

# Guide to the Black Lives Matter Collection

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### COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement was founded by activists Patrisse Cullors, Alicia Garza, and Opal Tometi in response to the murder of unarmed black teenager Trayvon Martin and the acquittal of his killer in July 2013. It has since become a rallying cry in the global struggle to end state-sanctioned violence against Black people. The movement exploded in the spring of 2020 with the killing of George Floyd on May 25 in Minneapolis, MN, and Breonna Taylor in Louisville, KY on March 13. Black Lives Matter sparked some of the largest protests in America's history, with between 15-26 million people participating in protests during their peak in the summer of 2020. This nationwide reckoning comes amidst a pandemic that has exposed the wounds inflicted by racial and socioeconomic injustice in the healthcare, criminal justice, housing, and political systems.

This collection contains materials relating to the Black Lives Matter movement in Ithaca and Tompkins County. Much of the material, including cardboard posters, video of speeches and performances, and handmade cloth masks, originates from protests held in the Bernie Milton Pavilion on the Ithaca Commons the summer of 2020. The collection also includes materials relating to the Ithaca Police Department and efforts to reform policing before 2020, including a timeline of BLM events from 2013-2016 and Community Police Board related minutes from 2010-2016.

The subject matter in this collection centers largely on racist policing and incarceration, both nationally and locally. The controversial slogans All Cops Are Bastards (ACAB) and Defund the Police are expressed throughout, as well as calls to 'Say Her Name' and, of course, 'Black Lives Matter.' Materials also focus on the intersection of BLM with other liberation movements, including feminism, immigration reform, and queer and trans rights. There is an emphasis in this collection on the particular racial dynamics and effects of unequal policing in Tompkins County, undermining a common narrative of Ithaca as a liberal safe haven.

## CONTAINER LIST

Physical Contents

Folders

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Painted Rock	Loose in box
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Leaflet included with every loaf sold at Wide Awake Bakery in June 2020	7
Petition to defund and demilitarize the police and to refund and rebuild community	7
Newspaper clippings about BLM protests in Tompkins County	8
Outline for term paper on local policy changes in Ithaca, NY in response to BLM movement	9
Case Study of #Black Lives Matter and Ithaca NY 2010 - 2016 written for term paper	9
Timeline of Events Related to BLM and the IPD 2013-2016	9

### ***Box 2: 17 Black Lives Matter Protest Posters***

Digital Contents – All available on THC server under the supervision of THC archival staff

***Twelve Videos from Three Different Protests in June 2020***

***Timeline of Events Related to Black Lives Matter and the Ithaca Police Department 2013-2016***

***Community Police Board Related Minutes Mentions Related to Black Lives Matter 2010-2016***