ACTION ROLE POLICE LIAISON

Your Role: > deal with officers of the law to maximize participant safety and action goals

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

- Coordinate all interactions with the police in advance, during and after the action.
- Establish clear lines of communication between you, the police, action coordinators and participants. To be credible, there should be one police liaison.
- Speak with police at the action; communicate police messages that bring new information to the other action roles and, when possible, to the entire group.
- You may have to:
  - anticipate and defuse misunderstandings,
  - negotiate, try to gain time or create space for demonstrators to accomplish the goals or communicate the message, and
  - "push back" against arbitrary decisions with humor, persistence, and grace.

JOB REQUIREMENTS

- Local police hierarchy: who you are talking to, and their position in the chain of command.
- How police think in terms of planning requirements, safety concerns, and decision-making process (hint: hierarchy).

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

- All potential action scenarios ahead of time, including the "exit" or "out" scenario (the conditions upon which you leave the site of the action; for example, threat of arrest, specific demand met, a meeting being proposed, etc.).
- What will and will not be acceptable, based on the action goals and strategy.
- The levels of risks agreed to by participants, their level of training and readiness.
- Local laws and customs regarding demonstrations and gatherings.

Adapted from handout by Philippe Duhamel and Matt Guynn