

The METROWEST DAILY NEWS

No fans of the Donald

By James Mattone/Daily News Correspondent

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BOSTON – Chanting “Love Trumps Hate,” and “Black Lives Matter,” area college students descended on the Statehouse to protest the results of the national election some three hours after President-elect Donald Trump gave his victory speech.

“Nobody said that this would be easy,” said Colin Jenkins, a sophomore from the Berklee College of Music while standing near Statehouse steps. “You don’t get peace in America overnight. But I am happy that I was involved with this rally, because this is the first step. And we take one step at a time to a peaceful and happier future.”

Jenkins was one of many students who spoke up during the small rally, which included songs from the musicals “Hamilton” and “Rent.”

Among those listening was Anthony Burnham, a counselor who began working with heroin addicts after he overcame his addiction.

“Because I was given that privilege (as a white male), I want to use it to uplift other’s voices,” said Burnham.

Later Wednesday, another peaceful demonstration took place cross the street on Boston Common as several groups, from the Socialist Alternative, to the Mass Action Against Police Brutality and the Boston University Social Justice for Palestine organization, gathered around the Parkman Bandstand.

With over a thousand people flooding around the bandstand, Elan Axelbank, a member of Socialist Alternative, started directing human traffic with the help of a megaphone.

“Trump got elected last night, and he is a racist bigot. He is dangerous for our country, and his rhetoric is extremely dangerous and has the potential to give power to right-wing social movements on the ground. We need to stand against that,” said Axelbank before the rally.

Sabrina Barroso, a freshman from Suffolk University, helped the organizers keep non-speakers out of the bandstand, while also preparing to speak on behalf of the Student Immigrant Movement.

“It is a difficult situation for people of color, people who identify as immigrants, people who came here undocumented, people who are undocumented who came with visas before. So my organization is here today to say that, the perpetuated idea to harass people who don’t look like Trump’s typical supporter is not OK,” she said.

Toya Chester of the Socialist Alternative spoke right before the crowd mobilized across Boston, lashing out against the Democratic National Committee’s failed strategy to stop Trump.

“The DNC relied on the fear of Trump to get people out to vote, and that didn’t work,’ Chester told the crowd, her voice echoing out of the makeshift speakers as more anti-Trump chants broke out.

In an interview Chester said the rally was the first step toward the actual changing of the American government.

“We are tired of the status quo, we are tired of a system that allows a racist and a bigot to be elected, and we are ready to fight for actual change,” said Chester.

“The next step is building a party of working people, because the Democrats have proven they cannot defeat conservatives and the right like Donald Trump. So we need a party of our own people to do that.”



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