

WHO WE ARE

The Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) is the largest socialist organization in the U.S. with 85,000 members in hundreds of chapters around the country. We're a member-funded, member-led democratic organization that believes our society and economy should be run by people for the benefit of our communities, not to make profits for a few. We organize to weaken the power of corporations and the rich, and strengthen the power of poor and working people.

Our Mid-Hudson Valley chapter, which spans Orange, Dutchess and Ulster counties, is made up of nearly 400 members. We participate in mutual aid, fight for public power and climate justice, organize to abolish the carceral state, canvass for healthcare as a human right, support workplace organizing and fight against housing injustice.

More information at dsausa.org



DSA

Democratic Socialists of America



LEARN MORE

The MHV DSA is dedicated to mutual aid projects that benefit our Hudson Valley communities. Our goal is to build a network of neighborhood support based on a culture of trust, solidarity, and active anti-racism. We want to build a more equitable and just economy, dismantle systems of oppression, and create a society that gives its power and resources back to its people.

If you would like to learn more about the work we are doing, how to get involved, or have an idea for a community project, please be in touch!

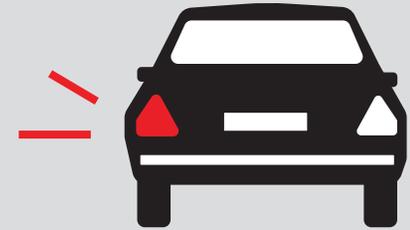
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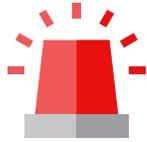


WHY FIX BRAKE LIGHTS?

A message from Mid-Hudson Valley Democratic Socialists of America



WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE POLICE PULL SOMEONE OVER **BECAUSE OF A BROKEN BRAKE LIGHT?**



Getting pulled over for a broken tail light is one of the most common reasons that people are forced to interact with the police. Because of rampant racial profiling, a traffic stop could be a simple annoyance for some, but a potentially life threatening situation for others. Small traffic infractions are often used as pretexts for unwarranted searches; to target individuals with harassment, expensive fines, court appearances, and arrests. An undocumented person could be detained or face deportation. In some cases— as with Philando Castile and Walter Scott— traffic stops for a broken brake light can lead to murder at the hands of the police.

THE BEST POLICE INTERACTION IS **NO POLICE INTERACTION.**

Our brake light clinics help avoid unnecessary interactions with the justice system by checking and repairing bulbs for our neighbors. We hold these clinics at different locations throughout the community, providing a simple fix for what could lead to much bigger problems.

IN NEW YORK STATE

there have been **1,938,220 TICKETS** issued in just **FOUR YEARS**, primarily for faulty brake lights

From 2016-2019:



-  **1384 TICKETS** were issued in **Poughkeepsie**
-  **3982 TICKETS** were issued in **Newburgh**
-  **2523 TICKETS** were issued in **Kingston**

1,127 POLICE MURDERS IN THE U.S. IN 2020



120 police murders resulting from traffic stops

OUR POLICING AND PRISON SYSTEMS ARE **DEEPLY UNJUST**

1,127 people were killed by police in 2020. **120** of those people were killed after police stopped them for a traffic violation.¹

Our country has a militarized police force that incarcerates its citizens for petty offences in order to perpetuate an authoritarian state. In the U.S. there are **2.3 million** people behind bars and **4.5 million** people on parole or probation.² Instead of confronting the underlying issues of poverty and racial oppression that lead individuals to be targeted by the justice system, our prison system continues to grow.

As the Democratic Socialists of America, we stand against police violence and mass incarceration. By changing brake lights for free, we aim to take small but significant action to protect one another from state-sanctioned violence at the hands of the police. We want the brake light clinics to start a conversation in our communities about our police and prisons, to get us thinking and organizing together for a democratic, equitable system that respects the freedoms of every individual.

1. [policeviolencereport.org](https://www.policeviolencereport.org)

2. www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/pie2020.html