

Presented by: ACLU of Nevada Tia Smith, Esq. - Policy Counsel Kaylah Maese - Civil Rights Analyst







ACLUUFNEUADA



Kaylah Maese Civil Rights Analyst

At the ACLU of Nevada, we work to defend and advance the civil liberties and civil rights of all Nevadans via public engagement, public policy, and strategic litigations for the betterment of our community.



Tia Smith
Policy Counsel

PLAYER NAME: Gloria Johnson

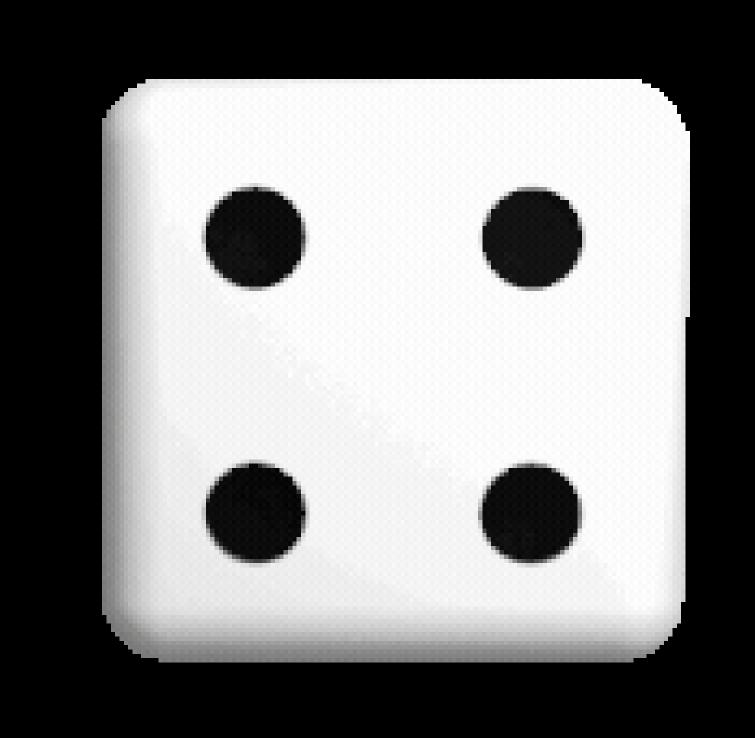








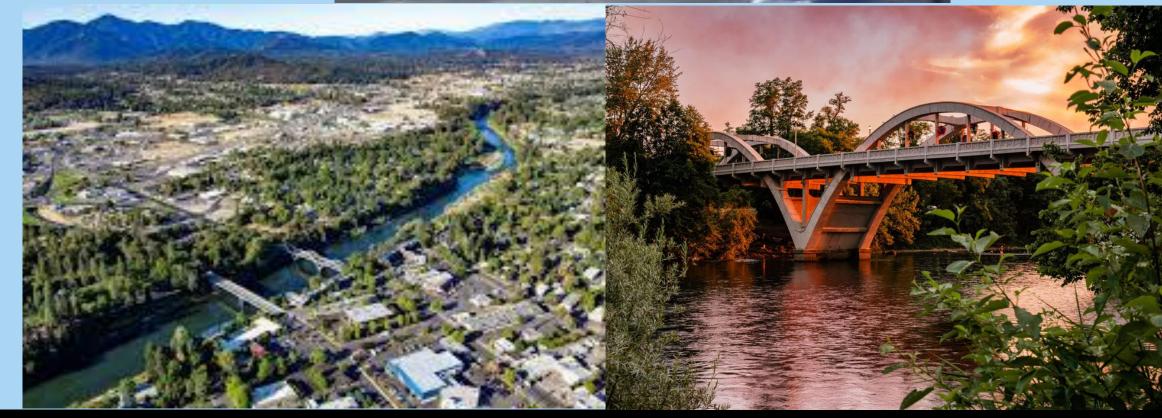




GRANTS PASS, OREGON

Population: approx. 40,000



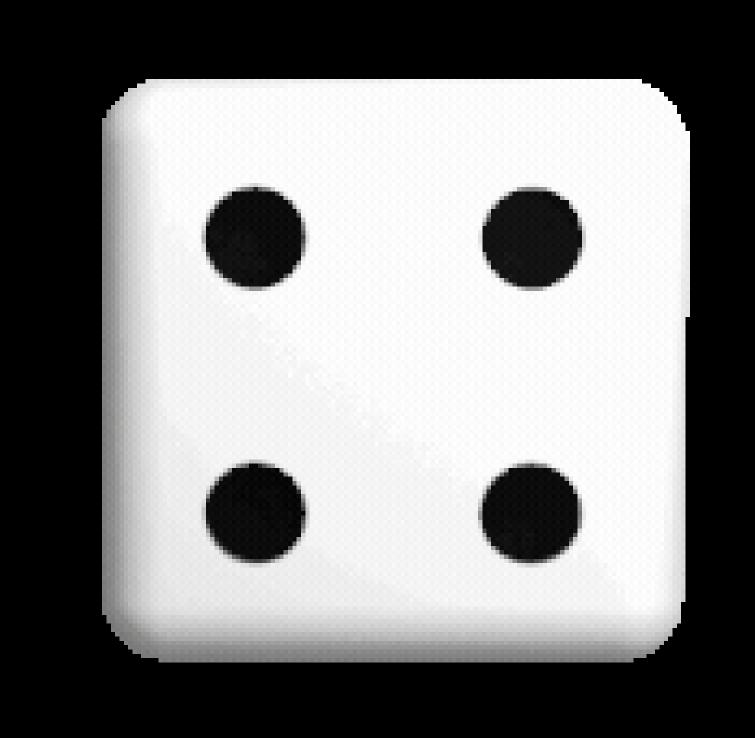


Martin v. Boise, 920 F.3d 584 (9th Cir. 2019)





The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals



PULL A PLAINTIFF CARD

PLAINTIFF FACT

Gloria Johnson was involuntarily homeless in Grants Pass. Without adequate shelter options, she was punished for basic survival needs.

Spot of bad luck!



NO INCOME





"The Constitution's Eighth Amendment serves many important functions, but it does not authorize federal judges to wrest those rights and responsibilities from the American people and in their place dictate this Nation's homelessness policy."



"The Eighth Amendment provides no guidance to 'confine' judges in deciding what conduct a State or city may or may not proscribe."

The Eighth Amendment

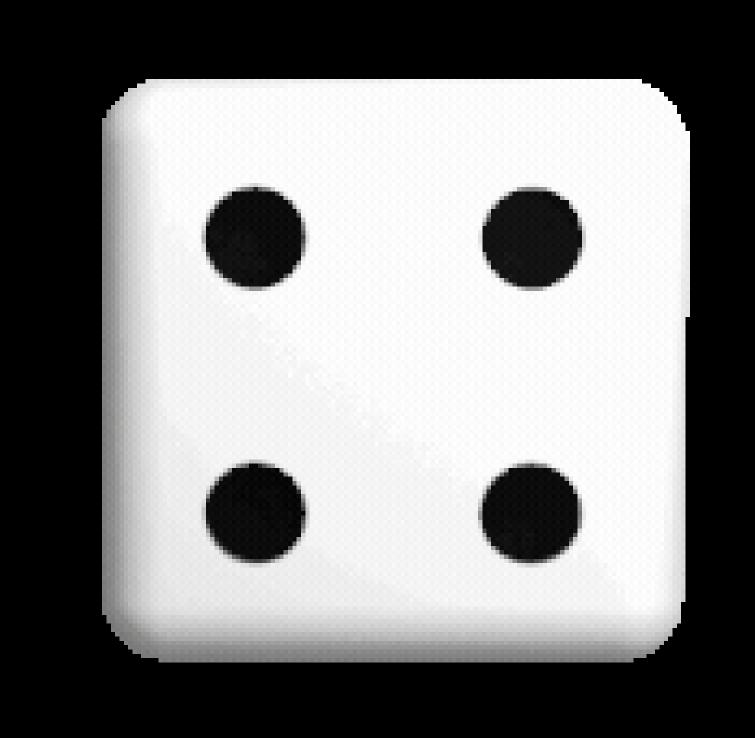
"Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted."



Ninth Circuit: Punishing people for acts they are compelled to take due to their status violates the Eighth Amendment.



U.S. Supreme Court: The Eighth Amendment governs the types of punishments that can be imposed, but it does not restrict which acts can be criminalized.

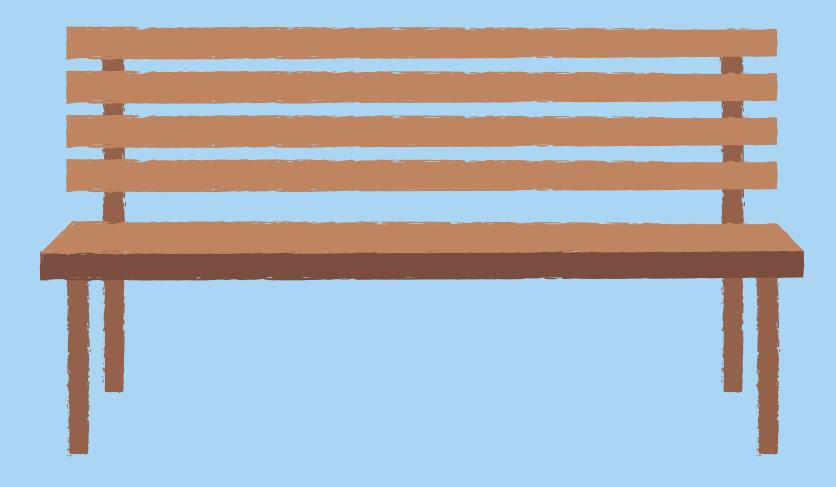




Washoe County Care Campus

Capacity: 604







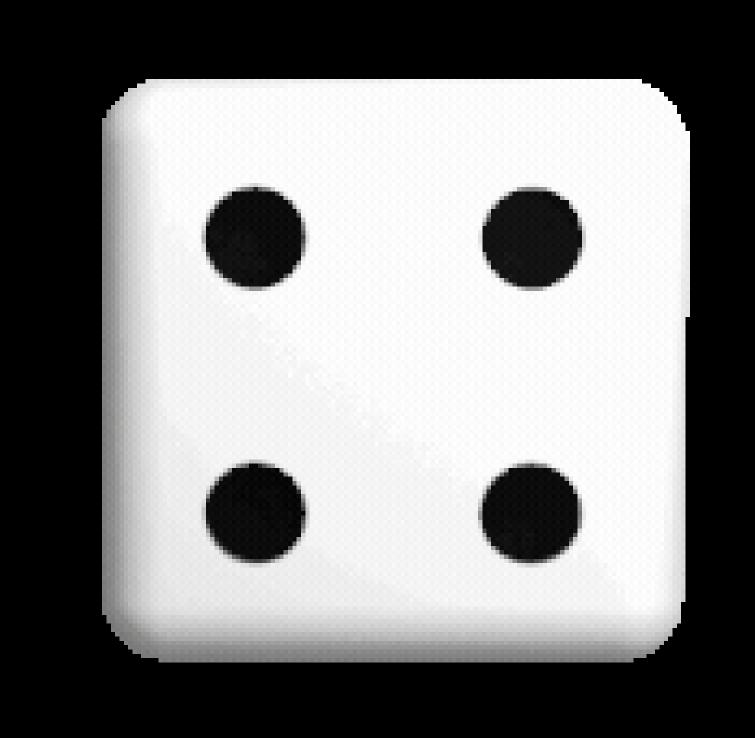
The Criminal Legal System

A study done by
the Vera Institute of
Justice shows that
Clark County has
increased the jail
budget by 36% since
the fiscal year of
2011



FY 2011
Annual Cost Per
Incarcerated Person
\$65,181

FY 2021
Annual Cost Per
Incarceration Person
\$100,560

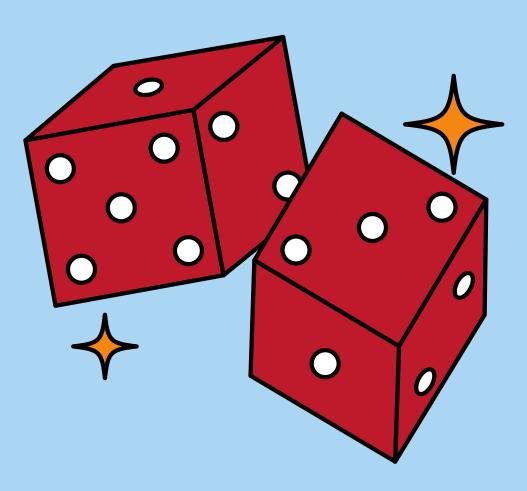












September 27, 2024

Las Vegas Recommending Committee Las Vegas City Hall 495 S. Main St Las Vegas, NV 89101

Re: Opposition to Bill No. 2024-29



4362 W. Cheyenne Ave. North Las Vegas, NV 89032 702-366-1226 aclunv.org The American Civil Liberties Union of Nevada is writing to express our deep concern over Bill No. 2024-29, which seeks to amend LVMC Chapter 10.86 by criminalizing camping, lodging, and similar activities in public rights-of-way. This ordinance, if passed, will cause significant harm to the most vulnerable members of our community while burdening the City of Las Vegas with unnecessary costs, legal exposure, and reputational damage.

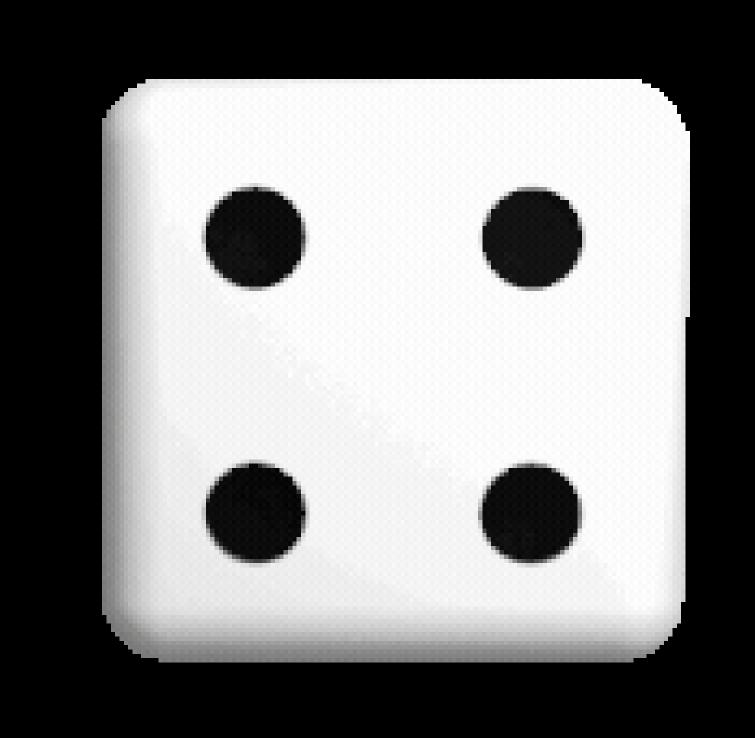
While the ACLU of Nevada understands the City's effort to maintain public order, this ordinance steps far beyond the bounds of City of Grants Pass v. Johnson. The United States Supreme Court ruled that the Grants Pass camping ordinance did not violate the Eighth Amendment's ban on cruel or unusual punishment, but it did not declare that such ordinances are entirely permissible or constitutionally valid. The proposed ordinance raises due process and equal protection concerns by explicitly targeting people experiencing homelessness for engaging in life sustaining activities. Not only does this risk subjecting the City to litigation, but it also risks personal liability for police officers who would be required to enforce this ordinance.

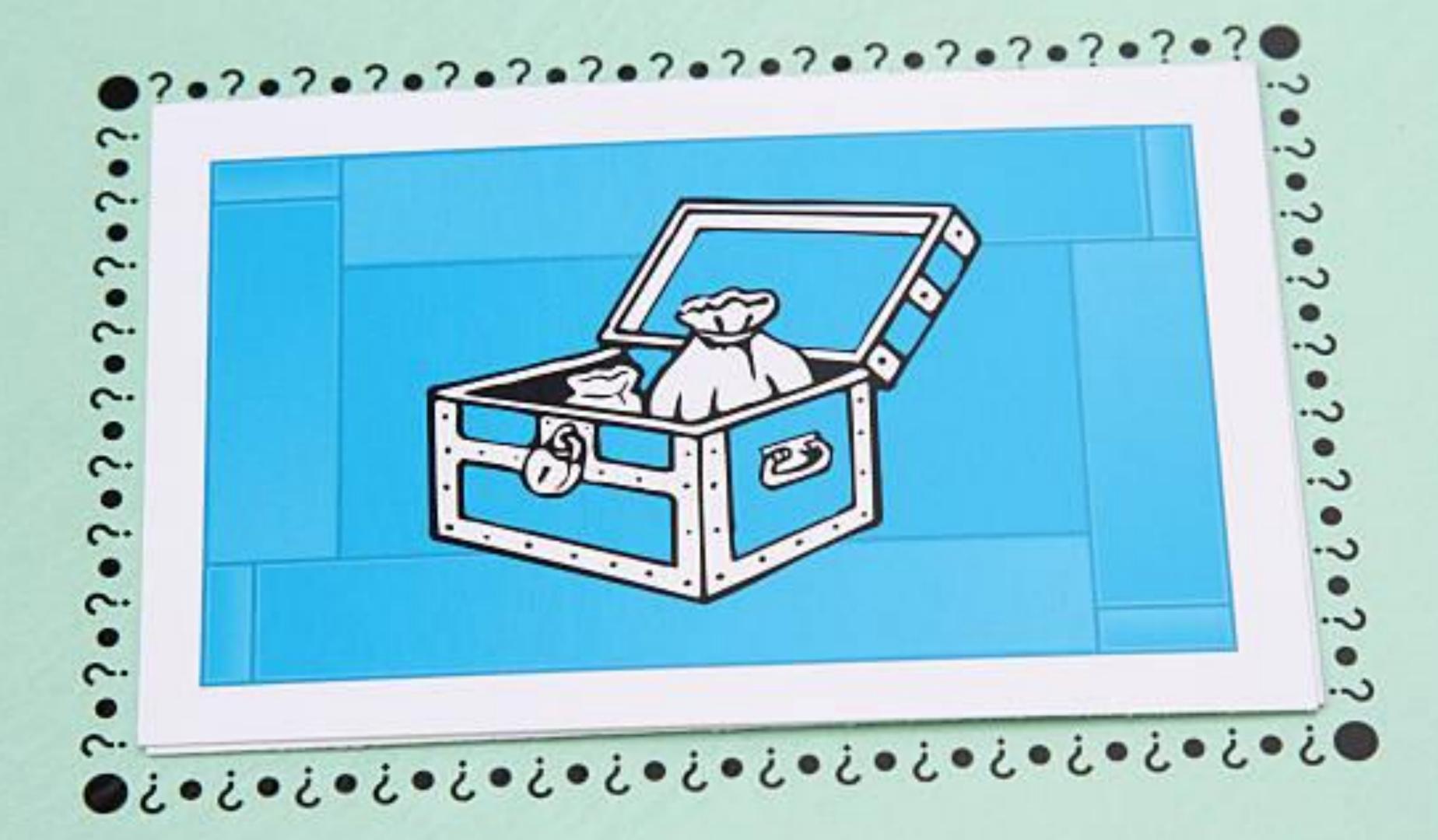
Law enforcement officers will be tasked with enforcing this ordinance on a case-by-case basis, leading to confusion and inconsistency. Officers will be required to determine, on the spot, whether a person falls into the newly created "unsheltered" class, whether they have been properly informed of available resources, and whether they can provide proof of a medical emergency or disability. This adds unnecessary complexity to police work, increase the risk of wrongful arrests, and opens the door to discriminatory enforcement. The confusions surrounding the ordinance's enforcement will not only lead to public mistrust but also expose the City to legal challenges.

Bill No. 2024-29 is not the solution to the issues faced by the City of Las Vegas. Criminalizing homelessness is not only morally wrong but also fiscally irresponsible and legally perilous. The Recommending Committee has the opportunity to reject this harmful ordinance and instead pursue policies that provide real solutions to homelessness, protect public health, and uphold the dignity of all Las Vegas residents. The ACLU of Nevada strongly advises voting against this ordinance.

Best, /s/ Kaylah Maese Civil Rights Analyst Kmaese@aclunv.org

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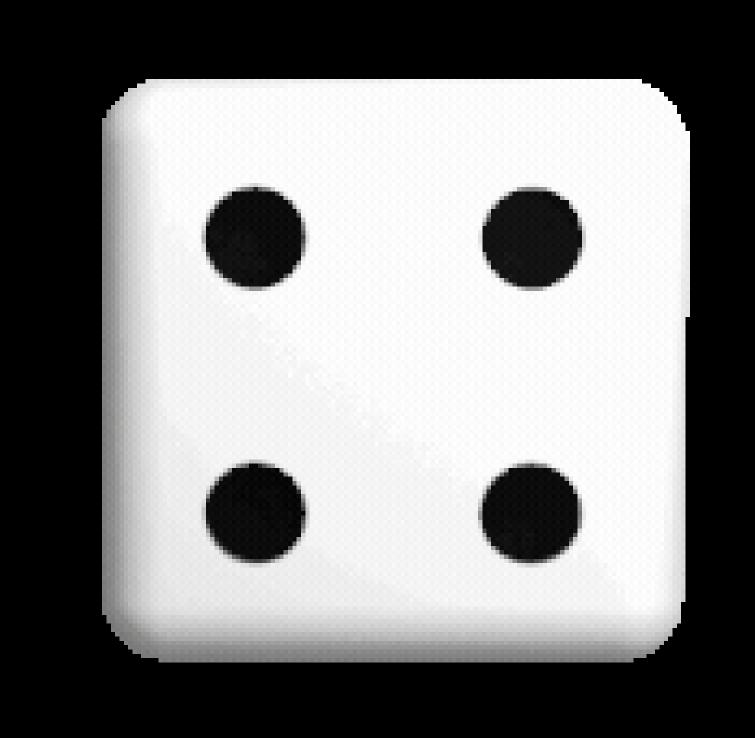






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Contact Us

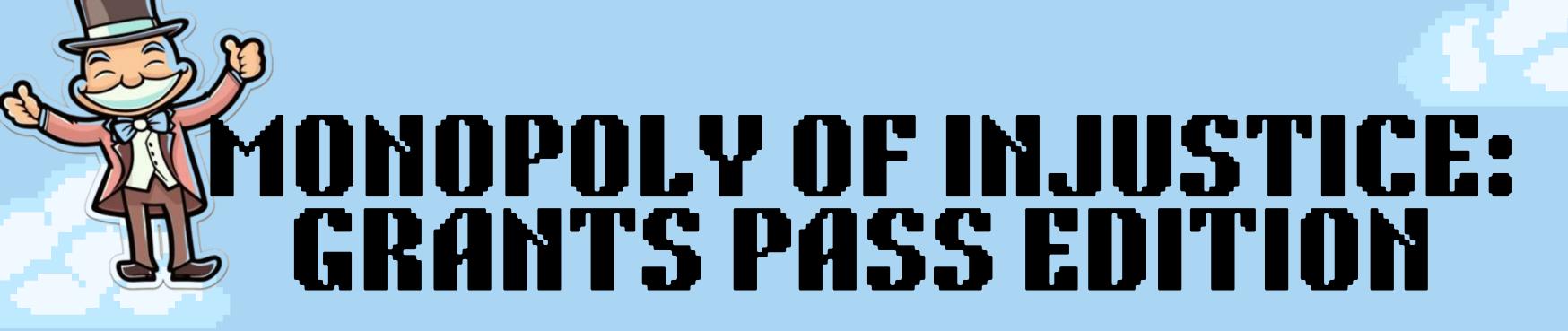


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