

THE MONTHLY VOICE

ONE DC Newsletter
January 2021

“A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death.”

"And one day we must ask the question, 'Why are there forty million poor people in America?' And when you begin to ask that question, you are raising questions about the economic system, about a broader distribution of wealth.”

“Philanthropy is commendable, but it must not cause the philanthropist to overlook the circumstances of economic injustice which make philanthropy necessary.”

-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Take Action - Call Incoming HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge to Cancel Rent!



Today, Thursday January 28th, is incoming U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Marcia Fudge’s Senate **confirmation hearing**, which means Marcia Fudge is about to have the power to protect working families who are struggling across the country to stay in our homes.

12 million people across the U.S. are behind an average of \$5,000 each on our rents. That ain't right. We need to demand more of the new HUD leadership who hold the power to decide how Biden's eviction moratorium extension rolls out. To prevent an eviction disaster and the public health crisis that would come with it, we need immediate action that provides full debt relief NOW.

[Will you call Marcia Fudge and tell her to stop evictions and cancel rent and mortgage debt today?](#)

Cancel Rent DC Coalition is Hiring a Coordinator

Cancel Rent DC is a growing coalition of 11 community organizations, representing thousands of District residents, united to prevent mass eviction and displacement of long-time residents from the District, especially Black and Brown residents, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. As DC faces a looming crisis in hunger, homelessness, and eviction, many tenants are struggling to make ends meet. We believe no one in our city should be made homeless or face crippling debt as the result of a global health emergency. Cancel Rent DC is seeking a Coalition Coordinator for the Cancel Rent DC campaign. The Cancel Rent DC Coalition Coordinator will work closely with organizers from Coalition organizations, and will receive direction and guidance from seasoned organizers. For this position, Cancel Rent DC will give priority to candidates who either have the ability to speak Spanish or Amharic and/or have experience in housing policy or with housing insecurity in Washington, DC.

[Click for details and how to apply.](#)

Community Announcements

#PardontheGarden: Save the Culture, Save the Green Space in DC!

Recently, lawyers for the real estate mega-developer Douglas Jemal (who was just pardoned by former President Donald Trump) gave notice that The Secret Garden in Washington, D.C.'s Anacostia neighborhood had to go.

Representatives claimed that the 3,900 square foot community outdoor concert stage, beehive, and green space actually belonged to Mr. Jemal. But since 2010, our neighborhood businesses, including WEACTION Radio, Check It Enterprises and the Go-Go Museum & Cafe, rescued the space that has been abandoned for decades. Our community transformed the space into a popular Anacostia landmark that hosts concerts, wakes, community meetings and pop-up shops. The garden is ours. This is not a fair fight. We don't have Mr. Jemal's political connections, or his deep pockets for legal fees. Mr. Jemal got a pardon. The Garden deserves a pardon, too. Please sign this petition to ask Mr. Jemal to do the right thing and let us keep what rightfully belongs to us.

#PardontheGarden.

[Sign the petition](#)

[DC Cares](#) finally launched and DC residents who were released from prison or jail during the pandemic (since March 11) are eligible for one-time \$1,000 payments. Applicants must provide documentation of their identify, their DC residency, and their release from incarceration during the pandemic.

Release papers from DOC and CSOSA's CMV letters will both be accepted. People who have experienced income loss during the pandemic and are either immigrants without work authorization or people who work for cash or in the informal economy (for example - street vending, domestic work, day labor) are also eligible.

[Click here for application](#)

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Right to Income Committee Meeting

We meet every other Thursday at 6:30 PM EST. If you are interested in joining, please contact Jokebed at jmorinvil@onedconline.org or Kelly at kiradukunda@onedconline.org.

[Upcoming meeting dates:](#)

Thursday, January 28

Thursday, February 11

Right to Housing Committee Meeting

Thursday, February 4 - 6:30 PM

[RSVP here](#)

D.C. Area Black Lives Matter at School Year of Purpose and Week of Action

From February 1-5, 2021, Teaching for Change's D.C. Area Educators for Social Justice will host the fourth annual D.C. Area Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action. This week of action will be built on the momentum of past local weeks of action and the National Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action campaign taking place in cities across the U.S. to promote a set of national demands based in the Black Lives Matter guiding principles that focus on improving the school experience for students of color.

[More info here](#)

Walter Rodney and the Struggle for Global Justice

February 2 - 3:00-4:15 PM

Sponsored by the Antiracist Research and Policy Center, the Department of Critical Race, Gender, and Culture Studies, and the AU Women's Initiative As part of the Thinking Freedom from the Global South event series, SIS professor Randolph Persaud will examine Walter Rodney's contributions to subaltern critical political economy and the general politics of decolonization. He will give specific attention to the transnational character of Rodney's work and to the central role of violent racism in the emergence and reproduction of global capitalism. Professor Persaud also will compare Rodney's work with that of Frantz Fanon.

[Register here](#)

Save the Hampton House: National Gala

February 11 - 8:30-10:00PM EST

Hosted by: Community Ready Corps Allies and Accomplices in service to the

Black Solidarity Fund

This event will feature Mother Comrade Akua Njeri and Chairman Fred Hampton Jr., in conversation with Oakland City Councilmember Carroll Fife and Field Marshal Tur-Ha Ak. They will discuss Black Panther politics and organizing, the State repression they've survived, and the resilience that keeps them doing the work.

[Register here](#)

ONE Bit of Good News - VOICI Chocolate City Streetwear to support ONE DC

[VOICI \(@voici\)](#) is a Black-owned streetwear brand based out of the DMV that creates clothing and content that is personalized to the DMV community and the stories that people from here have to tell.



[Chocolate City](#) was created to tell the story Black culture in D.C. that is quickly disappearing due to gentrification. We want to amplify the voice of the Black community and bring back the story of Chocolate City which gave birth to a culture that we feed off today. We want to tell the story of the U Street Corridor so that people understand why it was once called "Black Broadway". It is our hope that through Chocolate City, the current generation of youth come to see the devastating effects that gentrification and racism have had on our own D.C. community and that we find it within ourselves to take responsibility for what is going on, to make a change. We want Chocolate City to serve as a constant reminder to our audience that we can not wait for change. "We are the ones we've been waiting for" - June Jordan

We are partnering with ONE DC because we believe that the centerpiece of keeping Chocolate City alive is fighting against gentrification and inequality in D.C. For over 20 years ONE DC has supported these issues unlike any organization or business in D.C. by working to build more affordable housing for the Black community and providing a platform for their stories to be heard. **In an effort to aid in telling these stories we will be donating 60% of the profits from the sales of our VOICI Chocolate City Sweatsuits, VOICI Chocolate City Hoodies, Chocolate City Pants, and VOICI Chocolate City Tees to ONE DC.**

Thank you VOICI for your support and [visit their shop](#) to support ONE DC!

[You can find past editions of the Monthly Voice here.](#)

Do you want to be a writer, editor, or designer for the ONE DC *Monthly Voice*?

Email organizer@onedconline.org

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