

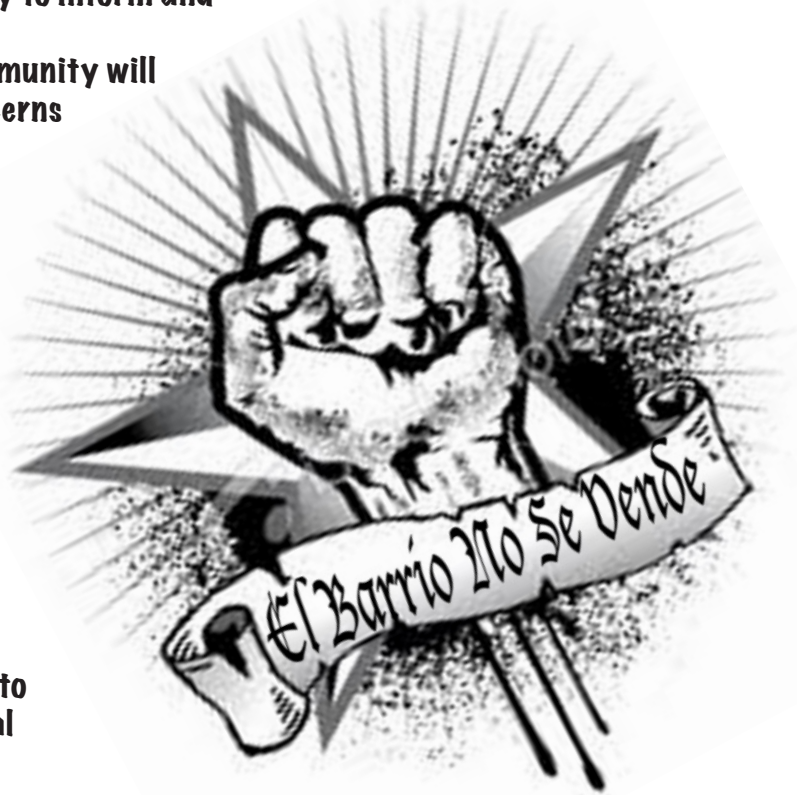
# DEFENDING COMMUNITY RIGHTS, UNITY, AND ACTIVISM

On Saturday, December 17, 2011, the Save Our Barrios Coalition (SOBC) held its end of the year retreat. The objectives of the retreat were to review its mission, analyze and evaluate past work, discuss current and pressing issues, and develop a calendar of events for the year 2012.

Founded in 2009, the SOBC has been one of the most active, community based groups in San Diego struggling against "gentrification" -a "process" where rich developers, in collusion with government officials, force residents out of their neighborhoods, redevelop the area, and re-sell the properties to outsiders, making millions and often billions of dollars in profits. The hardest hit victims of gentrification have historically been Mexican-Raza and African American communities.

After hours of discussion and dialogue, the SOBC concluded its retreat with the development of a series of actions and events to be held during year 2012. These included:

- Monthly outreach and leafleting sessions throughout Mexican-Raza and African American communities being targeted by corporations and corrupt government agencies for gentrification.
- A "Barrio Bike Tour" where we will invite all of the community to join us in a bike ride through the barrio as a way to inform and educate our communities.
- Several "Community Forums" where the community will have a space in which they can raise their concerns on how to improve the community without the destroying its heritage and eviction of long time residents.
- A "Walk Through The Barrio" with the objective of meeting the community and ensuring that they are aware of the illegal and racist policies being pushed by the rich corporations and sell out government officials.
- Barrio Congress where dozens of organizations doing anti-gentrification work will meet to learn and share with each other, as well as to produce democratic and community based positions on how to improve our community.
- "Community Cultural Fair" whose aim will be to unite the community by celebrating its cultural roots and diversity.



**EL BARRIO NO SE VENDE... SE DEFIENDE!**