

The Monthly Voice

August 2016 - ONE DC Newsletter

"We must shake our conscience free of the rapacious capitalism, racism and patriarchy that will only ensure our own self-destruction." - [Berta Caceres](#)

****An earlier version of our newsletter incorrectly identified Ms. Cheryl Brunson of Brookland Manor as Adriann Borum. We apologize for this error.**

Brookland Manor Families & ONE DC File Lawsuit Against Mid-City; Residents Organize Against Displacement, Harassment, & Intimidation



Brookland Manor resident Cheryl Brunson speaks at the press conference on August 25, 2016

As you have heard, the proposed redevelopment of Brookland Manor will eliminate and reduce family-sized housing for nearly 150 families. This redevelopment will eliminate significant affordable family sized housing in the Brentwood neighborhood and force ONE DC members and residents to move from the community in which they have long resided and which they call home. The exclusion of these families from Brookland Manor destroys their community and will disrupt their children's education and the networks of services and supports that many residents rely on. Medical doctor Mindy Fullilove calls this health condition "root shock"—a phenomena which tears up primarily Black working class communities. ONE DC's organizing is designed to resist these conditions, and our legal team supports us in these efforts.

The developers wrote to the tenants that large families must be excluded from the redeveloped property because large families are "not consistent with the creation of a vibrant new community." They justified the negative impact that the elimination of large units would have on families by telling the Zoning

Commission that “housing very large families in apartment complexes is significantly impactful upon the quality of life of households as well as their surrounding neighbors.” These statements reflect a hostility towards families that violates both federal and District of Columbia Fair Housing laws, which prohibit discrimination based on one’s familial status. ONE DC supports our legal team through our organizing to make “the developers obey the law.” If the residents and ONE DC members don’t make the developers obey the Fair Housing laws, they will violate them. We join the families of Brookland Manor who are bringing this lawsuit in demanding that the developer obey the Fair Housing laws!

Our members and our legal team support the choice of Brookland Manor residents to have a large family or a small one, to live with multiple generations or to live alone which is protected by law. [Click here to read Dominic Moulden's full remarks from the press conference.](#)

Media Coverage of Brookland Manor

[The Mysterious Private Police Force That’s Killing People In The Nation’s Capital](#) Carimah Townes, Think Progress, August 31

[DC Residents File Housing Lawsuit Against Developer](#) Mark Segraves, NBC4 Washington, August 26

[D.C. Developers Accused of Pushing Out Poor](#), Britain Eakin, Courthouse News Service, August 26

[Brookland Residents Sue Owner Of Massive Complex Over Redevelopment Plans](#), Rachel Sadon, DCist, August 25

[Northeast Tenants Sue Owner for Alleged Discrimination](#), Andrew Giambrone, Washington City Paper, August 25

[As the nation’s capital booms, poor tenants face eviction over as little as \\$25](#) Terrence McCoy, Washington Post, August 8

A Reflection on Black August & Organizing with ONE DC

By Paige DeLoach, ONE DC Intern, Cornell University

During the last week of my summer internship with ONE DC, I received an email from Dominic Moulden advertising Black August, a BYP100 and BLM-DC month long event. Black August is described as “a month of rest from, reflection on, and recommitment to our decades long struggle.” Rest from the struggle, reflection on the struggle, recommitment to the struggle. **An August that is Black like me. A struggle that is mine.**

Black August is so necessary. So often, people fighting the essential fights do not recognize their work as continued exposure to trauma. Black people face constant assaults on our personhood and our integrity. **We fight for the right to inhabit our bodies, to be in charge of them, to protect and treasure them.**



This specific kind of fight, against racism and mistreatment, requires us to confront triggering experiences, possibly even share and relive them, so that others see the validity of this plight. But when we must use these experiences as fuel, we are denied the chance to heal.

Black people are familiar with burnout. Black people are familiar with wounds that are cut open every day. Burnout is full of rage, hopelessness, weariness a type of emptiness that is very hard to shake. Through my internship, I hoped to fight for and with those too burnt out to fight alone. I wanted to take part in fighting for the rights of Black people in my community. I wanted to build power, to provide support, to give solidarity. I wanted to give people the chance to heal.

My work at ONE DC taught me how to work for and with others, how to be an active citizen in the creation of public policy, and how a nonprofit organization can help create positive and sustainable change from within a community. I met Angela Davis and Barbara Ransby; I was part of a DC artist's inner circle for a night; I yelled at city officials; I protested.

As I look back to where I was and all ONE DC accomplished this summer, the one fact I know is that ONE DC gave me the chance to heal, because I was in need of the solidarity I was trying to provide. **My rest from the struggle involved joining the struggle of others, and realizing that as I fight for others I fight for myself. We fight for one another to assure ourselves we are not helpless or hopeless, but that within us lies the power to change our world.** Spaces like ONE DC and Black

August are essential to our survival, because when we come together, we lift one another up we save each other.

As I return to school, I know that transitioning back to a primarily white institution will be difficult, but I am not afraid. More than anything, I am grateful to every person I met through ONE DC this summer, who helped me heal: you have made all the difference. More than anything, I am eager to come from this period of rest and reflection recommitted to the struggle. More than anything, I am ready.

"Who made us forget our past? Who can make us forget that we come from a long legacy of organizers, thinkers, and doers who understood that the fight can be long, it can be hard, but it can be won?"

Watch Video from ONE DC 10th Anniversary Juneteenth Celebration

Thank you to ONE DC member Paul Abowd for filming our 10th Anniversary Juneteenth Celebration! [Click here to watch & share video of the event](#), including the community dialogue with Dr. Angela Davis & Dr. Barbara Ransby.



[And don't forget to make your 10th Anniversary donation to ONE DC!](#)

Black Workers Continue Building Community Power in DC

Artist [Edgar Reyes](#) works with members to complete mural for new Black Workers Center space



Join Jobs with Justice in #BlackWorkMatters Twitter Town Hall September 1st, 2:00 - 3:00 PM



Share your story, experience, and thoughts on #BlackWorkMatters tomorrow from 2-3 PM and throughout Labor Day weekend.

- What would our country look like if Black lives mattered in our employment and economic systems?
- What are the biggest opportunities right now for Black communities to organize and win economic justice fights?

For additional questions and info, email powerfularethe proactive@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

Black Workers Center Meeting

Thursday, September 15 - 6:00 PM

United Black Fund - 2500 MLK Jr Ave SE

To challenge chronic black unemployment and underemployment, we must understand how race & work intersect while creating spaces where Black workers can create their own opportunities for training, employment, and worker ownership.

[Click here to RSVP](#)

ONE DC Admin & Organizational Management Committee

Tuesday, September 27 - 6:00 PM

ONE DC Office - 614 S St NW, Carriage House

Admin Committee meets monthly to identify what tasks need to be completed that month, assign tasks to members, & discuss long-term committee strategy. Committee oversees some of the following:

- Writing regular blog posts or taking photos for the website
- Website design & maintenance
- Social media strategy
- Monthly enewsletter & email blasts
- Maintaining member & donor database
- Reorganizing & archiving ONE DC documents to preserve our community learning & organizing history
- Strategic Planning

[Click here to RSVP](#)

ONE DC Bit of Good News - Upcoming Walking Tour Part of "What's Going On: Voices of Shaw"

Shaw Community Social Justice Walking Tour



Thursday, September 29 - 6:00 PM

Meet at ONE DC office - 614 S St NW, Carriage House

ONE DC invites you to engage with us in a conversation and community learning process about displacement and resistance in DC, and how we organize for equitable development. ONE DC will show you the physical side of

gentrification in the Shaw neighborhood and discuss its effects on the community, along with stories of how ONE DC organizes with residents to stand up for community-led, equitable development. Participants will have the opportunity to raise and discuss questions together, as well as tie learned experience to the Shaw story and context. We will explore the interconnectedness of the right to housing, the right to income, and the right to wellness. Participants will walk a little less than 1 mile total. Depending on questions and reflections, tour lasts about 75-90 minutes. We are presenting this tour free to residents as part of "What's Going On: Voices of Shaw," a public art project that examines and celebrates the micro-cultures of Shaw through the voices and diverse lens of the community. [For more info or to submit your own project, click here.](#) We welcome [donations](#) to support the organizing work of ONE DC.

[Space is limited. Click here to RSVP.](#)

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