



## WORKS

What safety means in that that space is very different in that space than the rest of the city, for sure. I've had multiple like femme bodied people who have mentioned that for them it's harder to actually confront people who are being inappropriate or touching them in that space because they're surrounded by liberals, whereas if they were just on the street they could actually do something.

They would actually feel a little bit safer defending themselves, which is interesting. Not having police is a very big thing and I don't think a lot of people who go to that zone are ready to deal with that reality. And it became especially difficult during the weekends when it was such a tourist zone, you'd get a lot of well-off drunk people, or well-off liberals who are coming to see what it's about and don't understand a lot of the politics of the alt-right and the white supremacists factions. There's the video of the armed Black man with his crew running around on the night when we thought some Proud Boys were coming to town. They were kind of behaving like police, they never like physically kicked anyone out but you do have a machismo or a macho culture that's associated with that crew that's problematic. It's hard to describe.

**TFSR:** It seems like a conversation. I think the way that people keep themselves and their communities safe is imperfect and shifting, and like you said stuff on the ground is shifting. If you've got like a peace police instance, not saying the crew with guns are peace police, where people are experiencing getting inappropriately touched or getting attention they don't want or they can't just defend themselves and be like "Get out of my space, get out of my business, leave me alone," because you've got liberals who are like "Woah, woah, woah, peace peace!" That's weird.

**D:** Yeah, everything's strange. I wish there were more conversations about the difference between peace policing and self-defense, and more time and avenues to have those conversations with people. I think most of the people who were really invested in the space were having those conversations but I think the overall appeal as a tourist attraction made it hard to really figure out solutions to these problems.

**TFSR:** Yeah, it sounds kind of like some sort of Exarchia situation where they have to deal with a bunch of drunk western tourists wandering in and being like, "I hear this is a cop free zone."

**D:** Yeah, exactly.

**TFSR:** So at different point's there's been talk of there being demands from the commune or from the autonomous zone. Are you aware of any decision making

