

3rd night of "Direct Defense" of Berkeley P.O. Tents on the steps of this historic Post Office

Berkeley, California, July 29, 2013 -- On Saturday, July 27, after a "Save the Post Office" rally/fiesta of 200, local activists launched a direct defense of this historic post office. The action attracted broad support in the city, and some great media coverage.

By Monday evening, about 15 campers were getting ready for their third night of sleeping in nine tents on the steps of the P.O. Hundreds of supporters stopped by throughout the day, volunteering to join the campaign to stop the sale of the building and defend the people's Post Office.

Protesters denounced the Postmaster General's decision to sell historic post offices in Berkeley, the Bronx (NY) and LaJolla (CA), close thousands of post offices and mail processing plants, end door-to-door and Saturday delivery, and lay off 100,000-plus unionized postal workers, in what they said was a "systematic plan to dismantle and privatize the postal service."

Every evening features a delicious, freshly cooked dinner; music by local and traveling musicians; a 6 p.m. meeting to decide on strategy and tactics; and "movie night." Opening night featured the great Italian-language film, *Il Postino* (the Postman).

The defense action is the latest in a year-long campaign. The entire City Council came out against the sale, as did both houses of the California state legislature. Many hundreds came out to demonstrate and pack the hearings, or gathered at the steps and in the lobby to sing songs celebrating the Post Office, including "Please Mr. Postman" with new lyrics.

Legal action to stop the sale is under way, as well as a plan to rezone the P.O. as part of a historic district of public buildings, so it can't be sold to private investors.

[To see samples of TV coverage of the Direct Defense action, click on the links below]

<http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/video?id=9188100&pid=9188138&syndicate=syndicate§ion=>

[Save the Berkeley Post Office Protesters Set up Camp | NBC Bay Area*](#)