

Cover Letter more general:

Collective Resistance San Diego (CRSD) is a new coalition of left groups and individuals in the greater San Diego area, which has formed in response to a political moment characterized simultaneously by rapid growth in the Left and left sensibilities among the mass populous, but also the growth of deeply reactionary and dangerous right-wing movements and the election of Trump to president. We would like to introduce ourselves to the progressive and left community in our region. We would like to begin a conversation with your organization about the work you do and about ideas for greater cooperation, collaboration, mutual aid and solidarity.

On November 9, 2016, one local group, Democratic Autonomy Federation (DAF) sent out an invitation for a potluck to many other organizations and individuals to discuss “how those interested can “defend each other and struggle together,” while developing “a closer relationship of solidarity and mutual aid” to prevent organizational isolation, which could prove to be dangerous.

Following that first coalition building meeting on November 19, 2016, a series of meetings and potlucks brought together a wide spectrum of the left groups in San Diego. We first loosely called the project a ‘left alliance’. We worked on a one-person, one-vote basis to think through and vote on what sort of inter-organizational arrangements would enable us to (1) strengthen communication and collaboration; (2) preserve and respect the autonomy of each participating organization; (3) bolster mutual defense when any of us are under attack; (4) foster the work of building a new majority capable not only of resisting right-wing attacks but also capable of promoting our shared values and goals, and winning!

A mission statement, points of unity, a structure document, and related documents were submitted to organizations that participated in the planning meetings. Five organizations ratified these founding documents and we began implementing our inter-organizational Delegates Council. The current five ratifying organizations are: Colectivo Zapatista; Democratic Autonomy Federation; Industrial Workers of the World; Party for Socialism and Liberation; and Redneck Revolt.

Many people in the community are not aware we are still at it, after nearly a year of quiet work behind the scenes. It is time for us to reach out and greet the community.

We hope more organizations will directly join CRSD and take a seat on the Delegates Council. We hope many other organizations will team up with us to build effective public campaign committees to promote causes and goals we share. We hope many more organizations will let us know whenever you are sponsoring an event or activity, and invite the CRSD community to show up and show our support. We are reaching out to your organization, **NAME**, because we hope that you share many of the same values which motivate our work, and that you may be interested in participating in CRSD either through joining us directly or working with us in our shared struggle..

One way or another, we hope to work with you. We are ‘in it for the long haul’. Let’s talk! **[A representative of CRSD/I]** would like to meet with you or representatives of your organization to discuss it further. **[contact information]**.

Collective Resistance San Diego