



## WORKS

CHOP was an attempt to extend activism beyond protesting that fell apart due to its inability to move past protest culture and the inability to communicate and collaborate between the various existing movements in the CHOP. A lack of structure -- not due to lack of a centralized body but rather, again, due to a lack of communication. Local black communities were not reached out to, and neither were the people who lived there. This lack of basic sociability between people who are supposed to be “comrades” is again a lacking feature at the core of these events.

The goal of CHOP was, among many contradictory sentiments, to platform a message of anti police brutality and to keep out the police. Two Black people were killed by so-called security groups, and multiple people were shot and brutalized after it's fall. And for what exactly? Most voices that needed to be heard weren't and were instead replaced by appointed and elected officials. Cops still got in. While there were still nice individual speeches the community was not heard, and while they had a barricade it did not hold anything back. In a sense CHOP was the perfect test of protest culture in its inability to combat and deal with the current problems we face, and in the end, the CHOP failed, not because it didn't achieve a goal, but because it failed to be anything of substance.

### **The Dilemma of Non-Violence.**

You march non-violently, the police will declare your march is illegal, and if even one of you tries to put your hands up to defend yourselves, the Media will declare your march is a violent riot. You have a violent riot in response to the people in your community being systematically culled, the Media will declare your city as lawless and your movement as violent. No matter which way you go, if you fight for your own life against your own oppressive government, it's media will declare you violent and unruly.

So why is it that we see such a strong force within our own protesting body disavowing and cursing our furious siblings who have taken up both the picket sign and the molotov? Why is it that we see the most privileged of us belting out great speeches undermining the actions of those fighting for their lives on the frontlines simply because they destroy the property of our oppressors? Why is it that these bellyachers have such sway upon so many, when they themselves have not felt the pain of having their homes, their families, their children, their lives ripped away from them? And why do so many, though they are fewer in number than the majority that have felt this pain, agree with these pearl-clutchers?

Perhaps it is due to these pearl-clutchers having a vested interest in their own property, and understand that, in the recent past and present, their own businesses have undermined the integrity and lives of the many who march in our streets today.

