

The Monthly Voice

September 2014 - ONE DC Newsletter

Greetings from ONE DC, Friend

The People's Platform Took it to the Wilson Building. Now, We're Taking It Even Further

We rallied outside the Wilson Building. We presented our list of [13 demands](#) to the city council. Now it's time to put the pressure on and make sure that our council representatives follow through on what we want for an equitable DC! Join us for the next People's Platform meeting this **Wednesday, October 1st at 6PM** and find out how we'll be taking action next! [RSVP Here](#)



We Will Not Wait For Displacement

By Ms. Phyllissa Bilal - Co-Founder, [Barry Farm Study Circle](#)
Testimony At The Zoning Commission, Addressing The Displacement Of Public Housing Residents

My name is Phyllissa Bilal and I am the cofounder of the Barry Farm Study Circle. Though I am the cofounder of BFSC I feel it necessary to present as a public housing resident in addition to cofounder of the Barry Farm Study Circle. Below I have included my accounts of causes to question the application to demolish the Barry Farm community due to violation of the basic human rights of residents in the community.

Soon after moving into the community in January of 2012 I found out the community was in the process of being redeveloped and my family would soon have to move. I thought how could management forget to share that with me prior to my move-in date? I sent an email to the project manager Reyna Alloro who called me and told me that I would not have to move for at least two years.

I would soon receive email invitations to project and planning meetings in the resident council office. These meetings led me to question the process even further. During this time I was volunteering for the resident council to take the minutes for meetings on the property. Ultimately I was questionably excused from the resident council. I started the Barry Farm Study Circle after testifying at the DCHA Counsel to try to get a better understanding of how this resident council was operating and attending meetings where the human rights, wants, needs and questions of residents were being completely ignored.

[Read Ms. Phylissa Bilal's full Testimony to the Zoning Commission](#)

Kalmanovitz Initiative Reflection

By Diondra Hicks, Kalmanovitz Initiative

My experience as a Kalmanovitz Initiative Summer Organizing Fellow with ONE DC was utterly amazing. It afforded me the opportunity to do meaningful work with very interesting people. I do not believe that most summer interns can arrive at their workplace as excited and eager to see what new endeavors the day will bring as I was this summer.

Each day of my internship I walked into work not really knowing what to expect. I learned that grassroots community organizing is a job in which you must be open-minded because anything can happen. New issues, people, and tasks are constantly being introduced and it takes a lot of time and knowledge to be able to effectively intertwine these seemingly distant pieces to create movements for change. So on our first day at ONE DC, Dominic instructed us to simply walk around the neighborhood and take note of what we observed. I was able to detect that the Shaw neighborhood had a deeply rooted history with Howard University, a colorful mural of Chuck Brown, and the infamous U Street corridor.

But I could also see the impeding emergence of gentrification in the neighborhood as many new, fanciful housing developments situated on the same blocks with aged townhouses and public housing facilities seemed largely out of place. Without a doubt, gentrification was changing and even erasing the physical culture and history of the Shaw neighborhood in ways as explicit as the displacement of many residents in the area. On day two of my internship, Reece said to me, "Millions of anonymous people is what history is about." This statement would prove to define a lot of the work I engaged in during my summer at ONE DC.

[Read more about Diondra's experience as a ONE DC intern](#)

Shaw Residents and Community Organizers Strategize to Stay in Their Neighborhood

By Brenda Hayes, [This Light: Sounds for Social Change](#)

In a town rife with Non-Profits that seemingly have all the answers for what ails longtime D.C. residents as they face gentrification-fueled displacement, ONE DC's July 26th meeting was a much needed breath of fresh air for me. I asked



permission to record the meeting for my radio show, This Light: Sounds For Social Change, thankfully permission was granted to me to do so.

The meeting opened with a visual recap of June's meeting. A 1950 to present timeline of redlining and economic cycles that lead to displacement hung on one of the walls. An adjacent wall held a visual that had the word "Concentrated Poverty" written in the center, surrounding those words were some of the commonly held beliefs about people who live in poverty; rampant drug abuse, crime, apathy.

[Read More of Brenda's reflection on From the Streets to the Rooftops](#)

ONE DC Organizer on DC Breakdown, Discussing Gentrification

Our very own Dominic Moulden joins Hughey Newsome on DC Breakdown, addressing gentrification and its effects on long-time DC residents.

[Watch the video here](#)

Welcoming Our Newest Community Organizer & Apprentice



Marybeth Onyeukwu is a migrant justice activist based in the DC area. Born in Nigeria she migrated to the United States at the age of two. She graduated from Valley Forge Christian College with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. Recently, she has been able to join the immigrant rights movement and is a proud Board member of the Black Alliance for Just Immigration. She helped launch D.C. Center for Immigrant Justice – a multiracial (un)documented people led organization dedicated to creating pro-migrant spaces, enacting pro-migrant legislation and creating tangible social change for immigrant communities in the Washington DC area. Currently she works as a Community Organizer for ONE DC, helping to advance a people-centered, progressive agenda that addresses the needs of long-time, low-income D.C. residents.

Email: monyeukwu@onedconline.org



Sylvie Lerner is a fourth-year Sociology major/ Spanish minor at American University. She is originally from Denver, CO. Sylvie spent the spring semester of her third year studying social movements in Mexico with the Mexico Solidarity Network. The last portion of the trip was spent in Mexico City, living with and learning from a radical housing justice movement. Sylvie is

grateful for the opportunity to be the co-leader of a winter alternative break trip back to Mexico City through the Center for Community Engagement and Service at AU. She is happy to be an organizing apprentice at ONE DC and to be able to learn from and walk with the most powerful leaders of Washington, DC, the people.

Job Opening: ONE DC Community Organizer

ONE DC is seeking a creative and dynamic individual with a proven track record to join the ONE DC team as a full-time Community Organizer for our Right to Income & Black Worker Center campaign. [See job posting and how to apply here](#)

Upcoming Events

Save the Date - People's Platform Freedom School 2014

October 25, 12-4pm, Location TBA

Learn the history of People's Platform, participate in skill-building activities, and discover connections between international movements for change at this year's Freedom School in DC!

[RSVP here](#)

World Zero Evictions Days and for the Defense of the Land

In October, we will stand with the global movement to end wrongful evictions.

We mobilize ourselves for the [World Zero Evictions Days And For The Defense Of The Land!](#)

Cooperative Clinic 2014

Saturday, October 4, 2014 from 9 am to 3:30 pm

Registration & Breakfast start at 8:30 am

Next Step Public Charter School: 3047 15th St NW

All Members of Housing Cooperatives in DC are invited to participate in the DC Co-op Clinic.

[Register Here](#)

Bring it! Youth Organizing Weekend, Oct 10-12

Registration is open and starting to fill up for the Bring It! Youth Organizing Weekend this year at Wayside Oct 10-12. If you have interns or young people in your life who might be interested, send them our way! The weekend is targeted at 18-24 year olds. [Register here](#)

ONE Bit of Good News

Urica Lewis, a long-time member, writes, "*You guys have always been in my heart & soul and on my mind. One DC has played a vital part of my grooming as a woman and Mother, and I sincerely appreciate and thank you all.*"

Asia is off to college. She graduated from Duke Ellington School of the Arts in June and now attending North Carolina Central University, majoring in Mass Communication. I am so very proud of her. I think I've put all I have into making sure her path guides her to a bright and fulfilling future. I have finally taken a deep breath.

My donation is a very small gift of thanks for all ONEDC has done for me mentally, spiritually & educationally. It's my divine duty to give back to this organization in any way possible. Again, I thank you."

We are all so very proud of Asia, and grateful to Urica, for giving of herself to our community.

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ONE DC · 614 S Street Northwest, Carriage House in Rear, Washington, DC 20001, United States

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