

# The Monthly Voice

February 2015 - ONE DC Newsletter

---

*"Anytime you see a turtle up on top of a fence post, you know he had some help."*

-Alex Haley (African-American Pulitzer Prize-winning author of "Roots")

---

## Greetings from ONE DC, Friend

During Black History Month, we come together to honor the work that has been done and also, to organize for the future. In this month of commemoration, we not only celebrate the historical achievements of the Black struggle, but we also remember that certain people are still targeted today. In February we remember that Black Lives Matter, not only during this month, but 365 days a year.

#BlackLivesMatter

---

## Fueled by reflections from the ONE DC Freedom School, residents testify at a Zoning Commission Hearing

By Caroline Hennessy

On January 22nd, [residents of Congress Heights fought back against development](#) aimed to line the pockets of one of the largest slumlords in the District. The development project seeks to displace families with the intention of capitalizing on their conveniently located homes near the metro station, demolish 5 rent-controlled buildings, and eliminate an affordability requirement intended to keep eleven units accessible to low-income families.

At a hearing before the Zoning Commission, one after another residents testified to the deplorable conditions they have been continuously subjected to, and expressed their sentiments that "these slumlords do not deserve to be granted this new property." **Alternative forms of inclusive development were put forth as well: "I would like to see a housing co-op for our buildings" stated one resident.** Ultimately, the project was not approved for the time being due to the articulately expressed concerns and ideas of residents, community members, and organizers of ONE DC.

The strength that tenants displayed at the hearing, and their ability to stand up and speak the truth regarding the devastating realities of the current development model for poor black DC residents, was due in no small part to a change in perspective after becoming involved with ONE DC. In December, a

group of residents from Congress Heights attended a **Freedom School** organized by **ONE DC**.

[Continuing reading about the Freedom School here](#)

---

## **Barry Farm Organizers Deliver Demands to DC City Council Chairperson Mendelson and City Administrator Rashad Young**

Barry Farm Study Circle, Barry Farm Tenants and Allies Association, [Empower DC](#), and ONE DC continue to fight to preserve the history of Barry Farm and stop displacement of public housing residents. Barry Farm organizers [presented their demands](#) to DC City Council Chairperson Phil Mendelson and City Administrator Rashad Young. Our next meeting will take place on \_\_\_\_\_ with Chairperson Mendelson, the Director of DC Housing Authority, and the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development.



Barry Farm organizers also "educated" DC City Council Chairperson Mendelson on the "myths" of deconcentration of poverty. [Check out a few articles for yourself](#). Happy reading!

---

## **In Solidarity: Maya Angelou Cooperative is Accepting Applications for Homeownership Units**

Buy into the Maya Angelou Cooperative and own an affordable coop unit in a vibrant community of long-time residents who purchased their 9-unit building in July 2014 and are committed to affordable homeownership in their Marshall Heights neighborhood (Ward 7). The coop will undergo renovations during February-April 2015 including: new roof, all new windows, new individual furnaces and air conditioners, new flooring, appliances, and lighting. The Coop will begin selecting new members as early as February 2015, so submit your application as soon as possible.

[Click here for more information](#)

---

## **People's Platform Members Attend Weekend Strategy Retreat**



[Join us March 4th to find out what's next for the People's Platform!](#)

---

## **In Solidarity: DCFerguson and ONE DC Take A Stand Against "Jump-Outs"**

The DCFerguson movement and the residents of Washington, D.C. demand that D.C. City Council immediately pass a resolution taking a stand against the use of "Jump-Out" squads, a racially biased form of policing. "Jump-Outs" are a paramilitary tactic in which unmarked police vehicles carry 3 or more officers not wearing the standard police uniform. Their objective is to stop and intimidate ordinary citizens into submitting to interrogation or an unwarranted search. This kind of militarized tactic that criminalizes entire communities and creates end-runs around our constitutional rights should stop immediately.

[Sign the Petition Here](#)

---

## **Upcoming Events**

### **RSVP Today for the 2015 Annual Membership Meeting**

#### **2015 Annual Membership Meeting**

African American  
Civil War Museum  
1925 Vermont Ave NW  
U St Metro Stop/90/92/96/53

**Saturday**

**3.28.15**

**2:00 PM – 5:00 PM**

RSVP: [onedconline.org/annualmtg](http://onedconline.org/annualmtg) - [organizer@onedconline.org](mailto:organizer@onedconline.org) -  
202.232.2915

**ONE DC**  
ORGANIZING NEIGHBORHOOD EQUITY

[RSVP Here](#)

[Membership dues](#) are used to build a people's movement funded by the

people.

Join the planning committee! For more info, email Claire at [ccook@onedconline.org](mailto:ccook@onedconline.org)

## Equitable Development in DC: Sustainability from Below

ONE DC and The George Washington University invite you to attend our second annual equitable development conference. “**Equitable Development in DC: Sustainability from Below**” will bring together residents of neighborhoods throughout Washington, DC, organizers, students, scholars, elected officials, and others who are engaged in efforts to create sustainable equitable grassroots development and more opportunities for wealth accumulation for residents of traditionally underserved communities, many of whom are experiencing rapid gentrification and displacement.

**When:** Thursday, March 26 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

**Where:** The Marvin Center Grand Ballroom 800 21st Street  
Northwest Washington, DC 20052

ONE DC's needs 4 to 5 members to volunteer at the Equitable Development Conference on March 26th. Please contact Dominic at [dmoulden@onedconline.org](mailto:dmoulden@onedconline.org)

[RSVP Here](#)

~ SAVE THE DATE ~

**Equitable Development in DC:  
Sustainability from Below**

2nd Annual Conference  
Thursday, March 26, 2015

ONE DC and George Washington University are joining forces for their second annual conference on equitable development in Washington DC on March 26, 2015. To be held on the campus of George Washington University, **Equitable Development in DC: Sustainability from Below** will bring together residents of neighborhoods throughout Washington DC, organizers, students, scholars, elected officials, and others who are engaged in efforts to create sustainable equitable grassroots development, and more opportunities for wealth accumulation for residents of traditionally underserved communities, many of whom are experiencing rapid gentrification and displacement.

**Mindy Fullilove**, Professor of Clinical Psychiatry at Columbia University and author of several books including *Root Shock: How Tearing Up Cities Affects America and What We Can Do About It* and *Urban Alchemy: Restoring Joy in America's Sorest-Out Cities*, will deliver the keynote address. Two panel discussions and a working lunch will follow to provide discussion—and debate—about national strategies and local initiatives to practice democratic economics in our communities, including living wage jobs, affordable housing, social entrepreneurship, and cooperative economic strategies. The goal is to stimulate action to create the communities we envision.

The mood in the room at last year's conference was truly electric with participants and attendees engaging in intense conversation hours after the formal proceedings concluded. We anticipate this annual conference will become a national model for participatory action research led by and with the community, networking, and activism for equitable sustainable development principles and practice. Join with ONE DC, other community organizers and scholar-activists to create vibrant, sustainable, community-owned and controlled neighborhoods!

---

## ONE Bit of Good News - Organizers to Receive BOLD Training

ONE DC Organizers Marybeth Onyeukwu and Jennifer Bryant were selected for **BOLD - Black Organizing for Leadership and Dignity**. BOLD's mission is to increase infrastructure in Black-led base-building organizations thereby increasing knowledge, skills and performance of Black organizers, directors and leaders. [Click here to donate toward training & travel fees.](#)

---

## ONE DC Welcomes Eli White, Our New Intern

Eli White is Sociology major and Community Development minor, currently in his senior year at Howard University. Eli is a first generation college student and developed an interest in the advancement of the black community at a young age. After he graduates from Howard in May, he would like to attain his Masters degree in Education. He is eager to gain a better understanding of community organizing in addition to the objectives and projects that ONE DC is involved in.



[Donate to the Movement Today](#)

[Become a Member](#)

[Become a Sustaining Donor](#)

[Volunteer](#)

**Membership dues and donations are used to build a people's movement funded by the people.** Join ONE DC and support us in building power with long time DC residents to organize for an equitable city.

Do you want to be a writer or editor for the *Monthly Voice*? Email [organizer@onedconline.org](mailto:organizer@onedconline.org)

ONE DC · 614 S Street Northwest, Carriage House in Rear, Washington, DC 20001, United States  
This email was sent to [organizer@onedconline.org](mailto:organizer@onedconline.org). To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).  
You can also keep up with ONE DC on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#).