

Citizens Pressure Ramsey County Attorney, 2010 DFL Candidate Gaertner to Drop RNC Charges

Rally, Party Planned Outside Her Birthday Fundraiser Tuesday

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What: Rally and dance party outside Susan Gaertner's fundraiser

When: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2nd, starts at 4:30pm

Where: corner of 2nd Avenue & 8th Street S in Downtown Minneapolis
(the gates of the Minneapolis Club)

Who: RNC arrestees and allies, organized through CRASS (Community RNC Arrestee Support Structure, www.RNCaftermath.org). **Interviews and photo opportunities (signs, banners, and a festive atmosphere) will be available.**

On the evening of Tuesday, December 2nd - her birthday - Susan Gaertner will hold a \$25-\$250 fundraiser for her 2010 DFL gubernatorial campaign. Gaertner is also the lead prosecutor for 18 felony cases stemming from September's Republican National Convention, including the cases of the RNC Eight. RNC Arrestees and allies, organized by CRASS (Community RNC Arrestee Support Structure), have planned a rally and dance party outside Gaertner's fundraiser and intend to continue hounding Gaertner's campaign for Governor until she drops the charges that are threatening to ruin lives and communities.

"The phony charges Gaertner is overseeing would not exist if not to try and justify the massive police brutality during the convention," said Kristin Herbeck, a CRASS organizer working on the event. "Gaertner is shamefully trying to build a political career on the backs of activists. She's trying to appear tough on crime, but in reality she's only cracking down on political dissent."

Over 800 people were arrested during the RNC, including journalists, medics, legal observers, activists, and bystanders; hundreds are still facing charges, even as the city refuses to give their legal defenders video of alleged crimes. 21 were charged with felonies, 18 of which are in Ramsey County Court where Gaertner is the lead prosecutor and has the power to drop the charges.

The felony charges include Dave Mahoney (www.helpdavemahoney.blogspot.com), facing 21 years on six felony charges stemming from a single incident which the state admits he himself did not commit. They also include the RNC Eight (www.RNC8.org), logistical organizers being charged as terrorists in the first ever use of the MN PATRIOT Act. Nonetheless, activists are keeping their spirits high.

"On her birthday, Gaertner is worried about her own political ambitions, while 18

respected community members worry if their next several birthdays will be spent in prison,” said Brian Hokanson, another organizer of the event. “Her vendetta against activists is threatening the livelihoods of our friends and family; the least we can do is disrupt her campaign by exposing the truth about these prosecutions.”

About CRASS – Community RNC Arrestee Support Structure is a non-hierarchical coalition of RNC arrestees and community allies, including local groups such as Coldsnap Legal Collective, National Lawyers Guild – MN, Communities United Against Police Brutality, Anti-War Committee, Twin Cities Indymedia, and Veterans for Peace.

CRASS provides multifaceted support to those arrested during the 2008 Republican National Convention to ensure that all interested arrestees have the support necessary to fight their charges and stand up for free speech. The first meeting of arrestees and supporters took place two days after the end of the convention and meetings have continued regularly since. CRASS has a travel fund available to aid arrestees in returning to the Twin Cities for their court dates, is actively working on court solidarity strategies to support those still facing charges, and is dedicated to aiding and facilitating civil suits. For more information, visit RNCaftermath.org

For information on the case of the **RNC 8**, visit www.RNC8.org
For information on the case of **Dave Mahoney**, visit www.helpdavemahoney.blogspot.com