Katie G., related orgs. About promoting the MLK Vigil

4) Occupy the T

a. Meeting was mostly Somerville-based

- i. Some SEIU, other community orgs. Present

b. Popular Ideas

- i. Mic checking on train/bus routes
- ii. Handing out flyers
 - 1. **We need flyers in multiple languages (Spanish, Mandarin, Portuguese, Creole)**
- iii. Targeting routes that will be cut/reduced service
- iv. Calling for debt forgiveness
- v. **Slogan: "Free Charlie!"**
 - 1. **Idea:** Create image of 'Charlie' from cards in prison
 - 2. **Idea:** Update the MTA song, play it frequently
- vi. Culture Jamming
 - 1. **Idea:** Insert fake ads into the sides of T cars

c. Messaging

- i. Fare hikes or Route cuts/reductions in service?
 - 1. Fare hikes affect everyone
 - 2. Cut Bus routes are more drastic and effect certain areas enormously, but don't effect everyone
- ii. 30% - 30%--> Possibly important messaging point
 - 1. 30% of the T's revenue comes from card swipes
 - 2. 30% of their revenue goes to pay off debt to banks
- iii. How can we frame this as a class issue?

d. Thoughts

- i. Mic checking community meetings?
 - 1. Pro: Good for movement building, could be done at the end of meetings
 - 2. Con: We should try to work with people, not be disruptive during the one time they **do** have to address MBTA officials – especially since many of those folks will already be on our side
- ii. Outreach to other Occupations (regarding MBTA cuts)
 - 1. Quincy, Hyannis, Providence – all will be affected by this
- iii. Direct Actions
 - 1. Try not to upset MBTA workers and riders, we want them on our side

e. Actions to be taken

- i. **Eli** → Free Charlie! Flyers
- ii. **Ridgely** → Mark ups of 'prisoner mannings
- iii. **Dan** → Rewriting MTA song, Contacting Kip Lyall about a political cartoon

5) Street – General Strike Meeting?

- a. Would like to have a combined meeting of WGs
- b. Perhaps should be expanded into a full action summit, with break out groups
 - i. SEIU 615 would have a space for this? Possibly find somewhere that lends itself to a good security culture
- c. **In general, Street needs a more consistent location for meetings**
 - i. SEIU might work, once again

6) April 30th or March 30th action?

- a. Discussion about having an action on April 30th, leading up to the May Day actions, or on March 30th, on the 6 mos. Anniversary of Occupy Boston, against **the banks**
- b. Right to the City Coalition is very interested in this