



Justice United's Mid-Year Report

Thank you! Your investment in our work this year has allowed Justice United to take action and win real, tangible change on the top issues and concerns in our county.

Across the nation, the COVID-19 epidemic and killings of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor unveiled what we have always known: that America is not working for all of us. It is working only for some of us at the expense of somebody else. In the midst of these crises Justice United leaders answered the call to build and exercise our collective power from the bottom up, and to begin to create a new political and economic reality that ensures equity for all.

Together over the last six months we have organized a series of public actions to address neglect and greed that have created dangerous conditions and rising rents at three local mobile home parks: some of the last affordable communities in our county. In the immediate aftermath of the murder of George Floyd, over 100 JU members showed up for a solidarity action at Piney Grove Missionary Baptist Church.

In March, our organization met to celebrate our successful, two year long campaign with the Orange County Board of Education which led to the district hiring 4x more African American teachers from 2018/19 to 2019/2020. In June, our organization supported Latino parents who took the initiative to defeat a plan to repurpose Elementary School Spanish teachers, who were often the only connection the parents had to the school. Instead, the Board of Education committed to hire half time bi-lingual family outreach coordinators in every Elementary School!

Justice United was founded 11 years ago to serve as a vehicle through which local congregations and associations could build their power and win change on their top concerns. We are proud to continue this tradition with you today.

Sincerely,

Justice United Strategy Team
Rev. Patty Hanneman, Chair



ocjusticeunited.org

ORANGE COUNTY JUSTICE UNITED ISSUE BRIEF

Campaign to Address Substandard Conditions at Local Mobile Home Parks

CAMPAIGN TIMELINE

In early 2020, leaders from three local mobile home parks began a campaign to organize their neighbors and take action through Justice United to address the following substandard conditions in their communities:

Mobile Home Park A: failing septic systems, unsafe trees, dangerous roads, and a rent increase;

Mobile Home Park B: inaccurate and excessive debts, failing well system, unresponsive management, and lack of trash service;

Mobile Home Park C: dangerous trees, monthly water shortages, septic system failures, and unresponsive management.

February

Mobile Home Park Residents Commit to Organize, Address Conditions

Over 90 residents from local mobile home parks attend tenant rights training and house meetings at St. Thomas More. Residents in each park organized at least 50% of their neighbors to take part in the campaign, and identified the priority concerns listed above.



April

Justice United votes to Support Residents, Campaign

Justice United leaders representing member institutions across Orange County vote at JU's April Internal Assembly to support the mobile home park resident leaders organizing to improve their communities.

JU leaders commit to deliver power (organized people) behind residents during their negotiations with the park owners, and also form a 20 person research team to conduct a power analysis and learn about the self interest of each park owner to aid residents in crafting their proposals.

June and July

Public Negotiations Begin with Park Owners

Mobile Home Park A Negotiations

Resident leaders led an action with the support of over 100 Justice United members that won commitments from company executives to:

- Survey and fix all septic system failures;
- Inspect trees monthly and remove diseased trees/limbs biannually (but immediate tree removal if tree is life-threatening);
- Deliver 300 tons of gravel to fix road and begin regularly maintaining drainage ditches;
- Ask CEO to meet with residents to negotiate about rent increase;
- Discuss employing residents for park infrastructure repairs.

Mobile Home Park B Negotiations

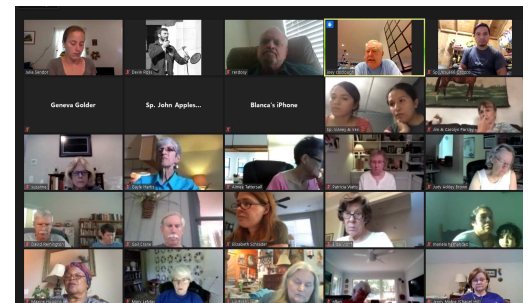
Over 50 Justice United members supported resident leaders who negotiated with their park owner and won:

- Cancellation of all residents' debt (a total of at least \$30,000!);
- Construction of a new well;
- Commitment to introduce residents to new owners after sale.

Mobile Home Park C Negotiations

Residents faced initial retaliation from park management and resistance from owners. They regrouped by writing a letter detailing the issues they wanted to resolve, and organized signatures from over half the park. Residents are now waiting for owners' response to the letter.

As park leaders were organizing their neighbors and contacting the owners, a planned rent hike was cancelled - which was the resident's top concern. Coincidence?



Resident leaders and 50 Justice United members negotiate with owner of Mobile Home Park B



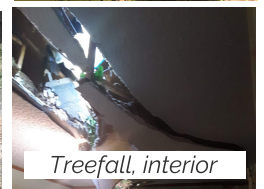
Dangerous potholes



Tree fallen on home



Failing septic field



Treefall, interior

Issues resolved (or commitments won to resolve) through organizing

Learn more at ocjusticeunited.org