

The Case for abolishing the police (7): “How could we build a police-free future?”

The Bethlehem Gadfly [George Floyd killing](#) October 17, 2020

 Latest in a series of posts in the wake of the George Floyd murder 

The 2020 NCC Peace and Social Justice Conference

Police-Free Future panel, October 15, 2020 video

Here’s an exercise that PV uses with workshop audiences that gets into the nitty-gritty of abolition and grounds it in reality. PV says the exercise shows you how complicated this all is.

He encourages people to choose a specific issue and then move through the chart, asking questions like what do we want to happen, what might we do to keep the issue from happening in the first place, what institutions might there be to handle the issue?

PV:

Audio files not available in this archive



Issue	How do you expect police to handle it?	How do police handle it?	Alternative solution	How can we prevent this from happening in the first place?
Fare evasion on bus/train	Arrest, fine	Arrest, fine, assault or harass, go beyond their authority (asking immigration status)	Enforce transit fares without police (e.g. turnstiles)	Free transit for everyone
Mental Health Crises				

Then AS gives us a mental health scenario that we might witness and asks us to think it through per the chart.

Suppose you look out your window, and there's a half-naked guy on your lawn gyrating crazily and singing.

Whom are you going to call?

And what outcome do you expect?

What happens if someone without a gun, a badge, a taser, mace shows up?

How would we expect a police officer to handle this?

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