



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 8, 2020, 4:55 PM

**Multnomah County Sheriff's Office and Portland Police Bureau
Lead Violent Eviction and Sweep, Clash with Community in
Latest Chapter of Kinney Family Fight to Save Historic Home**

Events took place amidst federal and state eviction moratoria

PORTLAND,OR: In the early morning hours of December 8, 2020, riot officers with the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, Portland Police Bureau, and possibly other law enforcement agencies, violently dismantled the 75+ day "Red House" encampment in North Portland. Along with sweeping the encampment, which supports and surrounds the Red House, officers entered the home itself, destroying its interior, and violently arresting two residents - injuring at least one. (This story is developing.)

The encampment began in response to an attempted violent removal of the Kinney family, by the sheriff's office, in September.

Despite permission to camp from the landowner, officers indiscriminately swept the area, targeting the popular free community kitchen, misgendering campers, all in the middle of an economic crisis and pandemic. This is totally unacceptable behavior, says William X Nietzsche, resident and son of the Red House homeowners, who was arrested and injured by officers.

The Afro-Indigenous Kinney family, longtime owners of the "Red House," maintain cultural and generational ties to the home in question. The tactics we are facing, of sneaky and illegal foreclosure tactics, predatory banking and loans, elected judges who take campaign contributions from the real estate industry, coupled with violence from law enforcement and no real Due Process, have been used across this historically Black neighborhood to displace Black and poor people, says homeowner and Indigenous elder Julie Metcalf. If Black and indigenous lives matter in Portland, this must stop.

Michael Kinney, son of the homeowner Julie, was released from jail in the late afternoon, after being arrested in the home. Approximately 16 others, including Nietzsche, were also arrested. The family reports that this autumn, Michael was targeted for arrest by the PPB, and his name publicly slandered by right-wing Twitter after being targeted in a traffic stop.

The family has ongoing litigation to keep possession of the historic home, and has yet to receive any trial.

This morning, PPB officers wore Portland Police Association regalia as they maintained a perimeter.

Following the violent police sweep, neighbors and supporters reclaimed the land and home, and clashed with police who set off tear gas against the crowd. Coverage of those clashes have been shared widely on social media.

The family's asking for community members to show up to 4406 N Mississippi to defend the house. They're also raising \$250,000 to save the home.

Donate at: <https://gf.me/u/yyjwna>.

A PRESS CONFERENCE (ZOOM AND IN PERSON) IS SCHEDULED FOR 1 PM DECEMBER 9, 2020

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FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO ATTEND VIA ZOOM (QUESTIONS CAN BE ASKED VIA CHAT) SEND A QUERY TO REDHOUSEONMISSISSIPPI@GMAIL.COM

To see past news releases:

<https://redhouseonmississippi.com/press>.