

Occupy Homes MN rallies; occupies vacant house, Chuck D, Brother Ali protest foreclosures

Written by Harry Colbert, Jr.

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One year after the Occupy Homes MN movement gained national attention in its fight to keep foreclosed residents in their homes, the group occupied a vacant property for a homeless man.

On Dec. 6, 2011, syndicated radio personality and MSNBC host, Ed Schultz, broadcasted his television show live from the home of United States military veteran, Bobby Hull. Hull's home, in the 3700 block of Columbus Avenue South in Minneapolis was foreclosed upon by his lender, Bank of America, but he refused to vacate the property. Following the national media attention, Bank of America made the decision to allow Hull to remain in the home. To mark the pivotal moment in Occupy Homes MN's movement – a year to the date, nearly 200 people gathered at Hull's house for a rally and march to an unoccupied home in the neighborhood which it claimed for another homeless veteran who was foreclosed upon.

"My neighbors are here, my family and friends are all here, just like you were a year ago," said Hull, speaking to the large group gathered on his front steps and lawn. "Last year we took over my house, and this year we're going to take over the neighborhood."

This time around, the Minneapolis grassroots organization was joined in its fight by music icon, Chuck D of the group Public Enemy. The iconic rapper was joined by Wise Intelligent, formerly of the group Poor Righteous Teachers. The two were asked to attend the rally by fellow hip-hopper, Brother Ali, who is a Minneapolis resident and whose current CD is charging up the Billboard charts.

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