

Susan Rubstello

February 26, 2017

Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission
700 Fifth Avenue, Suite 4010
P.O. Box 94729
Seattle, WA 98124-4729

Re: Appeal of Executive Director's Decision Dismissing Complaint Case No.17-1-0115-1

Dear Commissioners,

This letter shall serve as my appeal of the Executive Director's written decision of February 14, 2017, dismissing my ethics complaint against City of Seattle Councilmember Kshama Sawant. See **Exhibit 1**. My ethic's complaint concerned Councilmember Kshama Sawant's ("Councilmember Sawant") use of City Hall and other City of Seattle ("City") resources to advance the political agenda of "Socialist Alternative" unrelated to the business of the City. Specifically, Councilmember Sawant used her office and City resources to organize and promote:

"SATURDAY, JAN 14 @ 12PM // SEATTLE CITY HALL, TOWN HALL ACTION MEETING" to "mobilize for mass protests and walkouts for Trump's Inauguration Jan 20 & 21" to "RESIST TRUMP" in support of "Seattle's RESIST TRUMP COALITION";

"JAN 20 @ 5PM RALLY AT WESTLAKE PLAZA" in support of the "COALITION to RESIST TRUMP"; and

"JAN 20 @ 5PM RALLY AT WESTLAKE PLAZA" on inauguration day to "UNITE AGAINST TRUMP" and "JOIN THE RESISTANCE".

City of Seattle resources used included the City's website, staff, printing of posters, and an organizational meeting at City Hall. The decision of the Executive Director as explained below, is arbitrary and capricious, contrary to law, and without a rational basis.

FACTS

- Kshama Sawant is a Seattle City Councilmember.
- Seattle City Council is a nonpartisan office.¹
- Kshama Sawant identifies the **Socialist Alternative** as “my organization” in her postings on the <seattle.gov> website. See **Exhibit 2**, a posting from January 20, 2017, titled: “My Socialist Response to Donald Trump’s Inaugural Speech”.
- On Saturday, January 14, 2017 at 12pm, Councilmember Sawant hosted an event at City Hall to “[p]repare for Trump’s inauguration day (and the protests that will accompany it) at this planning-oriented meeting...” according to the website of *The Stranger* newspaper. See **Exhibit 3**. According to *The Stranger*, “Sawant writes: ‘[w]e don’t have a moment to waste in getting organized against Trump’s racist, misogynistic, anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim, anti-LBGQT rhetoric, proposals, and cabinet members. Join the Resist Trump Coalition and my office at City Hall to help build the biggest possible protests against Trump on January 20th and 2st’”.
- Kshama Sawant made multiple posts on the <seattle.gov> website at: <<<http://sawant.seattle.gov/category/resist-trump-coalition/>>> with regard to the ‘Resist Trump Coalition’. See **Exhibit 4**.
- Posters were printed at the City’s expense announcing the January 14, 2017, 12pm town hall action meeting at City Hall; the January 16, 2017, 11am MLK DAY rally & march @ Garfield High School; the January 20, 2017, 12pm Student Walkouts; the January 20, 2017, 1pm El Comité “All United None Divided” Rally @ Judkins Park; the January 20, 2017, 3pm march to Westlake Plaza; the Inauguration Day January 20, 2017 @ 5pm rally at Westlake Plaza; and the January 21, 2017, 10am-4pm Seattle Women’s March Rally & March @ Judkins Parks clearly identifying “Councilmember Kshama Sawant” as an event sponsor with the “Coalition to Resist Trump” and giving her contact information at the City of Seattle and on the <seattle.gov> website. See **Exhibit 5**.

¹ Oxford Dictionaries online definition of nonpartisan: not biased or partisan, especially toward any particular political group. Merriam-Webster defines nonpartisan: not supporting one political party or group over another – not partisan – nonpartisan.

LAW

RCW 42.23.050: Provides that any officer violating any provisions of this chapter is liable to the municipality for a penalty of \$500.00, in addition to any other civil or criminal penalties and that violation of this chapter may be grounds for forfeiture of office.

RCW 42.23.060: Provides that the provisions of a City Charter control only if it contains stricter requirements than Ch. 42.23. The provisions of Ch. 42.23 shall be considered as minimum standards to be enforced by municipalities.

RCW 42.23.070: Prohibits City Officials from using their office to secure special privileges or exemptions for themselves or others.

Seattle City Charter ("SCC") ARTICLE IV: Provides "that no committee of the Council and no members shall have or exercise executive or administrative power, except as otherwise expressly provided in this Charter."

SCC ARTICLE IV, Section 14: Provides that the City Council shall have power by ordinance and not otherwise; that City Council control of finances and property is by ordinance, and that the City Council has no administrative as distinguished from the legislative power.

SCC ARTICLE IV, Section 15: Provides that in addition to the legislative powers stated in the Charter, the City has all other powers granted to or exercised by municipal corporations of like character and degree and all powers granted to incorporated cities by the laws of the state and may exercise the same by ordinance and not otherwise.

SMC 2.04.300: Prohibits elected officials and any employee in their office from using any of the facilities of the public office directly or indirectly, for the purpose of assisting a campaign for election of any person to any office. Facilities include but are not limited to stationary, machines, equipment, use of employees during working hours, office space, and publications of the office.

SMC 4.16.070A: Disqualifies City Officials from acting on City Business in certain circumstances, including:

3. Performing any official duties when it would appear to a reasonable person, having knowledge of the relevant circumstances, that the official's individual's judgment is impaired because of either a personal or business relationship.

SCC 4.16.070B. Prohibits improper use of official position.

1. Use or attempt to use his or her official position for a purpose that is, or would to a reasonable person would appear to be, primarily for the private benefit of the official or any other person, rather than primarily for the benefit of the City.
2. Use or attempt to use, or permit the use of any City funds, property, or personnel, for a purpose which is, or to a reasonable person would appear to be, for other than a City purpose (exceptions omitted).

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HAD NO RATIONAL BASIS FOR HIS DECISION

The Director's finding that the posters² did not violate the bar in SMC 2.04.300 on use of public resources to assist a campaign for election was based on his rationale that the 2020 election is still more than three years away. He mistakenly relied upon a guidance memo concerning Federal employees from the Federal Office of Special Counsel. See **Exhibit 6**. The circumstances for the guidance memo are factually distinguishable from the facts before the Director in this ethics complaint.

The Director also mistakenly believed that it was the potential 2020 Trump campaign that was the target of Councilmember Sawant's activities. Councilmember Sawant's postings on <seattle.gov> demonstrate that she was campaigning against President-elect Trump's 2016 campaign for office and his inauguration on January 20, 2017. President-elect Trump was not yet sworn into office when the organizing event was held at City Hall and the posters for the rally were printed. President-elect Trump had taken no actions as President of the United States of America. The rally organized by Councilmember Sawant in support of her Socialist Alternative was in resistance to Trump's inauguration into office. She raised issues previously advocated by Kshama Sawant and the Socialist Alternative throughout the 2016 campaign. There is no City of Seattle Ordinance authorizing her or any other councilmember to use City of Seattle resources for such events. In addition, Resolution 31724 cited by Councilmember Sawant's staff in a response to the Director for an explanation of the City of Seattle purpose behind the activities gives no councilmember, including Councilmember Sawant, any individual authority to organize protests in coalition with other individuals or groups to either resist Trump or to protest his inauguration into office. She acted entirely on her own for the benefit of herself, her husband Calvin Priest, and her Socialist Alternative. See **Exhibit 7**.

² The Director did not address the use of City Hall facilities, <seattle.gov>, and City staff.

Because there was no authorizing ordinance or other legislative action authorizing Kshama Sawant to use her office and City of Seattle resources to organize the rally for the "Coalition to Resist Trump", there cannot be City of Seattle purpose behind her use of City funds, property or personnel. She acted in clear violation of SMC 4.16.070.B.2. and RCW 42.23.070(1). The Charter provisions cited earlier in this appeal are consistent with the descriptions of the job of a city councilmember found in the MRSC publication "Mayor and Councilmember Handbook". See **Exhibit 8**. That publication explains:

The job of a Councilmember.

The principal job of a city or town council is to make policy. A policy is a course of action for a community. Policy-making often takes the form of passing ordinances or resolutions. After policy decisions are made by the legislative body, others perform the administrative task of implementing the policies. The distinction between formulation and implementation may not always be clear, necessitating open communication between legislators and administrators. (Emphasis added)

So, who actually runs the City?

It is important to recognize that it is not the role of a councilmember to administer city affairs. The council sets policy ... (Emphasis added)

The Director's reliance upon his decade old decision involving former Councilmember Steinbrueck fails to provide a rational basis for dismissal of my complaint. Not only is this case completely different on its facts, but the Director's rationale that, "[t]he scope of a councilmember's authority is broad, limited only by the City Charter and City, State and Federal law" is completely wrong. He turns the law upside down. An individual councilmember has no authority to do anything not authorized by legislation. No statute or charter provision grants her individual authority outside of participating on the legislative body of the city. A council exercises authority as a body in enacting legislation, not as individuals. Councilmember Sawant has no role in implementing City policies.

The City Charter provisions cited above prohibit a council and councilmembers from implementing policy. Also, state statute and city ordinance prohibit a city official from using their office and city resources to benefit themselves or others rather than for a city purpose. Councilmember Sawant's use of her office and resources to advance the

Protest of the Trump inauguration by herself and the Socialist Alternative as part of a coalition to resist Trump did not carry out any declared City purpose, under any authority granted to her. Councilmember Sawant's actions aided and advanced her own personal and political agenda and that of her Socialist Alternative political organization. Her actions were not intended to craft legislative policy to be considered by the Seattle City Council. Her actions were intended to protest the inauguration of the new President, advance the political agenda of Socialist Alternative and to disrupt the normal course of business in the City. Her unauthorized actions resulted in the expenditure of additional City funds for a police presence during the protest activities.


RELIEF REQUESTED

- The Commission should review the Executive Director's decision;
- The Commission should reverse the decision;
- The Commission should schedule an enforcement hearing and consider the imposition of penalties including an appropriate fine and reimbursement by Kshama Sawant to the City of Seattle for the cost of the posters, staff salaries and other expenses, and the costs of Seattle Police Department presences at the marches and rallies; and
- The Commission should find that Councilmember Kshama Sawant has forfeited her office for violation of Chapter 42.23 RCW.

Sincerely yours,


Susan Rubstello

EXHIBIT 1

From: Barnett, Wayne Wayne.Barnett@seattle.gov 
Subject: Case No. 17-1-0115-1
Date: February 14, 2017 at 5:04 PM
To: [redacted]



Dear Ms. Rubstello,

Here is a letter regarding your complaint against CM Sawant that you sent to the Customer Service Bureau on January 15.

Best regards,

Wayne Barnett
Executive Director
Seattle Ethics and Election Commission
P.O. Box 94729
Seattle, WA 98124-4729
(206) 684-8577
www.seattle.gov/ethics



Case No.
17-1-0115-1.pdf



City of Seattle

Ethics and Elections Commission

February 14, 2017

BY E-MAIL

Ms. Susan Rubstello

Re: Case No. 17-1-0115-1

Dear Ms. Rubstello:

On January 18, 2017, the Customer Service Bureau forwarded us your complaint regarding a poster titled "Resist Trump: Mobilize for Mass Protests Jan 20 & 21." The poster advertised a Town Hall Action Meeting at City Hall on January 14. The bottom of the poster included contact information for Councilmember Kshama Sawant. I am dismissing your complaint for the reasons discussed below.

LAW AND PRIOR DECISIONS

I analyze your complaint under the Ethics Code and not the Elections Code, which at SMC 2.04.300 provides that "[n]o elected official nor any employee of his or her office...may use or authorize the use of any of the facilities of a public office or agency, directly or indirectly, for the purpose of assisting a campaign for election of any person to any office...."

I concur with the Federal Office of Special Counsel that "[b]ecause the 2020 election is still more than three years away, at this time not all expressions of support or opposition to President Trump constitute political activity... For example, the [federal law barring federal employees from engaging in political activity] does not prohibit federal employees, either on duty or off duty, from...expressing their approval or disapproval of President Trump or his Administration, policies, or actions." (Full text of February 7, 2017 letter available at <http://www.cnn.com/2017/02/09/politics/federal-employees-trump-hatch-act/>.) Absent a clear nexus between an action taken at City expense and the President's reelection effort, I do not find this poster to violate the bar on the use of public resources to assist a campaign for election.

Under SMC 4.16.070.B.2 of the Ethics Code, Councilmember Sawant may not "[u]se or attempt to use, or permit the use of any City funds, property, or personnel, for a purpose which is, or to a reasonable person would appear to be, for other than a City purpose."

Here is how Councilmember Sawant's staff articulated the City purpose served by the expenditure of City resources on the production of the poster and the use of City Hall for the organizing effort (the email is reproduced verbatim):

The City purpose for the poster and coalition to resist Trump is rooted in the widespread fear among huge numbers of our constituent that president elect Donald Trump will follow through on his threats to deport immigrants en mass, register all Muslims, roll back recent gains on LGBTQ rights basic rights for women, attack unions, and ignore the threat of climate change. His threats to withhold funding for sanctuary cities and recent cabinet choices have added greatly to this fear.

Trumps proposed policies, while made on a national scale, will have undeniable local consequences for our constituents. Recognizing this fact, the City Council recently adopted the following: "A RESOLUTION reaffirming Seattle's values of inclusion, respect, and justice, and the City's commitment toward actions to reinforce these values; and calling on President-elect Donald Trump to condemn recent attacks and hate speech that perpetuate religious persecution, racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, and xenophobia."

In addition to making this public statement, many of our constituents have called on us to help them organize and protest Trump's policies. The poster and the coalition to resist Trump is a direct response to that request, and a critical component of defending ourselves from the concrete threat that he poses to the communities in our district and Seattle as a whole.

The Councilmember's articulated City purpose is sufficient to pass muster under the deferential standard of review articulated a decade ago in a matter involving Councilmember Peter Steinbrueck, an architect who had used City funds to pay for his attendance at an American Institute of Architects (AIA) conference. In that case, I wrote:

Councilmember Steinbrueck was acting within the scope of his authority when he determined that his AIA-related expenses served a City purpose, and could be charged to the City. Elected officials have no supervisor beyond, of course, the citizens of Seattle. Unlike a department employee, there is no process for a Councilmember to submit a planned expense to a supervisor for review and approval. *The scope of a Councilmember's authority is broad*, limited only by the City Charter and City, State and Federal law, and there is no evidence that Councilmember Steinbrueck exceeded that authority. (Emphasis added.)

I also note that other elected officials have used public resources to oppose the new President's policies on the Dakota Access Pipeline, his executive orders, and his threat to take federal funding away from sanctuary cities. While other elected officials have taken more orthodox approaches to opposing the President – holding press conferences, issuing statements, crafting resolutions for adoption by the City Council – the fact that Councilmember Sawant's methods may strike some as unconventional does not mean they are illegal.

CONCLUSION

I am dismissing your complaint. If you would like to appeal this dismissal, you may do so under the Ethics and Elections Commission's Administrative Rule 4.¹

Very truly yours,



Wayne Barnett
Executive Director

cc: Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission

¹ Rule 4 APPEALS

- A. Upon the written request of a party aggrieved by the Executive Director's decision to dismiss a complaint, or to impose late-filing penalties under SMC 2.04.330, the action may be reviewed by the Commission.
- B. An appeal of a dismissal shall be served at the Commission's office no later than 21 days after the date of mailing the decision of which review is sought.
- C. An appeal of late-filing penalties shall be served at the Commission's office no later than 14 days after the date of mailing the decision of which review is sought.
- D. A request for review shall state the grounds therefor, and shall be no longer than twelve 8-1/2" x 11" double-spaced pages in length with margins of at least 1" on every side, and no more than 12 characters per inch.
- E. When an appeal is filed, the Executive Director's decision shall not be final until the Commission has acted on the appeal.
- F. The Commission shall act on the request at the next meeting at which it may be practicable by:
 - 1. deciding whether to review the Executive Director's decision; and
 - 2. if it decides to do so, either affirming, reversing, or amending the decision.
- G. In reviewing the Executive Director's decision, the Commission shall base its review on whether the Executive Director had a rational basis for the decision, and shall only reverse or amend a decision to the extent that a rational basis is lacking.

From: InquiryNotification-DoNotReply@seattle.gov
Subject: Reply to your inquiry to Customer Service Bureau - 17-00006404
Date: January 18, 2017 at 5:04 PM
To: {



Dear Susan Rubstello,

I forwarded your concern to the following City office:

Subject: EEC - Investigate ethics violation

Department: Ethics & Elections

Other departments notified: Seattle Police Department (SPD) and Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT)

SPD and SDOT declined to investigate (no crime) or fine (posters are allowed -

http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/docs/sdot_dirrule_0202B.pdf.)

Please allow ten business days for a response. If you should need further assistance or for any reason you are not satisfied with the response from the department, please click [here](#) to reply.

You can also call the number listed below and a Complaint Investigator will be assigned to make sure the matter is properly resolved.

Please do not change the subject line when responding to this email.

Thank you for contacting the Customer Service Bureau (CSB).

Sincerely,

Cheryl Brush

City of Seattle

Customer Service Bureau (206) 684-CITY(2489)

P.S. We want to know how we are doing. Please take a moment to fill out this online survey by clicking [here](#).

If you have a new request or concern, please click [here](#) to submit a request.

From: InquiryNotification-DoNotReply@seattle.gov
Subject: Reply to your inquiry to CSB - 17-00006404
Date: January 18, 2017 at 5:15 PM
To:



Dear Susan Rubstello,

The previous email advising your ethics concern was sent to the Ethics and Elections Commission covers all of the service requests you submitted regarding posters distributed on Capital Hill. Those requests include the following: 17-00006401 17-00006406 17-00006407 17-00006408 17-00006409 17-00006410 17-00006411 17-00006412 17-00006413 17-00006414 17-00006415 17-00006416 17-00006385 Thank you for contacting the Customer Service Bureau.

If we can be of further assistance in this matter, please click [here](#) and send us a message. Please do not change the subject line.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Brush

City of Seattle
Customer Service Bureau
(206) 684-CITY(2489)

P.S. We want to know how we are doing. Please take a moment to fill out this online survey by clicking [here](#).

If you have a new request or concern, please click [here](#) to submit a request.

Dear City of Seattle,

Please see the following Washington State Supreme Court decision in *City of Seattle vs. Mighty Movers, Inc.*, 152 Wn.2d 343, Sept. 9, 2004:

<http://courts.mrsc.org/supreme/152wn2d/152wn2d0343.htm>

Please clarify:

1. The SMC was changed to allow posters to be affixed to utility poles under 15.48.105 in 2002?
2. The City expended resources to uphold its position of no signs on utility poles for safety reasons, won its court case against Mighty Movers in 2004 and then *did not* subsequently change back the SMC accordingly;
3. Councilmember Kshama Sawant is authorized to use City hall and other City of Seattle resources to advance her own political agenda unrelated to the business of the City? and
4. Where is the line between City of Seattle business and Councilmember Kshama Sawant's personal political agenda?

Thank you in advance for your clarification.

Sincerely,
Susan Rubstello

EXHIBIT 2



Kshama Iyengar Sawant

DISTRICT 3 CENTRAL SEATTLE



- [Home](#)
- [Kshama's Council Home Page](#)
- [Email Me](#)

My Socialist Response to Donald Trump's Inaugural Speech

Sisters and brothers,

Donald Trump is now Predator in Chief, and head of one of the most dangerous and right wing administrations in US history.

In his inauguration speech, a few minutes ago, Trump said that his government will follow the righteous path, that it will be a government for the people. That the forgotten men and women will be forgotten no more. That he will create schools and good jobs for all, and bring back the wealth to the working people of America.

But, sisters and brothers, Trump is a liar and a con-man. He has built his administration on the worst muck of the billionaire class, right wing bigotry, and the corporate elite.

There is absolutely no mandate for Trump's hateful, anti-worker, misogynist agenda. Trump will arrive at the White House with the lowest approval ratings of any incoming American president, hovering around 40%.

But opinion polls will not be sufficient to stop him.

Trump and the billionaire class only understand one thing: power.

Our over-riding task is to build the power of the 99% – working people and all those marginalized by the capitalist elite.

As a socialist, I completely reject the compromising of elite liberalism, which Hillary Clinton perfectly expressed when she said after the election that "Trump deserves our support" and that we should "give him a chance." Nor can we afford to wait until the 2018 and 2020 elections to vote the Republicans out.

Trump can be defeated if we build massive resistance now. History is full of examples of right wing governments forced to partially or completely retreat in the face of mass movements.

Today and this weekend, protests, mass marches, and student walkouts are taking place all across the country and

around the world. Hundreds of thousands of people, perhaps millions, are protesting to send a powerful message that we are ready to fight against Trump and the billionaire class.

My organization, Socialist Alternative, has been at the forefront of protests against Trump since the beginning. We called for protests in major cities around the country the day after elections, and mobilized over 50,000 people on the streets.

For this inauguration weekend, Socialist Alternative is helping to organize student walkouts and protests in dozens of cities as a launchpad for our resistance.

To defeat Trump will require a massive and ongoing movement that bases itself on maximum unity in action and the social power of the working class.

But what does this mean?

To answer Trump's vicious attacks will require building up a determined, fighting movement. One that seeks to mobilize millions from below into collective struggle, building grassroots democratic structures, our own independent organizations.

Timid, symbolic protest will not be enough. We will need to organize mass non-violent civil disobedience. Marches of tens of thousands of people can shut down highways and find other ways to shut down "business as usual". We need mass, peaceful, direct actions to block efforts to deport our immigrant brothers and sisters.

To inspire huge numbers to take action, we need fighting demands that point to an alternative vision of society that puts people and the environment above the profit-driven agenda of big business.

Of course we need to mobilize around defeating the litany of attacks from Trump and the Republicans, from defending the gains that were won by the Affordable Care Act, to defending public schools.

But this needs to be linked to putting forward audacious demands that can inspire with the promise of a dramatic improvement in people's lives, like those popularized by Bernie Sanders:

- Medicare for all;
- \$15 per hour minimum wage for all workers;
- Free higher education;
- Tax the rich to fund a massive public works program to create jobs and rebuild our infrastructure, develop green energy, and mass transit; and
- Black Lives Matter! End police brutality and the racist mass incarceration state.

Bernie's bold program inspired enthusiasm from millions, especially young people, while Hillary's timid, corporate-friendly proposals of tinkering around the edges failed to mobilize them.

This weekend needs to be our starting point. As an immediate next step, let's make March 8, International Women's Day, a day of defiance against Trump and the disgusting misogyny and sexism he represents. A day of mass action, protests to defend Planned Parenthood, and against all forms of sexual violence.

May 1 is International Workers Day and a day of immigrant protests. Our target should be to bring millions into the streets in a truly massive wave of demonstrations for immigrant rights and against racism.

We can look to 2006 as our example when a huge immigrant workers strike stopped an anti-immigrant bill in its tracks.

In these struggles, we will need the broadest unity in action of all those forces prepared to seriously struggle against Trump and the billionaire class.

Unions, immigrant rights, women's, civil rights, LGBTQ, and environmental organizations and activists, Sanders supporters, progressive Democrats, Greens and socialists must all come together.

But there is no avoiding that there are major political differences of strategy and social interests in this movement.

Our movement needs to base itself on the needs of the struggle against Trump and the billionaire class. We cannot let it be subordinated or restricted to the limits of what the corporate leadership of the Democratic Party will allow.

Democrats in Congress will be put to the test in terms of their willingness to stand firm against Trump.

Let's remember, when Obama first took office in 2009, he had massive popular support, the Democrats had 60 seats in the Senate and a large majority in the House. Yet the Republicans succeeded in relentlessly fighting Obama, blocking much of his agenda.

There is no reason the Democrats in Congress could not seriously obstruct much of Trump's agenda, with the Republicans only having a razor slim majority of 52 seats in the Senate. Trump will not be able to appoint a right-wing zealot to the Supreme Court if the Democrats stand firm and filibuster him.

Will they?

Unfortunately, recent experience does not inspire confidence in the Democratic Party, especially the pro-capitalist politicians who dominate the Party.

We saw this in the cowardly refusal of the vast majority of Congressional Democrats to challenge the results of this election, which was based on voter suppression.

I commend the stand of those Congressional Democrats who refused to attend Trump's swearing in today, but we need to recognize that the majority of their colleagues refused to do so, instead shamefully attending.

But most outrageous was the recent decision by 13 Democrats to join Republicans in siding with Big Pharma against ordinary working people.

As a socialist, I do not think the Democratic Party is offering the kind of combative, working class, or movement-based leadership that will be needed to confront a ruthless foe like Trump.

Working people and the 99% need to build an alternative to the right-wing Republicans and Wall Street Democrats — our own political voice.

A new political party that rejects all corporate donations and instead bases itself on the funding and active support of working people and progressive organizations.

A grassroots, democratically run party that fights unreservedly for the interests of the 99% and against big business. That runs anti-corporate candidates all over the US.

I recognize that many honest activists are trying to "take back" the Democratic Party, following the lead of Bernie Sanders.

Our differences should not stop us from working together to build the largest struggle in the streets against Trump and the billionaire class, while continuing to have a honest debate about strategy as we work together within our movement.

In these trying times, I am given great hope by the newfound spirit of rebellion amongst young people. Most important is the growing support for socialism, with thousands joining socialist organizations across the country.

The reason why is no mystery: capitalism is a failing system.

Donald Trump is a particularly repulsive expression of the predatory nature of the capitalist system itself.

We found out this week that 8 people—just 8 people—now own more wealth than half the world's population. We also found out that global temperatures, for the third year in a row, have broken all previous records — that climate disaster continues to rapidly advance.

We need a radically different society. We need socialism.

Socialism means a society run by and for working people, rather than the billionaire class.

A society where the major corporations are taken into public ownership so we can democratically plan how to use society's resources to meet human need, rather than private profit.

An egalitarian society, rather than the dog-eat-dog, bloody competition of capitalism.

A society based on international cooperation rather than the vile nationalism that Trump is promoting.


A few days ago we celebrated Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Dr. King, in his final years, was becoming a socialist. In 1966 he said: "You can't talk about solving the economic problem of the Negro without talking about billions of dollars. You can't talk about ending the slums without first saying profit must be taken out of slums ... There must be a better distribution of wealth, and maybe America must move toward a democratic socialism."

Sisters and brothers, another world is possible. I hope you will join us in the fight for a socialist future. There is no time to lose. Get organized!

Share          


Posted: January 20th, 2017 under [Anti-Racism](#), [Immigrant Rights](#), [Resist Trump Coalition](#), [Workers Solidarity](#)
Tags: [Resist Trump Coalition](#), [Trump](#)

Tweets by @cmkshama

 Kshama Sawant
Retweeted

 Gina Owens
@Gina003

Daniel's family NEEDS him home
!! Let's get him there !!
#FreeDaniel #HereToStay.

 Kshama Sawant
Retweeted

 Zak Jamieson
@ZEEKUSA

.@toddeherman I found the

Embed

View on Twitter

• Categories




-  [#BlackLivesMatter](#)
-  [Anti-Racism](#)
-  [Banks](#)

EXHIBIT 3

COMMUNITY. CULTURE. CANNABIS.

Home / Event Calendar / Resistance & Solidarity / Resist Trump Coalition Town Hall

This event is in the past.

Resist Trump Coalition Town Hall

RESISTANCE & SOLIDARITY

City Hall (map) Downtown
Sat., Jan. 14, 12-2 p.m. 2017



FREE

Prepare for Trump's inauguration day (and the protests that will accompany it) at this planning-oriented meeting hosted by Seattle City Councilmember Kshama Sawant. Sawant writes: "We don't have a moment to waste in getting organized against Trump's racist, misogynistic, anti-immigrant, anti-muslim, anti-lgbtq rhetoric, proposals, and cabinet members. Join the Resist Trump Coalition and my office at City Hall to help build the biggest possible protests against Trump on January 20th and 21st."



Don't miss all the best things happening in Seattle. Get the free Stranger Things To Do app now from the App Store or Google Play.

Event Website

City Hall

600 Fourth Ave, Seattle, WA
206-684-7171
Hours: Mon-Fri
http://seattle.gov/arts/publicart/city_hall.asp



EVENT TIMES

This event is in the past.

Sat., Jan. 14, 12-2 p.m. 2017

Like 7 Share Tweet

FOOD NEARBY

Einstein Bros Bagels
600 4th Ave, Seattle, WA 98104
206-246-4817

Frontier Cafe
621 Third Ave, Seattle, WA 98104
206-340-4401

The Rainier Club
820 Fourth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104
206-296-6848

Piroshki on Third
710 Third Ave, Seattle, WA 98104
206-322-2820

COCKTAILS NEARBY

The Tin Table
915 E Pine St, Second Floor, Seattle, WA 98122
(206) 320-8458

The London Plane
300 Occidental Ave S, Seattle, WA 98104
206-624-1374

Maneki Restaurant
304 Sixth Ave S, Seattle, WA 98104
206-622-2631

Sake Nomi
76 S Washington St, Seattle, WA 98104
206-467-SAKE

EVENTS WE SUGGEST TODAY



Terratopia: The Chinese Landscape in Painting and Film



Jim Woodring: The Pig Went Down to the Harbor at Sunrise and

Asian Art Museum Capitol Hill
Starts July 2, Wed-Sun. Through Feb 26

Wept
Frye Art Museum First Hill
Starts Jan. 21, Tues-Sun. Through April 16

Everything has been material for scissors to shape
Wing Luke Museum Chinatown-International District
Starts May 14, Tues-Sun. Through April 16

 **The Pajama Game**
The 5th Avenue Theatre Downtown
Starts Feb. 10, Tues-Sun. Through March 5

 **Thundercat with Guests**
Barboza Capitol Hill
Sun Feb 19 at 8 pm

Implied Fictions
Pivot Art + Culture South Lake Union
Starts Dec. 2, Tues-Sun. Through Feb 26



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EXHIBIT 4



Seattle.gov

Kshama Iyengar Sawant

DISTRICT 3 CENTRAL SEATTLE



- [Home](#)
- [Kshama's Council Home Page](#)
- [Email Me](#)

Posts for 'Resist Trump Coalition'

[TONIGHT! Emergency Mass Rally to Defend Immigrants \(5PM, Westlake\)](#)

January 29th, 2017

Emergency Mass Rally Against Trump's Muslim & Immigrant Ban! TONIGHT! 5:00 PM at Westlake Plaza (400 Pine St) Release All Immigrant Detainees! No Ban! No Wall! No Deportations! Sisters and Brothers, Yesterday was an historic day of national resistance to Trump's hateful attacks on immigrants, Muslims, communities of color, the environment, and ordinary working [...]

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Posted: January 29th, 2017 under [Anti-Racism](#), [Immigrant Rights](#), [Resist Trump Coalition](#).

Tags: [Immigrant Rights](#), [Resist Trump Coalition](#), [Trump](#)

[My Socialist Response to Donald Trump's Inaugural Speech](#)

January 20th, 2017

Sisters and brothers, Donald Trump is now Predator in Chief, and head of one of the most dangerous and right wing administrations in US history. In his inauguration speech, a few minutes ago, Trump said that his government will

follow the righteous path, that it will be a government for the people. That the forgotten [...]



[More]

Posted: January 20th, 2017 under [Anti-Racism](#), [Immigrant Rights](#), [Resist Trump Coalition](#), [Workers Solidarity](#).
Tags: [Resist Trump Coalition](#), [Trump](#)

National Lawyers Guild Regional VP to Seattle Public Schools: Support Students' Right to Protest

January 14th, 2017

On Friday, January 13, Seattle Public Schools (SPS) sent out an email in which they threatened disciplinary action in the form of unexcused absences against students who plan to participate in Inauguration Day walkouts. As I noted yesterday, the letter's implication that SPS will coordinate with the Seattle Police is highly troubling. I want to thank Neil Fox, parent of [...]



[More]

Posted: January 14th, 2017 under [Anti-Racism](#), [Education](#), [Resist Trump Coalition](#).
Tags: [Resist Trump Coalition](#), [Student Walkout](#), [Trump](#)

Seattle Public Schools Threatens Student Walkout — Stand With Students Against Trump!

January 13th, 2017

Earlier today, Seattle Public Schools' Office of Public Affairs sent out the following email, in which they threaten disciplinary action in the form of unexcused absences against students who plan to participate in Inauguration Day walkouts. The letter's implication that Seattle Public Schools will coordinate with the Seattle Police is highly troubling. I stand with the [...]



[More]

Posted: January 13th, 2017 under [Anti-Racism](#), [Education](#), [Resist Trump Coalition](#).
Tags: [Resist Trump Coalition](#), [Student Walkout](#), [Trump](#)

Resist Trump! Inauguration Week Actions

January 9th, 2017

Mass protests during inauguration week are extremely important. We need to send a clear message to Trump that he has no mandate for his bigoted and anti-worker agenda. Join Seattle's Anti-Trump Resistance! Look below for details on local actions, and check back for updates (as details are subject to change). For an expanded listing of events throughout Washington [...]

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Posted: January 9th, 2017 under [Anti-Racism](#), [Immigrant Rights](#), [LGBTQ Rights](#), [Resist Trump Coalition](#), [Women's Rights](#), [Workers Solidarity](#).

Tags: [Donald Trump](#), [Immigrant Rights](#), [LGBTQ Rights](#), [Resist Trump Coalition](#), [Trump](#), [Women's Rights](#)

Tweets by @cmkshama

Kshama Sawant
Retweeted

 **Gina Owens**
@GinaO03

Daniel's family NEEDS him home
!! Let's get him there !!
#FreeDaniel #HereToStay.

18 Feb

Kshama Sawant
Retweeted

 **Zak Jamieson**
@ZEEKUSA

.@toddeherman I found the

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EXHIBIT 5



RESIST TRUMP

MOBILIZE FOR MASS PROTESTS JAN 20 & 21

TOWN HALL ACTION MEETING

SATURDAY, JAN 14 @ 12PM // SEATTLE CITY HALL

Join Seattle's RESIST TRUMP COALITION to help mobilize for mass peaceful protests and walkouts for Trump's Inauguration, Jan 20-21.

Resist
Deportation of
Immigrants!

Fight
Racism &
Islamophobia!

Stop Trump's
Sexist
Agenda!

Defend
Workers'
Rights!



COUNCILMEMBER KSHAMA SAWANT

Contact us for questions or reasonable accommodation requests
206.684.8016 // Kshama.Sawant@seattle.gov
This event is wheelchair accessible

UNITE AGAINST TRUMP

JOIN THE RESISTANCE

JAN 20 @ 5PM

RALLY AT WESTLAKE PLAZA

We can defeat the right wing by unifying the 99% for the rights of workers, labor unions, women, people of color, immigrants and Muslims.

JAN 20
INAUGURATION
DAY

12PM
Student
Walkouts

1PM
El Comité "All
United None
Divided" Rally
@ Judkins Park

3PM
March to
Westlake
Plaza

5PM
Rally @
Westlake
Plaza

JAN 16 11AM
MLK DAY Rally & March @ Garfield High School

JAN 21 10AM - 4PM
SEATTLE WOMEN'S MARCH Rally & March @ Judkins Parks



COUNCILMEMBER KSHAMA SAWANT



COALITION TO RESIST TRUMP

Contact us for questions or reasonable accommodation requests: 206.964.8016 / Kshama.Sawant@seattle.gov. All events wheelchair accessible.

EXHIBIT 6



U.S. OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL
1730 M Street, N.W., Suite 218
Washington, D.C. 20036-4505
202-254-3600

February 7, 2017

Guidance on President Trump's Status as a Candidate
and Its Effect on Activity in the Federal Workplace

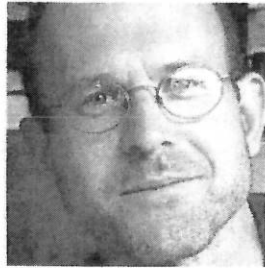
The U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC) has received numerous questions from federal employees regarding President Donald Trump's status as a candidate in the 2020 Presidential election and, in particular, its impact on the Hatch Act's prohibition against engaging in political activity while on duty or in the workplace. For purposes of the Hatch Act, political activity is defined as activity directed at the success or failure of a political party, partisan political group, or candidate for partisan political office. In the past, OSC has advised that an incumbent President is considered a "candidate" for purposes of this prohibition when he officially announces his candidacy for reelection.

OSC understands that, while not an official declaration of candidacy, President Trump has filed paperwork with the Federal Election Commission establishing that he is a candidate in the 2020 Presidential election. Because the 2020 election is still more than three years away, at this time not all expressions of support or opposition to President Trump constitute political activity for purposes of the Hatch Act. For example, the Hatch Act does not prohibit federal employees, either on duty or off duty, from wearing or displaying pictures of President Trump or items from his 2016 campaign, or expressing their approval or disapproval of President Trump or his Administration, policies, or actions. However, the Hatch Act does prohibit federal employees, while on duty or in the workplace, from expressly advocating for or against his reelection in 2020. For example, federal employees may not display signs in their office that read "Reelect Trump in 2020" or express on social media or via email, "Defeat Trump in 2020," while on duty or in the workplace.

As with past Presidents running for reelection, once President Trump officially announces that he is a candidate in the 2020 election, the Hatch Act will prohibit federal employees while on duty or in the workplace from, for example, wearing or displaying pictures¹ or other items, or engaging in communications, that are directed at the success or failure of his candidacy. This prohibition is broad and encompasses more than displays or communications that expressly advocate for or against President Trump's reelection.

¹ See <https://osc.gov/Resources/2011-04-05%20FAQ%20Re%20Presidential%20photographs%20and%20candidacy%20for%20reelection.pdf>

EXHIBIT 7



Calvin Priest

Political Organizer at Socialist Alternative
Greater Seattle Area Political Organization

129 connections

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calvin priest
service technician at Nissan Motor Company
United States

Calvin Priest
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United States

Calvin Priest
United States

More professionals named Calvin Priest

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Experience


Political Organizer

Socialist Alternative
December 2013 – Present (3 years 3 months)

Database Manager

The Bush School 
April 2013 – December 2013 (9 months)

Software Development Engineer (Contract)

Lighthouse eDiscovery 
September 2012 – April 2013 (8 months)

Independent PHP/MySQL Consulting

Independent
July 2004 – September 2012 (8 years 3 months)

Software Specialist

The Bush School 
October 2007 – August 2012 (4 years 11 months)

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People Also Viewed

Connie Miller
IT Generalist

Andy Moxley
Regional Organizer at Socialist Alternative

Joseph O'Neill
Socialist Alternative-

Elaina Phillippe
Hosted Solutions Project Manager at Lighthouse eDiscovery

Kshama Sawant
Student at Goa University

Brett Keenan

Crystal Kilborn
Experienced eDiscovery Project Manager

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IT Applications Specialist 3

Western Washington University

August 2000 – July 2004 (4 years)



Computer Support Analyst 2

Western Washington University

December 1999 – August 2000 (9 months)



Systems Administrator

DiscoverMusic.com

November 1998 – November 1999 (1 year 1 month)

Computer Support Analyst

Boeing

June 1998 – November 1998 (6 months)



SAP R/3 Support Analyst (Contract)

Microsoft

March 1998 – May 1998 (3 months)



Computer Support Analyst

Boeing

January 1997 – March 1998 (1 year 3 months)



Computer Support Analyst

Microsoft

March 1996 – January 1997 (11 months)

Skills

Databases SQL MySQL Oracle SQL Microsoft SQL Server
Web Development HTML CSS PHP Linux Unix Windows
Programming Python Perl See 16+

Education

University of Washington

BS, Psychology

1995

View Calvin's full profile to...

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- Contact Calvin directly

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Where is Kshama? Getting married

Posted on Tuesday, August 16, 2016 - 10:40 am by jseattle



— (Image: CHS)

As hundreds of activists packed **City Hall** Monday to speak out against the plans for a new **North Precinct** headquarters, the most progressive voice on the **Seattle City Council** was notably absent — for a most excellent reason. She was getting married.

Where is Seattle Council member Kshama Sawant?, this TV news bit asks.

District 3 representative **Kshama Sawant** has, indeed, been absent for council briefings in recent weeks. “CM Sawant has been working continuously since January and has taken time off this month to be with family and attend to personal needs,” read the statement from Sawant’s office sent to CHS after we

asked about her schedule.

What the statement didn’t include is that the **Socialist Alternative** representative’s “personal needs” include an important bit of business. Sawant was out of the country for her marriage to Seattle Socialist Alternative organizer **Calvin Priest**. The couple purchased a home together in the Leschi neighborhood near MLK Jr. Way in 2014.

A new marriage won’t be the only change for the firebrand progressive. In July,

RELATIONSHIP







Calvin Priest

Married since August 10, 2016

she applied to change her name to **Kshama Ramanujam Iyengar** dropping the last name she took from her first marriage, according to court records. Her parents are **Vasundhara** and **H. T. Ramanujam**.

We will follow up with the Sawant office to find out if, indeed, it will still be the Sawant office when the councilor returns. In the meantime, Kshama still found time in the middle of her nuptial travels to post a rallying cry for the #blockthebunker cause. We're sure she'll be around this fall when the debate continues. **UPDATE:** We're told staff is "working with HR on the name change."

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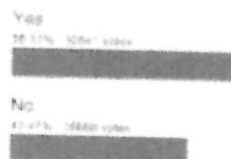


Seattle's new district-based City Council ready to be sworn in in "News, etc."



Kshama Sawant representing District 3 in effective 'alternative' style in "News, etc."

City Of Seattle Proposition No. 1



Election 2015 | District 3 Election Night Open Thread -- UPDATE: Sawant takes commanding lead in "News, etc."

This entry was posted in **News, etc.** and tagged **city hall** by **jseattle**. Bookmark the **permalink** [<http://www.capitolhillseattle.com/2016/08/where-is-kshama-getting-married/>].



About jseattle

Justin is publisher of CHS. You can reach him at chs@capitolhillseattle.com or call/txt (206) 399-5959. Follow **@jseattle** on Twitter or be **best pals** on Facebook. [View all posts by jseattle](#) →

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3 THOUGHTS ON "WHERE IS KSHAMA? GETTING MARRIED"



Timothy Killian

on **Tuesday, August 16, 2016 - 2:02 pm** said:

She was also at the Democratic National Convention, attacking the Democratic party and our nominee. This is troubling to those of us who are Democrats and thought we had built something of a mutual coalition with Ms. Sawant. Apparently, that coalition only goes so far as electing her. Perhaps it's time we examine our willingness to support her next election.

<http://moreperfect.org/site/?p=1770>

iluvcaphill

on **Tuesday, August 16, 2016 - 7:00 pm** said:

Since the first time I saw Ms. Sawant on Capitol Hill with an entourage of photographers (hired by her) I knew she was a fraud. That was before she was even elected the first time. She is nothing but a brand of self promotion. It's unfortunate the people of the 3rd district were duped by her and elected her to a second term.

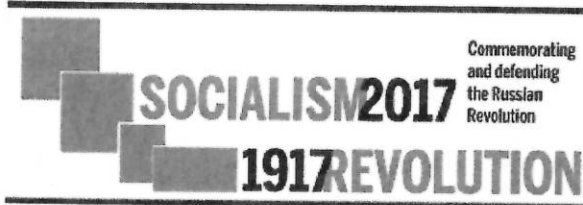


AbleDanger

on **Thursday, August 18, 2016 - 2:48 pm** said:

She's nothing but a self-serving bag of hot air.

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Link to this page: <http://www.socialistparty.org.uk/issue/926/23990>

From The Socialist newspaper, 23 November 2016

USA: mass protests break out to #ResistTrump



Seattle protest against Trump's victory called by Socialist Alternative, photo Socialist Alternative (Click to enlarge)

Calvin Priest and Kailyn Nicholson, Socialist Alternative (US co-thinkers of the Socialist Party)

Donald Trump's shocking victory was met with a mixture of anger, confusion, and very real fear among ordinary people in the US and around the world.

Millions asked, how could Trump win? And further, what will his presidency mean for immigrants, women, Muslims, and all others targeted by his viciously right-wing campaign?

But the election of one of the most right-wing presidents in US history was also met immediately by determined mass protests. Within hours of Trump's election, Socialist Alternative, Socialist Students, and Movement for the 99% organised protests in cities around the country.

Wall

The call was met by 5,000 people in Oakland, 6,000 in Boston, 3,000 in Philadelphia, 6,000 in Seattle, and nearly 10,000 in New York City.

At Seattle's Westlake Park, the rally was addressed by a range of speakers representing different groups including young Latino activist and member of Socialist Alternative, Manuel Carrillo.

Join us today!
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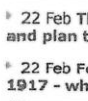
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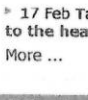
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▶ 17 Feb Tata pension deal: 'Gun to the head' offer accepted

What's On



▶ 26 Feb Wales Socialist Party conference



▶ 27 Feb Leeds Socialist Party: Building the Socialist Party in Leeds



▶ 27 Feb Nottingham Socialist Party: The inspirational life of Eleanor Marx



▶ 27 Feb Birmingham Central Socialist Party: NHS cuts - What do The Tories' STP plans involve?

More ...

He responded to Trump's infamous call for a wall along the Mexico border by saying the movement would build its own wall: "Ours will be a wall of resistance, built on solidarity, struggle, and a socialist alternative."

Protests have been marked by frustration and disillusionment in Hillary Clinton and the Democratic Party and their failure to defeat Trump.

Many recognised that the calculated undermining of Bernie Sanders' campaign by the Democratic Party establishment - despite polls showing Bernie matching up far better against Trump than Clinton - was a major factor in Trump's improbable victory.

Seattle City councillor and Socialist Alternative member Kshama Sawant addressed the crowd at Seattle's Westlake Park: "We cannot even trust the Wall Street-dominated Democratic Party to beat the most unpopular candidate the Republicans could ever find to run for president.

"Their politics prepared the ground. Look at Nafta and the TPP [job-losing free trade deals]. Look at cuts to social security and welfare..."

"To build the resistance against Trump, to stop the growth of his movement, we need to build our own movements, we need our own mobilisations. Working people and youth need an independent party of, for and by the 99%. Are you with me?" She was answered with a deafening cheer.

The question is whether we can turn the initial protests and solidarity into sustained and powerful movements. The burgeoning resistance has crystallised around another date of protest: Trump's inauguration on 20 January.

Already, in Boston, Socialist Alternative members held a public meeting to discuss the way forward for the movement that attracted over 400 people.

Attack

Building the kind of resistance necessary to block Trump's attacks will require rejecting the calls of Democratic Party leaders and others to silence our movement. After calling Trump "profoundly dangerous," Clinton is now telling her supporters: "We owe him an open mind and the chance to lead."

But we cannot wish Trump any "success" in his 'Contract with the American Voter' or the rest of his bigoted agenda. This would be a dangerous mistake.

Trump seeks to attack immigrant workers to divert anger from the failure of capitalism to provide decent jobs for millions of working class people.

We need unity of ordinary people to stand up against his call for mass deportations, registration of Muslims, and other vicious attacks on the working class and oppressed people.

- * A full version of the above article is available here
- * Kshama has been subjected to an orchestrated stream of abuse by the so-called 'alt-right' (the new far right) for her leading role in mobilising opposition to Trump

Why not [click here to join the Socialist Party](#), or [click](#)

Workers' International and Izquierda Revolucionaria - towards unification

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- Tories plan pain with Brexit Autumn Statement
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- 'Just about managing': £2,500 worse off by 2020
- Job figures mask casualisation
- What We Saw

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- Fight back to save education!
- Campaigning Socialist Students groups needed to hold student unions to account

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- Lessons of the 'N30' 2011 pension strike: when workers showed their power

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- Spain: Students' Union surges forward in historic congress
- Hundreds rally to celebrate anniversary of Students' Union and Izquierda Revolucionaria
- UN climate change summit: more hot air from Marrakech

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- Southern Rail Strike

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- School talk on the struggle for the vote and its importance today

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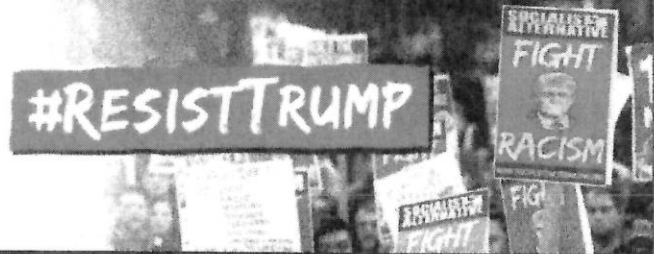
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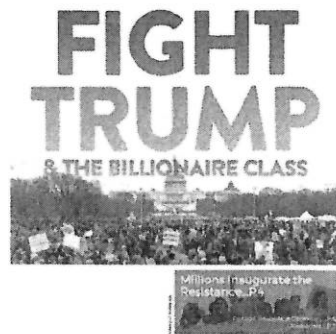
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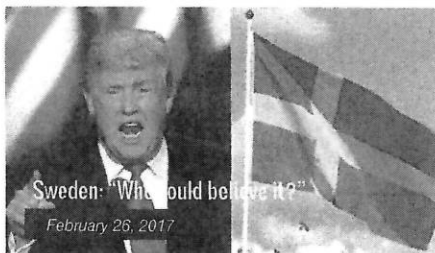
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What is behind Trump's attack? Per-Åke Westerlund, Rättvisepartiet Socialisterna (CWI Sweden) "You see

KSHAMA SAWANT'S RESPONSE TO TRUMP'S INAUGURAL SPEECH

Published On January 20, 2017 | By Joshua Koritz | [2016 Elections](#), [U.S. Politics](#), [Videos](#)

Watch the full video response here.

Sisters and brothers,

Donald Trump is now Predator in Chief, and head of one of the most dangerous and right wing administrations in U.S. history.

In his inauguration speech, a few minutes ago, Trump said that his government will follow the righteous path, that it will be a government for the people. That the forgotten men and women will be forgotten no more. That he will create schools and good jobs for all, and bring back the wealth to the working people of America.

But, sisters and brothers, Trump is a liar and a con-man. He has built his administration on the worst muck of the billionaire class, right wing bigotry, and the corporate elite.

There is absolutely no mandate for Trump's hateful, anti-worker, misogynist agenda. Trump will arrive at the White House with the lowest approval ratings of any incoming American president, hovering around 40%.

But opinion polls will not be sufficient to stop him.

Trump and the billionaire class only understand one thing: power.

Our over-riding task is to build the power of the 99% – working people and all those marginalized by the capitalist elite.

As a socialist, I completely reject the compromising of elite liberalism, which Hillary Clinton perfectly expressed when she said after the election that "Trump deserves our support" and that we should "give him a chance." Nor can we afford to wait until the 2018 and 2020 elections to vote the Republicans out.

Trump can be defeated if we build massive resistance now. History is full of examples of right wing

what happened last night in Sweden.? Sweden!...Who could believe it? Sweden." Those comments in typical Trump style, made in a speech in...

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governments forced to partially or completely retreat in the face of mass movements.

Today and this weekend, protests, mass marches, and student walkouts are taking place all across the country and around the world. Hundreds of thousands of people, perhaps millions, are protesting to send a powerful message that we are ready to fight against Trump and the billionaire class.

My organization, Socialist Alternative, has been at the forefront of protests against Trump since the beginning. We called for protests in major cities around the country the day after elections, and mobilized over 50,000 people on the streets.

For this inauguration weekend, Socialist Alternative is helping to organize students walkouts and protests in dozens of cities, as a launchpad for our resistance.

To defeat Trump will require a massive and ongoing movement, that bases itself on maximum unity in action and the social power of the working class.

But what does this mean?

To answer Trump's vicious attacks will require building up a determined, fighting movement. One that seeks to mobilize millions from below into collective struggle, building grassroots, democratic structures, our own independent organizations.

Timid, symbolic protest will not be enough. We will need to organize mass non-violent civil disobedience. Marches of tens of thousands of people can shut down highways and find other ways to shut down "business as usual". We need mass, peaceful, direct actions to block efforts to deport our immigrant brothers and sisters.

To inspire huge numbers to take action, we need fighting demands that point to an alternative vision of society that puts people and the environment above the profit-driven agenda of big business.

Of course we need to mobilize around defeating the litany of attacks from Trump and the Republicans, from defending the gains that were won by the Affordable Care Act, to defending public schools.

But this needs to be linked to putting forward audacious demands that can inspire with the promise of a dramatic improvement in people's lives, like those popularized by Bernie Sanders:

- Medicare for all;
- \$15 per hour minimum wage for all workers;
- Free higher education;
- Tax the rich to fund massive public works program to create jobs and rebuild our infrastructure, develop green energy, and mass transit; and
- Black Lives Matter! End police brutality and the racist mass incarceration state.

Bernie's bold program inspired enthusiasm from millions, especially young people, while Hillary's timid, corporate friendly, proposals of tinkering around the edges failed to mobilize them.

This weekend needs to be our starting point. As an immediate next step, let's make March 8, International Women's Day, a day of defiance against Trump and the disgusting misogyny and sexism he represents. A day of mass action, protests to defend Planned Parenthood, and against all forms of sexual violence.

May 1 is International Workers Day and of immigrant protests. Our target should be to bring millions into the streets in a truly massive wave of demonstrations for immigrant rights and against racism.

We can look to 2006 as our example – when a huge immigrant workers strike stopped an anti-immigrant bill in its tracks.

In these struggles, we will need the broadest unity in action of all those forces prepared to seriously struggle against Trump and the Billionaire Class.

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4 hours ago

Unions, immigrant rights, women's, civil rights, LGBTQ, environmental organizations and activists, Sanders supporters, progressive Democrats, Greens and socialists.

But there is no avoiding that there are major political differences of strategy and social interests in this movement.

Our movement needs to base itself on the needs of the struggle against Trump and the Billionaire Class. We can not let it be subordinated or restricted to the limits of what the corporate leadership of the Democratic Party will allow.

Democrats in Congress will be put to the test in terms of their willingness to stand firm against Trump.

Let's remember, when Obama first took office in 2009, he had massive popular support, the Democrats had 60 seats in the Senate and a large majority in the House. Yet the Republicans succeeded in relentlessly fighting Obama, blocking much of his agenda.

There is no reason the Democrats in Congress could not seriously obstruct much of Trump's agenda, with the Republicans only having a razor slim majority of 52 seats in the Senate. Trump will not be able to appoint a right-wing zealot to the Supreme Court if the Democrats stand firm and filibuster him.

Will they?

Unfortunately, recent experience does not inspire confidence in the Democratic Party, especially the pro-capitalist politicians who dominate the Party.

We saw this in the cowardly refusal of the vast majority of Congressional Democrats to challenge the results of this election, based on voter suppression.

I commend the stand of those Congressional Democrats who refused to attend Trump's swearing in today, but we need to recognize that the majority of their colleagues refused to do so, instead shamefully attending.

But most outrageous was the recent decision by 13 Democrats to join Republicans in siding with Big Pharma against ordinary working people.

As a socialist, I do not think the Democratic Party is offering the kind of combative, working class, or movement-based leadership that will be needed to confront a ruthless foe like Trump.

Working people and the 99% need to build an alternative to the right-wing Republicans and Wall Street Democrats, our own political voice.

A new political party that rejects all corporate donations and instead bases itself on the funding and active support of working people and progressive organizations.

A grassroots, democratically run party that fights unreservedly for the interests of the 99% and against big business. That runs anti-corporate candidates all over the US.

I recognize that many honest activists are trying to "take back" the Democratic Party, following the lead of Bernie Sanders.

Our differences should not stop us from working together to build the largest struggle in the streets against Trump and the Billionaire Class, while continuing to have a honest debate about strategy as we work together within our movement.

In these trying times, I am given great hope by the new found spirit of rebellion amongst young people. Most important is the growing support for socialism, with thousands joining socialist organizations across the country.

The reason why is no mystery: capitalism is a failing system.

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Working people need a real alternative.

Socialist Alternative Seattle
Yesterday at 1:40pm

With Tom Perez picked over Keith Ellison, it's clearer than ever.

Come mid-terms, a real grassroots party with no corporate ties would be our most powerful tool to fight Trump.

Donald Trump is a particularly repulsive expression of the predatory nature of the capitalist system itself.

We found out this week than now 8 people, just 8 people, now own more wealth than half the world's population. We also found out that global temperatures, for the third year in a row, have broken all previous records – that climate disaster continues to rapidly advance.

We need a radically different society. We need socialism.

Socialism means a society run by and for working people, rather than the billionaire class.

A society where the major corporations are taken into public ownership so we can democratically plan how to use society's resources to meet human need, rather than private profit.

An egalitarian society, rather than the dog-eat-dog, bloody competition of capitalism.

A society based on international cooperation rather than the vile nationalism that Trump is promoting.

A few days ago we celebrated Martin Luther King Day. Dr. King, in his final years, was becoming a socialist. In 1966 he said: "You can't talk about solving the economic problem of the Negro without talking about billions of dollars. You can't talk about ending the slums without first saying profit must be taken out of slums ... There must be a better distribution of wealth, and maybe America must move toward a democratic socialism."

Sisters and brothers, another world is possible. I hope you will join us in the fight for a socialist future. There is no time to lose. Get organized!

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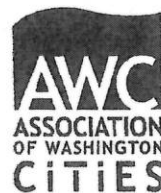
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Mayor & Councilmember



Mayor & Councilmember

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Update October 2015

Chapter 6

The job of a councilmember

The principal job of a city or town council is to make policy. A policy is a course of action for a community. Policy-making often takes the form of passing ordinances or resolutions. After policy decisions are made by the legislative body, others perform the administrative task of implementing the policies. The distinction between formulation and implementation may not always be clear, necessitating open communication between legislators and administrators.

Adopting policy

The council does not make policy in a vacuum. Councils rely on ideas from many sources, including the council staff, citizens' groups, advisory committees, chambers of commerce, and others. It is the council's responsibility to consider the merits of each idea and then approve, modify, or reject it. In doing so, councilmembers analyze community needs, program alternatives, and available resources. The decision often takes the form of an ordinance or resolution, although it may take the form of a rule, regulation, motion, or order. The budget and comprehensive plan are powerful policy tools that are adopted by ordinance.

So, who actually runs the city?

It is important to recognize that it is not the role of the councilmember to administer city affairs. The council sets policy, but it is either the mayor - in mayor-council cities, or the city manager - in council-manager cities, that actually sees that the policies are implemented. This means that it is not the role of the councilmember to supervise city employees on the job or become involved in the day-to-day administration of city affairs. This can be a source of conflict between the executive and legislative branches of city government.

Responding to citizen complaints

Residents often contact a councilmember when they have a problem, whether it involves a land use matter, a barking dog, or a pothole. Don't hesitate to send them to the appropriate city staff person for resolution of their problems, keeping in mind that you lack the authority to take action in administrative matters.

Relationship with the city attorney

In most cities the mayor appoints the city attorney, whether that position is full time or part time. In some cities the council takes an active role in arranging for the provision of legal services through a contractual arrangement. Regardless of how the position is established, remember that though the mayor or city manager typically has more contact with the city attorney than the councilmembers or city staff, the city attorney's job is to advise all of the city officials. Sometimes councilmembers feel that the city attorney is the mayor's or manager's attorney, particularly if the city attorney generally supports the mayor's or manager's position in situations where the answer is unclear.

Question & answers

Q. What is the role of the city council regarding employee discipline, and what input can the council have concerning performance appraisals of employees?

A. Though the council may be concerned about employee discipline and how certain employees are performing their duties, the council should not be involved in any individual situations. While the council can establish personnel policies and voice their concerns to the mayor, it is solely the mayor's job to discipline and supervise city employees, including conducting performance evaluations.

Q. Is the mayor or city manager required to inform council members prior to terminating or disciplining a city employee?

A. No. However, when a particular termination or discipline is likely to be controversial, the mayor may want to notify the council and explain the decision in an executive session. Disciplinary and termination decisions should be reviewed with the city attorney prior to action being taken. The mayor and councilmembers should be careful to not discuss specific cases outside of an executive session.

Neither the mayor nor the city manager can prohibit the council from having access to the city attorney for advice. For financial reasons, the mayor or manager may feel that questions to the city attorney should be channeled through the executive's office, to avoid possible duplication and to make sure that the questions are presented clearly. Ultimately, it is up to the council to establish procedures on how city attorney services are provided.

Some smaller cities try to minimize their fees for legal services by not having the city attorney regularly attend council meetings. That can be thrifty, but shortsighted, particularly when the council is dealing with controversial matters such as land development, or complex procedural issues such as LIDs.

Personnel management

The statutes generally give the mayor or city manager, as chief executive, the broad authority to hire and fire employees.

The city council, however, determines the number of employees that can be hired and those employees' duties. The council establishes salaries and other forms of compensation paid city workers. The council may also establish job qualifications.

One piece of advice is to have good, consistent personnel policies. Up-to-date, clearly written policies help avoid lawsuits, promote consistency, and contribute to employee morale.

Labor relations

Unions have a significant presence in Washington cities. Most city employees have the right to organize under state law and have joined state-wide unions or formed local associations. The city must negotiate labor contracts with these unions over wages, hours and working conditions.

In particular, most police and fire departments are unionized. Except for very small cities, police and fire unions have access to interest arbitration when an impasse in bargaining occurs. This can create a unique dynamic in police and fire negotiations, given the potential for an outside arbitrator to make decisions regarding wages, benefits and contract language.

Open government laws

Compliance with public disclosure and open meetings builds citizen trust. The Open Government Training Act requires elected officials to be trained on public disclosure, the Open Public Meetings Act, and records retention within 90 days of taking office and every four years thereafter.

