

Hello, friends, and welcome to another edition of Palsies with Palsies. I'm your palsy, Justin Ramjack.

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And I'm your Palsy, Beckermar, and Anderson! Hey, Justin!

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Hello, Becca, how you doing, friend?

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I am tired. But I am doing pretty good. I've been bragging to you all week that I am working from a screen porch in New Hampshire, and it is so nice and cool.

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I got a lovely, cool breeze that's happening right now. It's amazing.

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That sounds... Fabulous! I have a cool breeze from my fan as it's currently...

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95 degrees outside, so... Um, I remain appropriately jealous if you beautifully screened in porch, but not begrudging you, that porch nonetheless.

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Would you like to be begrudging? Because I could tell you what temperature it is outside here right now.

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Oh, sure, why not? Begrudge away. Bone!

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77.

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You only know the value of what you have when someone else envies it.

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Yes, and now I am begrudging. But, uh...

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Well, I hope... I'm helping you there.

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Yep, nope, it does feel better knowing that, uh... But someone else wants it.

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She's not even pretending, but she's like, yes, it does. The warm fuzzies are real!

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It's okay, I...

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Put it out for... for real. If I can teleport you here, I would.

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As you've said, and I continue to... Mostly believe you.

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Um, but no, I'm having a very good day, I... I am currently in my living room, so it sounds a little bit differently and different than usual.

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I am watching a, uh... Baseball game on mute, already recording, as we were pre-show planning.

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You didn't say, if you hear a cheer midway through, or a groan midway through.

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You'll know, but uh... Hopefully, we'll stay on task.

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I've just been, you know, trying to contemplate what I could be multitasking with while recording a podcast, because, you know, I can't exactly have something on mute that I'm watching.

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Um, but, like... I don't know if there's, like, a live transcript of something that I could be reading on my braille display.

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See, for that, you have cat, though. That's...

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Oh, that's true. My cat is a live entertainment, uh... all on her own every single day. That is true.

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Indeed. So... We have... Started this show with, in my brain, a little bit more, like, losey-goosey, uh...

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Goofy banner, not that we don't often start with goofy banter, but... It's, uh, it's, for me, a little bit more pointed today, because we have a...

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Uh... We have been doozy of a topic today.

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Uh...

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Yeah, this is... this is another one of the heavy ones, guys. We wish we didn't have to do them, but... We feel it's important to talk about.

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And I will... I'll just come right out and say, we are... We are going to discuss, uh...

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The, uh, situation in Washington, D.C. With, uh... Another scenario where Trump and his federalized banana.

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National Guard, and we're gonna... We... it was, like, mainly on the poverty and the disability implications of that, but also talking about it more broadly.

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So, if that's true, it feds. Triggering for you, or more intense than your...

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Wanting to get into right now? This is one to skip. We love you, we'll...

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Totally. Absolutely.

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We'll see you next time. Um... Well, we... we do feel it. It's, um...

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Uh, immense importance to be on the... the radar of folks with disabilities, so...

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Here we are to do that!

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Yes, so you've probably heard about this situation on the news, it's kind of everywhere, um, but the summary of the situation is that President Trump has taken control of Washington, D.C.'s police force, uh, which he can for a limited amount of time as president, and called in.

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The National Guard, um, in response to, uh, a couple of things, um.

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He has... he and his supporters have stated that it is a response to, uh, a crime emergency in DC, which we'll get into.

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That, in a moment, um, but, uh, he says he's responding to increased levels of crime and trying to make the city safer. Um, and it is also, uh, very explicitly.

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A response to, uh, homelessness in DC. One of the stated goals of this increased police and military presence is to clear out homeless encampments, uh, and to get unhoused people off the streets.

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And it is deeply unclear. Where they're supposed to go.

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Um, and so there... there are a number of things, uh, that we're concerned about here.

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But I think maybe, Justin, do we want to start with the crime issue?

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Yes, unless, uh... Let's look at the, uh...

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Crime issue from a, uh, a... statistical standpoint, um...

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And if you... What a real detailed breakdown of this.

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Um, NPR did a... a... show on this, I think.

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Three days ago now? Uh, where they looked at...

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Each of the metrics. That, uh...

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3 or 4 metrics that Trump was using, um... I'll mention 3 specifically. The murder rates...

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The carjacking and burglary rates... And the, uh, violent crime rates?

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Mm-hmm.

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That he has pointed to. Specifically for the...

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This... Uh, crime emergency?

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Mm-hmm.

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Uh... being activated, and if you look at, like, all three of his... Well, there are more, but the three that I indicated here.

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Each and every one of those stats! Is either at a 10-year low.

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Mm-hmm.

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A 5-year low, or a 30-year low? So, uh, and... and it doesn't get...

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The data doesn't improve. For Trump and his allies, and the other.

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Two or three notable categories, it's all. Down across the board.

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Mm-hmm.

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Um... And it should be stated... In fairness...

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That even people in... long-time resident in DC.

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Will tell you that crime... can be an issue.

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Mm-hmm.

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From time to time. However... those residents.

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Will also tell you, because I've seen it on the news, and I've... spoken to folks familiar with living in DC.

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Well, I'll tell you that the prime... has been dropping.

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For at least 2-3 years. So, there's no... there's no merit base.

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Mm-hmm.

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For this at all.

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Totally, and in addition to that, you know, something we were talking about, uh, again, in our pre-show planning, is.

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Let's say for a minute there was a serious crime spike happening right now, that, you know, either crime had suddenly gotten a lot worse, or had been increasing over the past two to three years.

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A... infusion of escalated police presence and military presence. Could bring that down temporarily. It is bringing crime down temporarily.

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Um, but... It is not a long-term solution. If people could just be.

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Frightened out of doing crimes, they're... the world would work a lot differently than it does. In reality, a lot of what leads to crime is poverty and is lack of social supports, and, you know.

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The things that we see that actually improve crime rates are, uh.

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Improved social safety nets, and uh... better access to needed services in neighborhoods, and more closely-knit neighborhoods, where people take care of one another.

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And I... I would imagine, I don't have the data to show this, but I would imagine it's those kinds of initiatives that have been causing crime to fall.

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Over the past few years in DC. But whatever they're doing is working.

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Yeah.

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And so... and doing this. Is not going to, in the long term.

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Help, even if that was actually what. It was meant to do, which I would argue it is not. It is the justification, not the reason.

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Yes, and we'll go back, um... into the impure politics beat in particular.

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In place the link. To that show... Um, within the show notes.

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For this episode. Uh, but I do remember...

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And I heard this on that show, and I heard similar things in other... So, uh, spaces...

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Two, uh... even folks... familiar with the activation of the National Guard. In this case.

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In NPR's case, two retired, uh... a National Guard generals...

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Have said, this is. Performative?

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Mm-hmm.

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Uh, things that they're doing, like, nighttime patrols. In the tourist areas.

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Daytime patrols in the tourist areas. Nighttime patrols down Georgetown streets.

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Even the people within the system. Or that were recently in the system.

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Meaning the guard... Say this is performative.

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Mm-hmm.

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Is there... it's not really... If there is a... whatever stated purpose there is.

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Even by the barest metrics. Is not being fulfilled.

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Yeah, absolutely, and I... you know, and that's also borne out over... there are... several times in the history of the United States where the National Guard has been called into a city where there's been military presence in a city, and, you know, you could definitely look at any number of those examples and argue about whether or not it was justified there.

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But virtually everyone who's examining this, who's, you know, part of the National Guard, or is a historian, or has some familiarity with what this usually looks like.

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Agrees, this is not normal. This... this does not meet the standards by which the National Guard is usually called in. Um... And... and it's performative.

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Absolutely. Um... Becca, do we want to...

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Move now, uh... to reasons why...

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This is concerning to us, particularly from a disability and health perspective.

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Yeah, I... because I... I think for all that it... it... this is performative, it also definitely has... very concrete goals in that, uh, some of which are about.

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Performativity, and some of which are not, and... and one of those is definitely, um... this approach to, uh, homelessness. Um, that, uh.

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Trump has made it clear that, uh, he does not believe in housing first, that he wants to see unhoused people off the streets, and.

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Sent wherever is basically the, you know, treatment centers, hospitals, or just.

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Not here. Um... And this is...

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Deeply concerning to... to us from a disability perspective, and just from.

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A humanitarian perspective, um... Because people... for one thing, uh, people who are unhoused.

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Are disproportionately likely to have disabilities, especially mental health disabilities. Um, so we're talking about, uh, people with frequently a lot of trauma, people, uh, experiencing, uh, different states of consciousness and different perspectives on reality.

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We're also talking about people with a wide variety of disabilities and medical needs.

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And... very few... like, none of them looked at their life and went.

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Gosh, the best place for me to be... the place that I would most like to be of anywhere that I could possibly be.

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Is sleeping in this homeless encampment on the street. You know, this...

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There is a reason why Housing First has been the... the top model for ending homelessness in.

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For... for quite some time, and it's because... people have a really hard time getting.

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Healthcare and mental health treatment or addiction treatment, or any other kinds of services that would... help improve their lives.

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Exactly.

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If they also don't have a stable place to live. And nothing about this approach is going to give people a stable place to live. It is simply evicting them.

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From where they are. And potentially placing them in treatments or institutions against their will.

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And this... this is something that we have, uh, you know, that... we have tried to stop doing as a society, by and large, is institutionalizing disabled people.

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And it is deeply concerning to see that resurfacing.

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Yeah. Um, and I think, for me. Um, like, I watched.

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The majority of the initial. Roll out.

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And when we say... that the, um...

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This is a pattern of the Trump administration. Is... this is what I mean. Like, when they talked about...

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Um... reducing the Medicaid rolls and the, um... the federal support program roles.

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And said, oh, we're gonna do it with a, uh... a scalpel and not a sword, or a hatchet.

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Mm-hmm.

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Um, that has been... Free uniformly proven to be...

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Yeah.

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A lie? I mean, at the most charitable reading rose over...

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Say, man. Um... And, uh, Trump, very early on in the press conference, says.

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We're gonna rehouse them, we're gonna... It's gonna be great. They're gonna go to better places.

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And then, when anyone tried to follow up on that, the answer has been pretty uniformly again.

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Mm-hmm.

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We don't know. We have no real plan. For the... there's... there's literally...

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No... place for them to go.

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Nor... nor does there seem to be... mud and head.

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Yeah.

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To arrive at a place for them to go. Which I find deeply concerning.

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Yeah, no, it's... it's very much a... just criminalizing the presence of.

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People sleeping on the streets, and, you know, and that... it leads to criminalizing mental illness, criminalizing disability.

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Um, and what's, you know, let's not forget, like. This justification of crime that they have for.

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For all of this, you know, that's... that's related to... uh, you know, considering being homeless a crime, basically. Um, and it's also got significant.

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Uh, racist... undertones, overtones, both. Um...

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Yeah.

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That, you know, when just about any politician. Is... is talking up... is using crime as a major talking point.

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This is code for... we want to suppress the activities of black and brown people in this area.

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We... we want to arrest people, we... we want to just make life.

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Yeah.

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Harder for Black and Brown people. And so... I'm... I am worried about all of these... the unhoused folks who are getting swept up in this, but I... I am particularly worried about.

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Black and brown folks who are also unhoused.

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Yeah, and... If you want the raw data on this, um...

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You can find it. Um... Because in the last...

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Several months since... Um... Trump took office a second time around.

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The efforts to basically... got the mental, uh, well, uh, health and, um...

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Wellness System? Have been... not...

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Mm-hmm.

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Well, they've been pretty... Uh, demonstrably out in the open?

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Um, so then... to then use...

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Uh, mental health journeys... As a reason for removing.

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Homeless? Folks, uh, while you're gutting the systems in which they could receive...

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Neighborhood and community-based, uh... services is transparently...

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Evil, honestly.

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Yeah. So, that's... right now, uh, what we know about what's going on in DC, we know that some amount of this, uh, clearing out of encampments is happening.

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Um, other than that, there's... there's a lot of just... military making a show of being present, like Justin said, the...

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You know, nighttime and daytime patrols of tourists, uh, areas. So, you know, there...

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There is more that one could. Imagine this... this situation.

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Turning into, uh, that is not manifesting yet. But the message is very clear, is, you know, that...

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We are here in force, and... if anyone steps out of line by being.

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Too poor, too disabled. In public to... to Brown.

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Uh, there will be consequences. And this threat is not just aimed at the residents of Washington, D.C.

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Um, one of... another part of this that, uh, concerns me.

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Very strongly, is that Trump has explicitly said that this is a blueprint for what he would like to do in other cities in the United States. You want to say a bit more about that, Justin?

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Yes, I think, um... the two that I have heard...

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The most tedra about, let's take... Let, um... Getting our way back machines for...

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For a minute... Or in this case, I guess, a medium back machine.

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Uh, because we know what he's done. Or what the Trump administration, excuse me, has done in LA.

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Um... And we know... To be frank, most of those troops by now have been...

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Deactivated, because they got there and there was... So I'm like, let's drill in a park, and then...

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Whoops. Uh, there's absolutely, literally nothing for us to do here, so...

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Uh, they were fairly quickly deactivated as not to be embarrassing.

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Mm-hmm.

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Uh, and ooh, surprise, they still were. Uh, and I should say, as a...

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Yep.

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As a family... with the history of military service?

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In my family. This is no...

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Offense intended. To the guards!

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People, or guardsmen and guardswomen. They're doing a job. They were told to go somewhere, and they go.

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Mm-hmm.

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This is what they do. Uh, it's... I have an issue with the people pulling their strings.

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Yeah.

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Yeah.

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But nonetheless... Uh, most of the time around LA has been deactivated, because there was...

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Nothing for them to do. But... Um, then you get the, uh...

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Justification around DC. And there is now...

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Most of the chatter I'm hearing is that they want to target.

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Uh, specifically New York and Chicago? Next, with some...

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Mm-hmm.

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I thought of targeting Louisiana, uh, New Orleans as well, but mostly... New York and Chicago?

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Uh, and what's most... Well, there are many, many alarming things about all of this, but...

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I think there are two... fundamentally alarming things, and...

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Frankly, too fundamentally authoritarian things about this. Is... all of the cities that are being considered for targets.

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Are blue cities? Meaning they're run by Democratic administrations?

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Mm-hmm.

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And most of them, if not all of them, I'm not gonna... State all of them, because frankly, I don't... I don't...

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No, for sure. But I know the majority of them, at the very least, are...

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Uh, run by... Uh, mayors and administrations that are heavily.

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Either Black or people of color of all stripes. So, just some really distressing...

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Yeah.

00:36:09.000 --> 00:36:15.000

Uh, trends at play. But if they continue to play out.

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In the way that I think... the past tell us they will...

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Will not get less... alarming.

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Yeah. Yeah, no, and I think, uh... you know, it is very important to... to say the word authoritarian very, very clearly and unequivocally is the...

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That is the... the playbook that the Trump administration is working from.

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And that's... that is the strategy that all of this is part of, is trying to.

00:36:53.000 --> 00:37:04.000

Intimidate cities and marginalized folks and anyone who. Is... is opposing the actions of the Trump administration.

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Uh, so... So stop doing that.

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Yeah.

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You know, be smaller, be quieter, fall in line. Um... And these are... these are really serious and scary tactics.

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Are being used to convey that message.

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Uh, again, they are, um... Focusing it around...

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Well, a housing insecurity... Um... mental...

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Health, and uh... disability, because these are marginalized groups.

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Yes.

00:37:47.000 --> 00:37:56.000

And they are very hopeful that. Uh... If they focus around groups that would not.

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Uh, let's say, lend themselves... To an automatic outpouring of public sympathy.

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Dedicate, you can just go unnoticed or unchecked.

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Yeah, that the people who need to be intimidated will be intimidated, and everyone else will.

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Just turn away.

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Exactly, which is, uh... frightening, to say the... At the very least.

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Yeah, and I mean, and I think that's why it feels so important to talk about, even though, like.

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Yeah.

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You know, it is hard to think about and talk about these things too much sometimes, but... we... we need to talk about it because this is one of those moments.

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Where we... we as a country. Need to make a decision that we are going to care, that we're not going...

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To pretend that this isn't happening, or ignore it, because... It's not affecting us.

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That, you know, this is the... the kind of thing that, you know, always gets said about the Nazi regime, right, is that.

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Yeah.

00:39:13.000 --> 00:39:19.000

You know, people... knew that it wasn't okay, knew that people were getting hurt.

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But let it go because it wasn't happening to them. Until it was.

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That this... this is the kind of thing that will only escalate.

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Yeah.

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And will affect... all of us, eventually.

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You know, if only for the most privileged, maybe that's only just limiting the kinds of choices you can make and the kinds of things that you can say.

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But people you love will still. Be majorly hot.

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Yeah. I think... yeah, yeah.

00:39:52.000 --> 00:40:03.000

You know, I think one of the... and we'll land the plane here eventually with some... if not more positive news, some ways to cope.

00:40:03.000 --> 00:40:12.000

Um... but one of the most... uh... transient... pieces...

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Of observation and advice. I believe came from the wonderful.

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Folks at Pansuit politics? Uh, last week, uh, I think, and I think it was somebody they were...

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But it may have been one of the hosts themselves. Who's in. If you look back throughout our history, particularly in the South.

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There is not a person. In the... in the...

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Mainstream societal discourse. Right now... In this help that will not at least pay.

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Lip service! To honoring the life and legacy.

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Of Martin Luther King. And what we know is that people that went, and I've...

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Mmm...

00:41:13.000 --> 00:41:20.000

I'm not trying to... make any statements about people we know or not.

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But, people that we know. Wanted him dead.

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When he was alive. Are still alive.

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Mm-hmm.

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Today. Very old. But still alive.

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Yep.

00:41:34.000 --> 00:41:43.000

So what does that mean for us? It means within... 10 to 20 or 30 years.

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People are going to forget this. People are going to realize what a mistake it was.

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And people are going to... Does the bell that they were ever in favor of it to begin with.

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Mm-hmm.

00:42:01.000 --> 00:42:06.000

And as people living... In a living, breathing...

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Government and democracy, even such as it is today. We can't allow... that happen.

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If we want to be the people of the United States.

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That we are meant to be.

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Yeah, and I would say it is especially important. For those of us with some degree of privilege to be speaking out right now, because...

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Yes.

00:42:34.000 --> 00:42:42.000

You, I... I... very much worry about my Latinx friends and my immigrant friends.

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Speaking out right now and being on the record with. With strong opinions about these things, because.

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I... I think that there could be serious, uh, bodily and legal harm to them.

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You know, I, as a white woman, born in the United States.

00:42:58.000 --> 00:43:02.000

Yeah.

00:43:02.000 --> 00:43:09.000

I... it's going to be... even as a disabled person, it's gonna be a while before they come for me.

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Yeah.

00:43:10.000 --> 00:43:17.000

So... I can... I can speak up in order to... to keep some of my loved ones safer, at least.

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Absolutely, and if you look at the, um... the data that we know about in the early days of this is that a lot of those.

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Yes.

00:43:36.000 --> 00:43:39.000

Guardsmen and women are being used on immigration enforcement. Even in DC, so you're... you're...

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You're, uh, assessment is not only, like. Broadly correct. It's actually...

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Occurring, if that makes sense. Yeah.

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Mm-hmm. Yeah. Absolutely.

00:43:55.000 --> 00:43:56.000

Yeah.

00:43:56.000 --> 00:44:06.000

So, as we're lining the plane, I do think, like, thinking about some... some ways to advocate, but also some ways to cope right now.

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Um, my... might be in order. Would you like to... address either one of those, Justin?

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Yeah, I will start with ways to advocate. And it's gonna sound a lot like other things we've said.

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Call your representatives, call your senators... Uh, Collier State Legislature, I think, particularly...

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As we move away from DC and begin to see this possibly implemented.

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In Chicago and New York and other places, and even in LA.

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From the passing stage, calling the state legislators. It's gonna be vitally important, uh, to this process.

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Yeah.

00:44:59.000 --> 00:45:05.000

Let people who, even if they can't quote-unquote, do anything about it right now.

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Registering your discomfort is going to be... critically important, because politicians.

00:45:13.000 --> 00:45:20.000

Don't often do things we don't like for very long, and we probably... we don't like them.

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Uh, so I think we can undersell the importance of that.

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Mm-hmm.

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Um... and then when the offer as far as coping is, and this is really hard, like, I... We talked about this today, because it is important.

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I am paying attention to this! As much as I can, but I'm also...

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Deliberately choosing to step away and do other things when I need to.

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So... Um, it's okay to...

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To not drown in this 24-7 and make a deliberate choice to... Um...

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Distance yourself... run the noise around this.

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Whenever needed, if not, from the story itself.

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Mm-hmm. Yeah. Absolutely all of that.

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In terms of advocacy, I... I would add... check on your people, check in with your local community, check in with anybody that you know that's living in DC.

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Um, you know, if... if you live in a place where.

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Unhoused people are publicly part of your community, you know, if there is a... a place where people stay close by, or if people are, uh, you know, asking for funds on the street.

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Say hi to them. Connect with them. Get to know, because they're... they are part of your community. They are part of our community.

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Yeah.

00:47:00.000 --> 00:47:11.000

Just because they may not have an address in that community doesn't... doesn't make that less true. Um, and...

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If... if something like... whether you're in DC or not, if something like... like what's happening in DC were to happen in your community.



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You'll know who's in danger and what you might be able to do to support them.

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Absolutely.

00:47:25.000 --> 00:47:35.000

And you can... you can also check on folks in your communities who are immigrants, who are people of color, who are disabled or have mental health concerns.

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Um, folks who are queer and trans, that's... that's another group that we have talked about as... is targeted by.

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This administration and is also disproportionately likely to be unhoused, so is also a threat.

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Um, with... with these current moves. Um, just anything that we can do to make our communities stronger.

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Helps us to be... to have a united force when things like this happen.

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And in terms of coping, I mean, I would say that connecting is also a form of coping, but, you know, if you can't.

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Stand to... to read or talk about this anymore. You know, just reach out to someone and say, like, you know, can we go play a game?

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Yeah.

00:48:25.000 --> 00:48:32.000

You know, can we... can we talk about something that's not the stressful and terrible things that are going on? Because.

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Chances are that person may need that too. Um, and... and just...

00:48:35.000 --> 00:48:37.000

Yeah.

00:48:37.000 --> 00:48:46.000

You know, we've... we've said it before on the show, but... find... find joy wherever you can. The...

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In your connections with other people, in a creative hobby, in, you know, going out and finding some nature, and going for a walk.

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Whatever it is. Make sure that you are getting.

00:49:02.000 --> 00:49:10.000

Some of that in your system. Because we're putting a lot of fear and stress into the system.

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And we gotta balance it out somewhere.

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I've been blessed. I think that's a great final word, friend.

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Um, where can folks find us? And good, get connected to... The podcast and the larger work of the Julian Way, my friend.

00:49:30.000 --> 00:49:54.000

Yeah, absolutely. So, thank you all so much for joining us for Policies with Palsies. You can find us in all of the great places that podcasts can be found, Apple Music, Spotify, Amazon Music, iHeartRadio, all the little pod catchers out there. Um, and if you have enjoyed something that you've heard here, if you've.

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Appreciated the way that we talk about current events, or the way that we talk about pop culture. Um, we would love it if you would go on Apple Music and rate us 5 stars. That helps people find us. You can write a review.

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You can also tell your friends on social media, in person, any way that you can get the word out about us and what we do.

00:50:18.000 --> 00:50:28.000

Uh, positive policies is made possible, uh, by donations to the Julian Way, the organization that Justin and I.

00:50:28.000 --> 00:50:56.000

Work for, are, are part of. Um, and we are still in the midst of a matching campaign, uh, for, uh, the next couple weeks until the last day of August. We have a very generous funder who is matching every dollar donated and then some. And the exact, and then some, uh, is, is changing over time, so depending on when you listen to.

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It may be different, but if you are able to donate to us within the next few weeks, uh, your... every dollar will go.

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Exponentially farther, uh, so that would help thousands with palsies continue far into the future.

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I think I... if I would add... if I can add specifics to that, I think.

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If I'm good, uh, the doubling started in July, and I think we're up to now, if you donate.

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If you're here this Friday and donate Friday, I think it matches.

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For, uh, four times higher. And next week, before the end of August, the thing is.

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Mm-hmm.

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Five times higher, so if you want to make a big impact... Now is the time, friends!

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Yes, absolutely. And if you have a question for us, if you have something that you'd like us to talk about, or a question that we can just briefly touch on, you can reach us at pwp at thejulianway.org, um, and we would so love to hear from you.

00:52:05.000 --> 00:52:10.000

And with that, friends, thank you so much for joining us. Thank you, Justin, for this discussion.

00:52:10.000 --> 00:52:13.000

Go out and put some good into the world, friends. Buh-bye.

00:52:13.000 --> 00:52:20.000

Thank you, man, bye!