

EVENT PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cop City: The Wrong Response to Racist Police Violence
A virtual discussion about policing, racist police violence,
and the fight to prevent a Cop City in Atlanta, GA

This virtual town hall will take place on Monday, December 12, 2022 at 10am EST. Panelists will include Dr. Horace Campbell, Allisa Findley, Kamau Franklin, and Etan Thomas. Information on each panelist will be provided on the attached page. The panel discussion will be available via Zoom to a limited number of participants who register in advance, at no charge. It will also be live streamed via independent media at a time and date to be determined.

The City of Atlanta has leased 381-acres of Weelaunee Forest to the Atlanta Police Foundation in order to build a "police military facility". Weelaunee Forest covers 3,500 acres in south Atlanta and is also known as the South River Forest. The history of this forest land includes the removal of the Muscogee Creek people who were forced onto the Trail of Tears, a chattel slavery plantation, a prison farm and recently the distribution of 40 acres for a movie studio.

The plans for this Cop City includes multiple military-grade training facilities, a mock city to practice "urban warfare", dozens of shooting ranges and a Black Hawk helicopter landing pad. This \$90 million dollar project is being funded by corporations and in part by the taxes of the citizens of Atlanta despite the 70% who came forward in opposition. Spearheaded by a police foundation with no transparency, honesty or respect for neither the environment nor the people in the community.

A grassroots movement to prevent Cop City began upon the Atlanta City Council's vote last September. #StopCopCity was born from this effort and to date there has been limited national attention given to this effort. This panel discussion is an attempt to call additional national attention to this movement and the efforts to #StopCopCity.

All inquiries can be submitted to Renee Johnston at isyourlifebetter@gmail.com.

To register for the Zoom Town Hall, please register using this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUkcOCqj8oHdwL9FYMqGJhhfH42m5Gmxiw>

Additional panelist information:

Dr. Horace Campbell

Dr. Horace Campbell is the Chairperson of the [Global Pan African Movement of North America](#), and is a [Political Science Professor](#) at the Syracuse University Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. Dr. Campbell served as a special rapporteur on the March 2021 [International Commission of Inquiry on System Racist Police Violence against People of African Descent](#) in the United States. His contribution to the panel will include the international response to racist police violence within the United States.

Allisa Findley

Allisa Findley is the sister of Botham Jean who was killed on September 6, 2018 by a Dallas police officer who claimed to have mistakenly entered the wrong apartment. In response to the tragic murder of her brother, Ms. Findley founded the [Botham Jean Foundation](#), a community aid organization. Ms. Findley is also a co-founder of the [Sisters of the Movement](#) a non-profit organization founded by and for the surviving sisters of people who have been murdered by racist police violence. Her contribution to the panel will include the personal journey of families and communities affected by racist police violence.

Kamau Franklin

Kamau Franklin is the founder of [Community Movement Builders](#), a member-based collective of Black people working to create sustainable, self-determining communities organizing. Mr. Franklin was a former attorney in the state of New York and currently lives in Atlanta, GA where he has been organizing events in collaboration with the [#StopCopCity](#) movement. His contribution to the panel will include the legal issues surrounding policing, details regarding Cop City as well as the current movement to fight it.

Etan Thomas

[Etan Thomas](#) is a former NBA player, journalist, podcaster and author. Mr. Thomas has been an activist for social justice for decades, even before he became a professional athlete. His novel, [Police Brutality and White Supremacy: The Fight Against American Traditions](#) was released earlier this year and is a collection of interviews regarding police brutality. His contribution to the panel will include his experience as he seeks to elevate the voices of the surviving families as well as multiple others who seek to stop racist police violence.

Press Release Resources:

<https://theintercept.com/2022/08/18/atlanta-cop-city-forest-abolition-environmentalism/>

<https://streetsofatlanta.blog/2022/05/02/native-americans-share-concerns-over-fate-of-forest/>

<https://policefoundations.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Color-Of-Change-Report-Police-Foundations-A-Corporate-Sponsored-Threat-to-Democracy-Black-Lives.pdf>

<https://stopcop.city/>



#STOPCOPCITY

REGISTER HERE



Cop City: The Wrong Response to Racist Police Violence

A virtual discussion about policing, racist police violence and the fight to prevent a Cop City in Atlanta, GA.

Monday, December 12 at 10am EST

Panelists:

Dr. Horace Campbell



Dr. Campbell was a rapporteur on the March 2021 Commission of Inquiry on Systemic Racist Police Violence.

inquirycommission.org

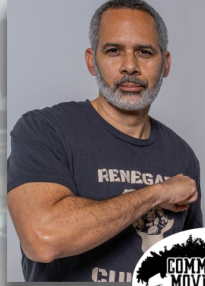
Allisa Findley



Allisa Findley is the President of the Botham Jean Foundation and Co-Founder of the Sisters of the Movement.

bothamjeanfoundation.org

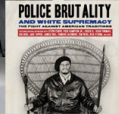
Kamau Franklin



Kamau Franklin is an organizer with the Community Movement Builders in Atlanta and former attorney.

communitymovementbuilders.org

Etan Thomas



Etan Thomas is a journalist, podcaster and author with a focus on social justice and athlete activism.

etanthomas.com/books