



The Activist Files Podcast Episode 21: Brooklyn to Buffalo - Resisting Discriminatory Policing in New York

Darius:

Welcome to The Activist Files. I am Darius Charney, a senior staff attorney here at the Center for Constitutional Rights where I work with my CCR colleagues and our mutual partners to fight against the criminalization of dissent, mass incarceration, discriminatory policing and racial injustice. Today I have the great pleasure to be speaking with two super dope activist-organizers from two of my favorite Black-led grassroots organizations who are doing racial justice work on opposite ends of New York State. First, from the borough of Brooklyn in New York City, we are joined today by Anthonine Pierre. Anthonine is a founding staff member and the current Deputy Director of the Brooklyn Movement Center, where she works to implement BMC's organizing strategy and its capacity to nurture social and political leadership in central Brooklyn. She directs the organization's efforts in base-building and leadership development and she also leads BMC's issue campaigns on police accountability and anti street harassment.

Darius:

I'm also joined today by from the Queen City as they like to call it, Buffalo New York by Marielle Smith. Marielle is a community organizer with Black Love Resists in the Rust where she does organizing, political education and leadership development, black and brown communities across Buffalo with the focus on ending oppression enforced by the state and significantly shifting the material conditions for Buffalo's residents. I also should note that Black Love is a client of mine in a current federal class action lawsuit against the Buffalo Police Department where

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we are challenging it's abusive and racially discriminatory vehicle checkpoint and traffic ticketing practices. So welcome to both of you.

Anthonine:

Thank you.

Darius:

I wanted to start the conversation today really focusing on issues of discriminatory policing and police accountability, or lack thereof. And specifically I wanted to let our listeners hear about and understand about how even though you guys are, you know, working on opposite ends of the state, the issues that you and your communities are facing around policing are very similar and that the work you're doing and the strategies you guys are using are very, very similar. So Anthonine, could you start us off maybe by telling us a little bit about what the most kind of pressing policing issues BMC is working on right now with its members?

Anthonine:

Yeah, absolutely. And thanks again just for having a show. So BMC is a member-led community organizing group in central Brooklyn and we defined central Brooklyn as Bed-Stuy and Crown Heights and if you're familiar with Bed-Stuy and Crown Heights, you know that it's a longtime black neighborhood that is under siege of gentrification. So we look at - we're saying it's hard to not think about gentrification and how that's actually created systems or I should say created more conditions of aggressive policing as white folks and specifically white folks who have a little bit more money than the people who sort of built up Bed-Stuy and Crown Heights start to move in. But the reason that we often see and that our members are often subject to is often really aggressive car stops very often. We will also often see really aggressive street policing.

Anthonine:

Particularly I think that NYPD has started to, I should say over the past five to ten years, it started to have [inaudible] towers that have, that shine these super bright lights into people's homes late at night. And we see that, we definitely see that happening here around and see it happening. We see the power placed more in areas where there's heavy application because I think the guy where I should say, because I think the NYPD thinks that putting bright and shining bright lights will make gentrifiers so really comfortable and really safe and we'll make longtime black residents, feel like they shouldn't commit crimes. And in reality we know that most of our folks are actually just minding their business, just trying to get a good night's

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sleep and they have these huge lights shine on them. So, and that's something, like I said, we deal with it year round, but particularly around the West Indian Day Parade in September. Labor Day weekend we get just, just, just wild levels - aggressive policing, people being harrassed people not being able to walk around their neighborhoods and the ways that they want to.

Anthonine:

So, so that's sort of what it looks like in a hyperlocal context. I think more broadly we'd see the things that people are generally used to around the city with policing, which is just high police presence built in the streets. And on the subways we'd see really just aggressive, an aggressive nature when people are being like, people are often wrongfully arrested. But also in the course of getting arrested, we will often get videos from our members of people being brutalized while being arrested. So there's specific local issues that we're trying to fight. And then there's also the broader context of policing. The police state just really being aggressive towards black and brown folks.

Darius:

Well, definitely, definitely. And you know, as somebody who has worked on these issues in New York City and in collaboration actually with Brooklyn Movement Center. I, you know, second everything you were just saying that this, this is a long and at times frustrating fight but you know, I think the work that you guys are doing has been very effective and it is very important. So keep doing what you're doing. Marielle, could you tell us a little bit about what's going on with the Buffalo Police Department? You know, Anthonine mentioned aggressive car stops and that kind of rang a bell for me but you want to tell us kind of what's going on with Buffalo police and some of the strategies Black Love has been using to push back against that stuff.

Marielle:

Sure. So also. A common practice that happens in Buffalo is that they have these roadblocks for checkpoints very similar to like what Anthonine was saying. So they just, well we have noticed like their pattern is that they set them up in our like East side of Buffalo, mostly everywhere east of like Main Street. And we're noticing that the way they started setting them up was in such a way that even if you did try to turn around, you would still get, have to be looped around back to the checkpoints. So people are getting caught in these checkpoints multiple times a day. Sometimes just trying to leave the house to go to the store,

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but there'll be like multiple checkpoints set up, so they couldn't get through even when you couldn't get through the neighborhood. So when that was happening, we also noticed that was also at the same time when the state had allowed the city to keep the revenue that was generated through tickets.

Marielle:

So then the police, with that in mind, started ticketing people more aggressively. So if someone had tinted windows, they're getting ticketed for every window and we're also seeing like people getting pulled out of their cars and searched illegally. There's police officers who are going into people's cars and confiscating things and then keep it in pocket. Pocketed like "how do you have this much money" and just taking it. There's a lot of illegal policing practices that started happening as well as there's like individual police officers who like to target certain people who kind of like get this relationship going with certain people in the city and have led to death. In fact, there's been five police-related deaths of our residents and two or three of those, the police had already had previous encounters with those men like of harassing them. So that's also a major concern of black and brown residents.

Marielle:

They have these relationships with police officers that have gotten very aggressive and violent in the past. And those same officers will come back and harass them. And the work that we are doing is that we are the org as far as like holding the checkpoints and these tickets and these illegal ticketing practices our common goal is that we have become organizational plaintiffs in the lawsuit against the city to put pressure on them to end these practices. And also admit that the wrongdoing that has happened in the name of generating more revenue through ticketing. And we've been doing that by talking to people at where they're paying their tickets, like literally gone down to City Hall and meeting with people and just having conversations with them and building relationships from there. A lot of people are very upset but also are apprehensive because they do know that we have officers in the city that like to target and put pressure on people for even speaking about like that these things are sharing their experiences. So there's like there's an element of fear with residents but also longing for change.

Darius:

Yeah. You guys both I think mentioned in your comments this issue of you know, police abusing citizens or residents and you know, violating their rights. And I guess that raised

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for me the question around accountability or maybe I should say lack of accountability for police officers, Anthonine, and is that something that BMC and you have had, you know, worked on or, or tried to address in some of the work you've been doing here in New York?

Anthonine:

Yeah, absolutely. I mean we fight on an ongoing basis against the general policy and abuse and discrimination of the NYPD. And then there's a track that we can't really plan for it. There's the rapid response work, which is, you know, I think it's the thing that people don't really think about when they see a video of someone getting killed, killed by police, which is the organizing work that immediately needs to happen to make sure that there is a community response that lets NYPD know that the people who are killed are loved and that they're valued parts of our community and that it's actually not okay for the NYPD be too aggressively gun them down or strangle them or punch them in the face.

Anthonine:

So in terms of accountability. I mean we've definitely worked on several cases. I've been in central Brooklyn, most notably worked on the case of Saheed Vassell who was killed by an NYPD officer on April 4th. Or, I should say four NYPD officers on April 4th 2018. They thought that he had a gun. He was unarmed. They left their car after 10 minutes - ten seconds after they exited their car. They actually shot ten bullets at him. So this is a case that we worked on in central Brooklyn, but we've also worked to get accountability for officers that have killed like for Graham and Eric Gardner, also in New York City. And you know, I think it's really awesome being on the podcast with Marielle because we've actually given some support to Black Love resistance. Partially because there's no playbook for how do you actually hold an officer accountable. Right. I think it's, it's different in every jurisdiction and when we talk about organizing, there's some basic organizing pieces that are going to be the same in every contracts and so much of this work is happened because we were able to work in concert, right? Like, I mean I'm, if I, if I was able to do any kind of work supporting the family of Saheed Vassell, it's because I was trained and supported by folks who've been doing this work for several decades. So it's great to see BLR doing this community work and be able to hold them down as well.

Darius:

Awesome. That's really great to hear. Marielle. I know, you know, picking up from what Anthonine just was talking about, I know that BLR has done some work in response to

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some of the police killings in Buffalo. I know most recently we had Rafael Rivera who was shot and killed by BPD I guess last year. And I know that Black Love was involved in the response, the community response to that. Could you talk a little bit about the work that you all have done in responding to some of these, you know, awful police killings?

Marielle:

Yeah. So actually we're, we're coming up on the anniversary, the one year anniversary of the last person that the police killed, which who is Marcus Neal. And a lot of what the work there was, I feel like there's a, there's layers to it because there's are just holding the space that a life has been, a life has been lost by the hands of the people who are supposed to, they're sworn to protect us, but in reality are just here to contain us. So there's like holding space for people to mourn the loss of those lives. And then there is like the gathering of tri- of us determining how, what does accountability look like for the officers and for the family in this case. And then that had been in the years that I've been with BLR, we've begun that by - in different ways.

Marielle:

Like sometimes it does look like us having actions where we are disturbing, disrupting, you know, having council meetings or any, any other, not kind of just council but like the mayor just holding like those elected officials and asking them like how are we going to - asking if they will like actually fire these officers or remove these officers from their positions. Because the other thing that we see and have had a problem with is that the officers may go on leave for a little bit and this is a thing that happens in other parts of the city, I mean the country, but the officers will go on leave and then they'll be put into schools as resource officers. So our main thing was for awhile, and still is, We've made a list of demands of what we would like of what accountability looks like for us as residents and directly impacted people and demanding as much as possible like that these will be met and we did get the win a year or two ago.

Marielle:

Yes, two years ago now. And it was getting the strike force disbanded where a lot of the officers who were causing harm were on that and we're just going around being an aggressive and terrorizing like black and brown neighborhood for the sake of that they have the power to do so and also it's like that. Got this. Although that's no the strike force no longer exists, the officers are still employed.

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A thing that we have been still in the practice of doing is holding that we demand that those officers be fired, that they'd be held accountable and just rallying around the families and making sure that we know that, that they know that we still support them and that we still are in this fight with them to get justice for their, their loved ones that have gone. And it also has been building relationships with those families.

Marielle:

Getting closer to them and just knowing that we are in this with them and just like on the street screaming and you know like going to different offices but we can also share in their joy. And that's been a great thing to be a part of too to be able to see families like experiencing moments of joy. Like over the summer we were able to go to - Yes you said his name, Rivera. He was his like his niece had a birthday and we were invited so we went to the birthday and supported that. So it's like we still have relationships with these families and we hire with those. Like we are bound up with them beyond that, just the trauma that they've experienced. But we can also experience the joy and that's an important thing to lift up as a part of this work is that there is like some healing, there is healing that comes into play that should be lifted up. And it's just as important as getting the strikeforce disbanded is that we are still able to experience joy and feel able to help them see these families heal beyond what has happened.

Darius:

Wow, that's, that's really amazing work that you guys are doing on that front. I think it's something that folks don't often think about and at least you know folks who listen to this podcast, think about like just the human element, you know, supporting the families of the folks that you work with. And actually on that point, Anthonine, and I know you and BMC continue to do a lot of work with Mr. Vassell's family and can you talk a little bit about that? And then also I think it's really great how some of the families of other victims of NYPD brutality, how they've kind of gotten to know and make connections with each other and how that has impacted the work that you do.

Anthonine:

Yeah, absolutely. And I really want to lift up what Marielle was saying about like needing to experience joy. I think that when, when a member of someone's family is killed by the NYPD or it's a tragedy because there's a death, right? Just just for the basic, that basic reason. But then to couple within that, the way that the NYPD actual treats people, the savagery of the murders and then also the aftermath.

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Right? So with Saheed's family. I remember his mom just being, one of the things she's most upset about was that after the NYPD killed her son, they started slandering him in the press and they started saying, you know, she came out, there was a rally the day after his death, she wasn't going to come out and she saw a news report that said that her son was homeless. And she's like, my son was not homeless and my son was with me.

Anthonine:

And even if he was homeless, how would that justify the NYPD killing him in the street like a dog? Right? So when, when we work in fight with families, we are fighting for our dignity. We're fighting for our joy. We're fighting for the love of our communities and really just the freedom to be able to walk around as peacefully as people with money and people who are white and people who live on the Upper West Side, right? Like, like people in Crown Heights and Bed-Stuy want to walk around their streets just as freely as someone can walk around the Upper West Side and, and not feel that they're going to get shot or strangled or what have you. And working, working with the Vassell family has been so incredibly powerful because this, I mean this is a family, right? I think in the most traditional sense where you've got these two like very traditional nuclear Jamaican immigrant family, where you've got this mom and this dad who are really strong and love their kids and really intentionally raised their 10 kids all together here.

Anthonine:

And these are people who really love each other and their, their love for each other really extends to wanting to get justice for and making sure that the officers that killed him get off the force. And, and they also, I think what's been beautiful about their work, have they been transformed is they said, you know, "we didn't know how many people in the community, how many people on our street actually new Saheed until after he died. And all these people started telling me, 'Oh, he used to walk' like there's a nurse on their blocks that he used to walk to the train station at four in the morning to make sure she didn't get there safely. And like there are people who he would help so many people who would help carry their bags or carry their laundry in the neighborhood and it's been really powerful to see them really become more connected to their community through this tragedy and wanting to do more work, more policing work in their actual neighborhoods, making sure that people know their rights as a part of that.

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Darius: Well that's amazing. So both of your y'all's organizations I know have also built relationships with, you know, movement for black lives and are familiar with, you know, a lot of their policy priorities. I mean, one of the things that you know, they talk a lot about is the whole invest divest issue around policing and police departments. And you know, I know Marielle BLR has done a lot of work on the city budget and advocating for things around that. Can you talk a little bit about just this whole notion, maybe explain to people what this invest divest is and how it relates to policing and some of the work that BLR has done on these issues?

Marielle: Our city budget is very interesting. Every year that - every year we see an increase in the police budget. But with the increase of the police budget, we don't see, like it doesn't reflect that the police are actually doing their job. We still have high homicide rates, we still have high crime quote-unquote rates that go unchecked, unsolved. So with that being said, we believe and have done work to get that money, that all that extra money that goes into the police budget, which is just going basically into funding, making sure that the Police Officers are getting pay raises instead of like increasing the pay of the police officers. We would like to see that that money go back into the communities in which need it. So having more money go into participatory budgeting, which would give people in the community the power to decide how the money is used.

Marielle: In the past we had amazing turnouts to the common council meeting to reinstate like participatory budgeting and then because black people in our community and in Buffalo in general would like to see that money coming back into the community. Giving residents the power to decide what it looks like to have safer and better communities. So the last time we did participatory budgeting, there was like a crew of residents who are able to get some garbage receptacles and recycling receptacles on the East side of Buffalo. And that was like a big thing. That was a big one because we had asked for - i forgot the dollar amount of money - but we're given like 1% which was still, it was stolen. I'm looking forward to going back this year and like us pushing again for participatory budgeting and having that be a thing and also like [inaudible]. We're also hoping to like the monies that have been used to revenue like do with traffic stops, those being funds that can get again pulled back into the city and put into funds like participatory budgeting.

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- Darius: Great. That sounds like really important but very difficult work and you know anything we can do here to support that just let us know. Anthonine, down here in New York City we are dealing with a billion dollar police department, the largest and I think in definitely in North America if not bigger.
- Anthonine: Larger than the military is of some small countries.
- Darius: Exactly, exactly. And seems to, I mean it seems to expand every day and they create these new units like you know, the one that comes to mind is the, the famous now infamous strategic response group that, you know, maybe you can tell us a little bit more about them, but is there work going on here in New York City around the police department's budget and, and how, you know, bloated it is and maybe ways that we need to actually decrease the size or the reach of the NYPD as opposed to increasing it?
- Anthonine: Yes. So we have actually very recently started doing some work around trying to get actually governor Cuomo to not invest in 500 new cops in the subway and instead to invest into subway improvements. So it's a little bit different. I think some of the work that's happening in Buffalo currently because we're not proactively addressing the city or state budget, but there really was just this particular directive from the governor that we think is in a word ridiculous, right? I think if you're in New York City, if you take the subway these days, no one is saying I want more police officers. What some people are saying is that the subways are overcrowded and they're saying that the you can't get anywhere on time and that the subways are always breaking down and this feels like a much more clear grassroots priority to us than putting more police officers in the subways.
- Anthonine: So that's one particular request that we're making a demand that we're making currently. Down the line. I mean I see, I definitely see a lot of work to come around the police and budget and you know, I think that there's been an acknowledgement for quite some time, but the police are definitely playing roles that are not appropriate for police. Right. Particularly at schools. See like a lot of disciplinary issues being dealt with more with school safety agents versus guidance counselors. And we've heard the NYPD say themselves that they're not guidance counselors where they're not social workers and yet they have a lot of

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money in their budget for things like social work. So I think we want to really be able to see that money go to organizations that have the experience, that has the depth, that have the people who know what they're doing and really can do real social work as opposed to criminalizing lots of different social ills. Whether that's an education in or in the subway or mental health.

Darius:

That's all of that is absolutely on point. And, and I would add as a New York City subway rider myself, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for doing that work on the the subway police cause it is absolutely ridiculous and a giant waste of money. What did, when they said it was going to be \$250 million or something to pay for these cops to I guess basically write tickets if people jump a turnstile. I thank you guys for doing that work. For sure. So I guess one of the last things I wanted to ask you both about is transparency or lack, I guess thereof when it comes to police. You, you both mentioned that you know when, when there's a police killing and, and there's a community response, one of the demands oftentimes will be, you know, to get rid of the officers or fire them, you know, immediately cause they have no business being police officers. But of course a challenge for that. There's many challenges. But one of the challenges actually first finding out who they are and Anthonine, and I know you guys encountered this with the work you were trying to do on behalf of the Vassell family. Can you talk a little bit about that and then this thing which we call 50A and why that's such a problem when it comes to transparency and accountability for police.

Anthonine:

Yeah, absolutely. So what's really, really interesting is that when, when Saheed was killed, it took 16 weeks for the names of the four officers who killed him to be publicly released. And when they were released, the de Blasio administration wouldn't release that information at the media, right? They didn't, they didn't publicly announce that these are the four and these are the names of the four officers and these are the disciplinary charges itself that he was killed over a year ago, over a year and a half ago. And we still have not seen any charges brought on any of these officers. So this, this is especially troubling because if we, if we want to hold officers accountable base level, we need to know their names, right? And this, the practice of the de Blasio administration to not immediately release the names of officers involved in civilian killing is actually incredibly regressive, particularly issues with cases of people who

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were killed by the NYPD under Mayors Bloomberg and Giuliani.

Anthoine:

Right. As a, as a whole, if I were to speak about, I should say I grew up in Philly, I'm in New York, I was very politicized by Giuliani, his really abusive and disrespectful policies of policing towards black and brown folks, particularly poor black and brown folks. And the Giuliani administration routinely released names of officers [inaudible]. So we're in the situation with [inaudible]. We have someone who's got a great progressive city, but at the end of the day is actually standing in the way of transparency and standing in the way of accountability for families who did nothing to be in the situation they are where they've lost a loved one and they want someone to be held accountable. So, and that's, that's part of where 50A comes in and you know, we're talking on this podcast about BMC and work and also BLRs work being across the state. And I think it's sometimes it's easy to forget that the state is its own governmental jurisdiction and that there are, there are penal code law, there are laws that happen at the state level that govern all of our work no matter how far we are apart.

Anthoine:

And one of those laws is 50A and the 50A Law is, they really call a police secrecy law. So it allows jurisdictions to not release disciplinary records of police officers. And we know that that is hugely harmful to the public, right? Like the in New York State you can see the disciplinary record of a massage therapist more easily that you can of a police officer, right. And police officers are the only employee the employees who basically have license to kill. Right. So and considering that the police most often abuse and discriminate against poor black and brown folks, there's a clear message that our state legislature is sending to black and brown folks whose lives are at stake about the value of their lives and being able to protect the public from people who would want to take away those highly valued lives. So BMC is fighting alongside folks like CCR and other members of groups united for police reform to make sure that our state legislature actually stands up for black people around the state and says, actually we made transparency on discipline. That's actually the first step to holding anyone accountable.

Darius:

Absolutely. And Marielle, could you tell us a little bit about the issues y'all are having in Buffalo with both transparency in terms of getting the names of the officers who who do

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kill and then also the process I guess. I guess in Buffalo it's internal affairs, the process or lack thereof when it comes to trying to hold these officers accountable for the crimes that they've committed.

Marielle:

We haven't had the issue of knowing the names. We've known the names pretty early on. The news has been actually great about that. Like covering getting a release, the names hasn't been an issue. Like what has been the issue is like the whole internal affairs debacle. In a lot of the earlier cases of when the police were involved, there were calling the police involved death of civilians was that it wasn't clear who all was at the scene. So when an AG investigated two of the deaths and found it inconclusive because the only eye witnesses were the police officers and they refuse to give their testimony. So outside of that the city is pretty like, as I say, we're not going to touch it. And investigating the death that they're like, if there's any investigator needed, any investigation needed, if they defer to the state and then the state has been off of them, like, well we can't do much if the city isn't willing to cooperate or the officers aren't willing to cooperate.

Marielle:

So, it's like just these two camps kind of like dialing themselves of to not work with each other. And also the like that blue, the blue color is silenced or whatever it's called. I forget what it's called. T.

Darius:

The Blue Wall

Marielle:

Yeah the blue wall. I knew something was blue. Which is very real. And even when we've had officers in the past like carry our horn, who has spoken out or tried to speak about the things that were happening and at the Buffalo Police Department, we see them, we see the officers getting arrested or we see them being also being harassed by, you know, like their former coworkers and by the city. So there's no incentive for any officers to actually speak about what's going on because they're going to be put pressure onto them to kind of fall in line with already illegally happening and what's already the brutality that's already happening.

Marielle:

So there's no transparency and there isn't really any from our like from the top down and like from the mayor to the city council and there's not really much that they want to like input that they are willing to apply. And again, they're

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like, this is things that outside investigation will have to take care of. So there's no transparency and, and it's very upsetting and frustrating to try to work within those, within those things. And it's like figuring out how, you know, like we inspire ourselves to get that transparency and put in. Well that's still a process. We're working with them.

Darius:

Well I guess that brings me to, I guess the last question I have for both of y'all, is it you, you mentioned earlier that you all have, this is not the first time you guys are talking to each other, you all have been able to establish relationships over the 400 miles between your, where y'all live. And can you maybe start with Marielle and then let Anthonine add to it? Can you talk a little bit about how your two organizations have made connection and how that has, you know, benefited your organization, your respective organizations?

Marielle:

I would say through like the, there's a currently like through the statewide effort to connect black-led organizations that has drawn us together. And I have been helpful for us in Buffalo because it's not only are we all way up here, but it's also like great to know like the resources and the techniques, what's working downstate and ways that we can try to implement and things new that we can try. And also it's better just to have like a connection and know like that feeling of not being isolated and in this work alone are though like we know there's like the broader movement in which organizations are trying to hold the police accountable, being in contact with organizations in our own state that are doing the same work and have had wins. And it helps to be more empowered to what's possible and gives us hope of what we can also build towards and what power looks like.

Darius:

Oh, absolutely. And Anthonine, what has it been like to connect with groups doing similar work on the other side of the state?

Anthonine:

[inaudible] I grew up in Giuliani's New York and I would say that up until maybe a couple of years ago I thought that everything north of maybe then Cortland it was upstate. You know, New York State is a funny place. It's very New York City centric in a lot of ways and and New Yorkers. We definitely think that our universe is like that. That New York City is the center of all the universe and it's been incredibly powerful in so many different black organizing

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spaces with BLR folks, particularly building those connections of like what does black organizing look like throughout the state? How do we support each other? And you know, when we're, you're fighting for, you're fighting against institutions, white supremacy and capitalism and heteropatriarchy it started, it sometimes feels very difficult to sort of come out of those fights and have a sense of what a broader movement for black liberation looks like.

Anthonine:

And part of what's been great has been being able to connect with groups like BLR about the work that they're doing. And as I mentioned before, it's hard to offer resources that we have available because I think, you know, there's, there's between CPR and of course CPR cat B in New York City, there's been several decades of highly well-organized efforts against police hegemony and it's been amazing for me to be physically here and to draw upon that. But as we're trying to do good work, not just in New York City, but around black liberation throughout the empire state. And it's been powerful to be able to share some of those resources and to share some of that work with folks in other parts of the state. And, and you know, Buffalo is a huge city, right? Like, and huge part of, of New York State. And it, there's a way almost ridiculous for us to be doing work and to not be connecting to struggle in Buffalo, in Newburgh, in Elmont on long Island. Right. So and just think that it's good organizing to be in conversations with people who are facing the same thing that you're facing and be able to learn and grow with them.

Darius:

Absolutely. Well, I, I would really love to keep talking to you guys, but unfortunately we are out of time. So I want to thank both Anthonine and for this really, really, really great discussion today. And I guess I would ask both of you, maybe Anthonine first if folks want to find out more about BMCs work or how to get involved, where, where should they go to get that information?

Anthonine:

Yeah, absolutely. You can go on our website, which is Brooklyn Movement Center dot org all spelled out. And then you can also find us on the socials, so on Twitter and Instagram @bkmovement and Brooklyn Movement Center on Facebook.

Darius:

Awesome. And Marielle, where can folks go to learn more about Black Love's work?

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Marielle: Yes, we have a website, it's called Black Love Resists (with the S at the end) In the Rust that will work. And we are on Facebook at Black Love Resists in the Rust as well as on Twitter.

Darius: Fantastic. And I will also let the listeners know that we will have those links on the podcast website so folks can also link to both of these amazing organizations there. Thank you both again for joining me today. And yeah, best of luck with everything and we're obviously following your work very closely, so thank you for all that you do. And take care.

Anthonine: Thank you.

Marielle: Thank you.