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OUR STORY

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In 2017, we began hosting a number of different workshops aimed at helping our vendors develop skills beyond writing for our newspaper. On any given day, our vendors are illustrating, painting, recording podcasts, taking photos, rehearsing plays, organizing advocacy groups, and coming together as a community.

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ran
workshops
in 2025**

**Last year, artists/vendors
performed a self-written
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and joined a new
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**We publish vendor art and
writing every week!**

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COVER DESIGN BY ARISHA SHUMAEL



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NEWS BRIEF

Council budget revisions bring hope to homelessness services, no new vouchers

AUBREY BUTTERFIELD

Editorial Intern



Following weeks of debate and outrage over proposed cuts to homeless services in Mayor Muriel Bowser's budget, advocates got some good news.

On May 21, Ward 3 Councilmember Matthew Frumin, who chairs the D.C. Council Human Services Committee, announced boosts to funding in the city's Department of Human Services (DHS). Frumin's

committee faced a proposed \$130 million cut in Bowser's fiscal year 2027 budget, but found funding to increase capacity at non-congregate shelters, support domestic violence and youth services, and finance key homelessness services in the District. The budget goes to the full council this month.

"I can say with confidence that the committee budget we are voting on today represents our best work," Frumin said at the committee's May 21 hearing. "I am incredibly grateful to my colleagues for their spirit of collaboration and their care for our most vulnerable neighbors."

While Bowser's proposed budget included \$25 million to construct a third non-congregate shelter, the process could take years. In response to concerns about capacity in the meantime, Frumin's team put forward a plan to add beds at the Aston. The Aston, which had been capped at 100 beds due to a Good Neighbor Protocol working to improve the safety and success of the shelter, is expected to gain up to 90 beds under the budget's \$1.56 million boost.

In a May 27 council-wide budget meeting, councilmembers said it's possible not all 190 beds would be filled, noting that the addition of beds in single-occupancy units can be harmful to those who need private units. The council hopes to ensure those who need a private unit continue to receive one.

In the meantime, DHS is looking for an appropriate site for the new non-congregate shelter, which is expected to house 100 residents and be completed in the coming years.

Frumin's budget addressed repeated concerns about cuts to crucial services targeting victims of domestic violence and at-risk youth experiencing homelessness. His proposed budget would reinstate funding for youth service providers — particularly to extend transitional housing — totalling \$1.5 million, as well as reverse the projected \$500,000 cut to domestic violence services. Other programs highlighted by the public will also regain their funding, including day centers at Everyone Home D.C., Sasha Bruce Youthwork, and Friendship House's AimHire program. The proposal also added one employee to the Interagency Council on Homelessness.

Another program cut facing backlash was Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), which lost \$11 million in funding for employment and cash assistance programs in Bowser's proposed budget, and will see cuts to benefits over the next few years. After public testimony, Frumin and his team announced subtitles expanding eligibility for single residents in their second trimester of pregnancy, as well as broader eligibility for the domestic violence and disability-centered Program on Work, Employment, and Responsibility (POWER) subprogram.

TANF is still in need of \$20.5 million to delay proposed changes to the program, which is set to leave many without benefits by next October.

Though other programs got a boost, housing vouchers still saw a cut in Frumin's proposed budget, with DHS lacking the \$27 million needed to continue funding all existing housing vouchers, including Permanent Supportive Housing. The gulf could result in hundreds of D.C. residents losing their housing. An additional 444 families will be pushed out of Rapid Rehousing, Councilmember and Committee on Housing Chair Robert White said at the May 27 meeting. White's committee was only able to fund 26 housing vouchers for families leaving the program.

"The council should stand with thousands of families who lose their home or the ability to meet basic needs," Frumin said to close his statement. "Under the Mayor's budget, we must work to find a way to restore vouchers and TANF."

Both TANF and vouchers will continue to be discussed as the council works to finalize Bowser's budget. Funding sources such as a wealth tax, which would make room for additional funding for these programs, have been suggested, though not officially proposed.

In some good news for D.C. residents relying on vouchers, the housing committee reallocated money at the D.C. Housing Authority (DCHA) to resume covering security deposits for residents renting with vouchers. The proposed budget sits at \$1.7 million, a significant increase.

White noted, however, that continued cuts to federal funding — particularly to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, which funds DCHA — may raise issues in the future, as programs supporting those at risk of homelessness fight to receive adequate funding.

"I am really concerned we're going to have a very sobering conversation around public housing, probably in the fall," White said. "They don't at this moment know exactly how we're going to navigate or absorb [the federal cuts]."

The council will vote on the fiscal year 2027 budget beginning June 9, with the final vote on June 23. Hearings being conducted in the meantime can be found on the D.C. Council's website, or at <https://lims.dccouncil.gov/hearings/>.

BIRTHDAYS



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June 9
ARTIST/VENDOR



Flegette Rippey
June 12
ARTIST/VENDOR

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EVENTS AT SSM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Trying to stay cool? You can always pick up a bottle or two of cold water in the admin office!
- Street Sense offices are closed Thursday, June 19, for Juneteenth!
- Find a list of vendor announcements and other useful information just for you at streetsensemedia.org/vendor-info.

BIRTHDAYS



Kym Parker
June 3
ARTIST/VENDOR



Apollos Robinson
June 7
ARTIST/VENDOR



Gloria Prinz
June 7
ARTIST/VENDOR

VENDOR CODE OF CONDUCT

Read this democratically elected code of conduct, by vendors, for vendors!

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2. I will treat all others, including customers, staff, volunteers, and fellow vendors, respectfully at all times. I will refrain from threatening others, pressuring customers into making donations, or engaging in behavior that condones racism, sexism, classism, or other prejudices.
3. I understand that I am not an employee of Street Sense Media but an independent contractor.
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NEWS



Preparations for Freedom 250 celebrations, as seen in front of the National Gallery of Art. Photo by Kordell Martin

D.C. prepares for Freedom 250 as nonprofit concerns loom

KORDELL MARTIN

Editorial Intern



Outreach workers and government officials are worried residents living outside may face disruptions as D.C. prepares to celebrate the nation's 250th anniversary on the National Mall.

The White House is hosting several events in D.C. in association with Freedom 250 to celebrate the United States' 250th anniversary. Freedom 250, the public-private organization created by the Trump administration, is separate from America250, the bipartisan nonprofit approved by Congress.

Some nonprofit leaders worry the Freedom 250 celebrations, which began in May and run through the fall, could disrupt outreach to people experiencing homelessness in downtown D.C. Several services are concentrated downtown, as are people living outside, according to Street Sense reporting. The National Park Service (NPS), which oversees federal land in the city, has cited the celebration as a reason for encampment closures as far back as 2024. Other cities in the U.S. have recently displaced homeless residents to prepare for major events, such as the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

While events center around July 4, they are planned all summer. The first event, Rededicate 250: A National Jubilee of Prayer, Praise and Thanksgiving, took place on May 17. According to NBC, generators used for the event spilled more than 30 gallons of fuel onto the Mall. A FIFA World Cup fan zone is planned on the Mall between Third and Fourth Streets, with space to watch the games daily from June 11 to July 19. Freedom 250 is slated to host seven UFC Freedom 250 fights on the White House South Lawn on June 14.

The National Mall is expected to transform into the campgrounds of The Great American State Fair, from June 25 to July 10. The National Independence Day Parade, hosted by NPS, is anticipated to stretch from Constitution Avenue to Independence Avenue on July 4. Freedom 250 will then continue the D.C. tradition of fireworks at the National Mall, hosting the Salute to America 250 Celebration. More than 800,000 fireworks are anticipated to display over the Mall for over 30 minutes, Axios reported.

Finally, the Freedom 250 Grand Prix is expected to block streets near the Capitol end of the Mall for an IndyCar street race the weekend of Aug. 21. According to the official IndyCar track map, the race is expected to start on Pennsylvania Avenue and stretch south to Independence Avenue.

City officials are concerned

During a May 11 budget oversight hearing on, Wayne Turnage, the deputy mayor for D.C. Health and Human Services (DMHHS), told the D.C. Council he is worried about heightened pressure to close encampments as summer celebrations begin.

Last August, Trump ordered the city to ramp up encampment closures after the president signed a 2025 executive order touting beautification projects and increased dispositions of encampments on federal property, including the National Mall. This effort led to residents experiencing homelessness settling into sparser encampments around the city, according to Street Sense reporting.

"We are a little concerned that with the emphasis on the birthday of this country, there could be a push to make sure the streets are absolutely free and clear of all encampments, and that's a heavy lift," Turnage said.

Turnage said DMHHS will continue to close encampments at its usual frequency, since it would be difficult to close every encampment in the city. In the first half of June, the agency is scheduled to close 16 encampments, compared to 10 closed in June 2025. Many of those experiencing homelessness in the District often refuse indoor shelter in the summer, Turnage said.

"Will we close every encampment? The answer's obviously 'No,' because some people just don't want to go inside, and they will just move to another location and create another engagement for [DMHHS]."

Although many residents may stay outside, constant moving can have profound lasting effects on their physical and mental health. The loss of personal belongings, community, and access to nearby social programs can strain illnesses and contribute to exhaustion.

Turnage said the agency takes the position that "encampments should not be allowed on the streets of the city," since the District has enough shelter beds to hold every resident in an encampment. Street Sense reported shelters reached an average capacity of 90% in March, with fewer than 100 vacancies a night. While the city said in January only 88 people lived in encampments, at least 718 people sleep outside, according to the 2026 Point-in-Time Count.

Nonprofits plan beyond government

Some nonprofits in the District have formed collaborative strategies as concerns rise about the impact of the celebrations. Dr. Ami Angell, founder and director of outreach of The h3 Project, a nonprofit that provides outreach to individuals experiencing homelessness, told Street Sense the organization was not included in local and federal government plans for the events. Instead, h3 and other nonprofits have formed a plan to reach encampments near the National Mall and provide resources to residents.

Angell said she would like to see more coordination among nonprofits, District agencies, and Freedom 250 organizers.

"The event will only be successful if you talk to individuals on the ground, doing the work. I believe that will carry a lot more weight," Angell said.

Angell warned that protective measures, like security officers holding weapons, can be triggering for some people experiencing homelessness, who may have had negative interactions with security officers or law enforcement.

Angell also anticipates the crowds visiting the District in the summer will make the National Mall difficult to maneuver for outreach teams and people experiencing homelessness. She said The h3 Project expects many residents in encampments may be harder to locate because they may be forced out of sight when Freedom 250 events begin to unfold.

"Some residents may find it difficult to travel to the nearest day center for meals and showers, or their local library for air conditioning and a quiet place to lounge," Angell said.

Access to these amenities and indoor spaces in the summer is important for all people living outside since extreme heat could exacerbate dehydration and limit residents' access to medication and case management, according to Angell.

A D.C. Department of Human Services (DHS) spokesperson told Street Sense the agency expects all of its shelters, day centers, and transportation for individuals experiencing homelessness to remain operational and accessible during the summer events. DHS street outreach teams will also continue to engage with individuals throughout the summer, and the agency will continue to reach out to unsheltered residents affected by the Freedom 250 celebrations to assess whether shelter capacity and hours need to be expanded.

Even if there is pressure from Trump and other Freedom 250 organizers, Angell said officials often underestimate the resilience of those experiencing homelessness to access services and fight for their right to be where they want to be.

"Burying them will not be successful," Angell said. "In the nation's capital, especially, everyone should have access to housing."

D.C. PRIMARY VOTER GUIDE

D.C.'s primary election is June 16. Here's what to know about D.C. Council primaries and the special election

ELIZABETH SHORT

Editorial Intern



On June 16, D.C. will hold its primary election, which will determine who is on the ballot this November. The Democratic nominees will all be heavily favored to win in the November general election; over 75% of D.C. voters are registered as Democrats, and D.C. has never elected a Republican mayor. Seats up for election city-wide include the D.C. mayor, attorney general, non-voting delegate to the House of Representatives, council chair, and two at-large D.C. Council seats. Wards 1, 3, 5, and 6 will also elect councilmembers.

This paper includes breakdowns of the Democratic primaries and special election for seats on the council. Read all about races for mayor, delegate, and attorney general in our last edition or online!

How to vote

All D.C. residents, including U.S. citizens and non-citizens, who will be at least 18 by the general election on Nov. 3, 2026, can register to vote with a party in this election.

Voters registered as a Democrat, Republican, or D.C. Statehood Green can vote in the June 16 election, though there are only competitive races in the Democratic primary this cycle. Independent voters cannot vote in the primary election, but can vote in a special election for an at-large seat on the council.

All residents can still register to vote during early voting or on Election Day by bringing proof of D.C. residency to the polling center. People experiencing homelessness can use the address of a shelter, park, or intersection, as long as they can provide documentation of residency within the District (this could be an occupancy statement from a D.C. shelter or a current D.C. ID).

Early voting will run from June 8 to June 14. On Election Day, polls across the District will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Voters can go to any voting center regardless of their address. Every registered voter will also receive a ballot in the mail (paid postage is included). To vote by mail, the completed and signed ballot must be postmarked by June 16, and must arrive by June 26. Track ballots on BallotTrax.

Ranked-choice voting

This election will be the first time D.C. voters will use ranked-choice voting. Voters will have the opportunity to vote for up to five candidates per election, ranking candidates in order of preference, starting with their favorite at rank one.

Ranked-choice voting does not split one person's vote between different candidates. Rather, it allows the vote to go to a second or third choice candidate if the voter's first choice doesn't have substantial support. In the first count, everyone's vote goes to the candidate they ranked at number one. At this point, if no candidate gets 50% of the votes, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated, and their votes are redistributed to the candidates each voter ranked second, and so on. A candidate only wins by receiving 50% of votes. Races with only two candidates do not use ranked-choice voting.

Brandon Bush-Thompson, engagement coordinator from Rank the District, said the new voting system will allow voters to focus more on values and policy, instead of casting votes based on who is most likely to win.

Voters should not select one candidate for multiple rankings or multiple candidates for one rank, he said, as it could invalidate their ballot. Instead, voters should choose their favorite candidate as rank one, and then select any other candidates they would be comfortable with seeing in office in order of preference. Voters do not have to fill all five ranks.

At-large special election

The D.C. Council is responsible for passing laws in the District, approving the mayor's budget, and conducting oversight of District agencies. The council has four at-large seats, two of which are open for elections this year.

In January, Kenyan McDuffie resigned from his at-large seat on the council to run for mayor. There's a special election for this seat, and the winner will serve as the at-large representative through the end of the year.

McDuffie's former seat is one of two reserved for members of a minority party. Democrats, as the majority, can't hold the seat, so all three of the candidates in this election are registered as independents. This election will appear on every ballot, and independent voters can request a ballot even if they are not voting in the primaries.

The special election in June will only determine who holds the seat for the next six months. The seat will then be up in the November general election, with the winner serving for the next four years.



Doni Crawford. Photo courtesy of The Committee to Elect Doni Crawford

Doni Crawford has served as at-large councilmember in McDuffie's seat since January. She was previously a staffer in McDuffie's office.

Crawford called out deficiencies in the Housing Production Trust Fund, which "is legally required to direct half its money toward the lowest-income residents, and that requirement has not always been honored." She said she would work to hold that line, while also pushing to up the affordable housing requirement on District-owned land and fix the Inclusionary Zoning process. In a May 23 forum, Crawford said she supports a renter tax credit.

Crawford supports non-congregate shelter options and converting vacant office buildings to shelter space. She said there are not enough shelter beds in the District, and beds are not evenly distributed across the city.

Before closing encampments, Crawford said the city should offer a "genuine placement:" shelter or housing, connection to services, and enough advance notice Crawford said the city should also track people after closures to learn how they are impacted.

When it comes to money for ending homelessness, "the mayor's decision to include no new housing vouchers in this year's budget is the wrong call," Crawford wrote. She said she does not want to "see the budget balanced on the backs of the people who can least afford it." She said she would also push for accountability on voucher use, "because a voucher someone can't use because no landlord will accept it is not actually a solution."

Crawford pointed to her past advocacy around homelessness, including attending the annual vigil for people who died without a home. She said she would work with the community and "revisit my positions when people who know from the inside tell me something isn't working."

Read Doni Crawford's full questionnaire on the Street Sense website.



Elissa Silverman. Photo courtesy of Elissa Silverman

Elissa Silverman served on the council from 2015 to 2023 and lives in Ward 6. She chaired the Committee on Labor and Workforce Development.

This term, to address housing unaffordability, Silverman wrote D.C. should build more rental housing, improve resources for renters about affordable options and rent-stabilization, and improve use of the Housing Production Trust Fund. At a May 23 candidate forum, she said the District needs to fix and use vacant public housing units, fix voucher administration, and hold the Commanders to their promise of building affordable housing.

Silverman said D.C. needs more safe and humane shelter, especially for the LGBTQ+ community. "There is a lot of work to do."

Homelessness only ends when people move into and stay in housing, and the goal of the city should be housing first, Silverman said. "The problem with our encampment approach is that it's about getting rid of encampments, not getting people into housing," she wrote. "We need to make good on the Support part of Permanent Supportive Housing."

On vouchers, Silverman said she wanted to improve administration. "I was just at a forum sponsored by Empower DC in which a woman told me she waited months and months to be able to get a rental unit with her voucher. With funding less free flowing, we need to get the most out of every voucher that we can put into use."

Silverman said she previously volunteered with Miriam's Kitchen, where she learned "there are many paths to get to that point of relying on Miriam's Kitchen, but the one path to get out of it is stable housing," and she would continue to meet with homeless residents.

Read Elissa Silverman's full questionnaire on the Street Sense website.

Jacque Patterson is the president of the D.C. State Board of Education. His website says he would "fight for balanced housing policies that protect tenants while increasing the supply of affordable housing, expand programs that help residents become homeowners, and support responsible fiscal policies that keep the District financially strong while protecting working families." He did not respond to Street Sense's questions.

Democratic at-large seat

The second at-large seat up for election is currently held by Anita Bonds, who has served on the council since 2012 but is not running for another term. There are nine candidates in the Democratic primary. The winner will face Republican Darrell Green and the Green Party's Darryl Moch.

D.C. PRIMARY VOTER GUIDE



Kevin Chavous. Photo courtesy of Chavous for DC 2026

Kevin Chavous is a graduate of Howard and an attorney based in Ward 7. He worked for Bonds, who holds the seat.

Chavous said he would support restoring funding for permanent supportive housing vouchers, allowing quick tax relief for new homeowners, and creating a homeowner resource center. “I support building more housing along transit corridors, incentivizing “pop-up” additional levels on DC townhomes and accessory dwelling units (ADUs), updating residential zoning to encourage multifamily construction citywide, and converting vacant commercial properties to residential use,” he wrote.

Chavous said there are not enough shelter beds in D.C., and he would push for more low-barrier beds for LGBTQ+ individuals.

He also supports requiring local businesses to donate surplus food to shelters and nonprofits.

“We can’t simply focus on the closing of encampments,” he wrote. He said the District needs to provide shelter for people impacted by encampment clearings, and resources like trash pickups, public restroom access, protection against destruction of property, case management, mental health, and substance abuse treatment.

With a tight budget for housing, Chavous said he would push for the city to provide other services to people experiencing homelessness. “We could expand access to transportation directly to shelters, housing sites or medical facilities,” he wrote.

Chavous has worked with Housing Counseling Services and with people experiencing homelessness through Bonds’ office. “People with lived experience of homelessness need to be present when policy is being made, not brought in for testimony after decisions are already set,” he wrote.

Read Kevin Chavous’s full questionnaire on the Street Sense website.



Dwight Davis. Photo courtesy of Dwight Davis for DC Council

Dwight Davis is a former elementary and middle school principal at D.C. Public Schools.

Davis said he would require developers receiving public assistance to build affordable workforce housing. He said he would advocate for the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act. “Residents need a real and funded path to live, stay, and age in the District,” he wrote. Davis said his approach to affordable housing would be rooted in preservation.

D.C. does not have enough shelter beds, Davis said, and the system has “chronic gaps” for victims of domestic violence, LGBTQ+ youth, and older adults. Davis would advocate for non-congregate shelter options, while also recognizing shelters are not solutions.

Closing encampments without paths to housing does not solve homelessness, and “is a failure of both policy and basic human decency,” Davis wrote. He said the District should clean encampments regularly and outreach workers should ensure the protection of personal items. “The goal is not fewer visible encampments, but fewer people without homes,” he wrote. At the forum, Davis supported using housing first programs to address chronic homelessness.

He said vouchers are a cost-effective tool to address homelessness and said he would push to make vouchers more effective: “faster processing timelines, landlord incentive programs that expand the number of units accepting vouchers.”

Davis also said he would establish a “Lived Experience Advisory Council” of D.C. residents with lived experience of homelessness to review policy proposals and meet with his office.

Read Dwight Davis’s full questionnaire on our website.

Dyana Forester is a community advocate and former D.C. police officer.

On the issue of housing affordability, Forester said she would fix Rapid Rehousing, fund the Housing Production Trust Fund, reform the D.C. Housing Authority, strengthen rent stabilization, reform zoning policy, and advocate for affordable housing on public land. During a May 23 candidate forum, Forester said the District needs to hold the Commanders to their promise of affordable housing.

Forester said there are not enough shelter beds in D.C., especially for the LGBTQ+ community. Forester said she would push for non-congregate shelter options, beds for survivors of domestic violence, pet-friendly options, and shelter monitoring. She also said she would advocate for dedicated shelter for older adults.

Forester said she would not support “discretionary sweeps” and the city should only conduct clearings when there is a clear health or safety threat, and when the city can offer residents a “genuine alternative.” Forester said she would push for agreements between the city and federal government on how to respond to encampments. At the forum, Forester proposed interventions in schools to address chronic homelessness and more support services for single men.

Forester wrote that she would fight to reverse proposed cuts to permanent supportive housing vouchers, funding vouchers through closing tax loopholes and property transfer taxes. She also outlined strategies to include people with lived experience in policy-making, drawing on her experience at the housing authority and D.C. Public Schools, including creating a formal lived experience advisory body.

Read Dyana Forester’s full questionnaire on the Street Sense website.



Dyana Forester. Photo courtesy of the Dyana for DC Campaign

Fred Hill is an entrepreneur and former chairman of the D.C. Board of Zoning Adjustment. His website says he supports expanding affordable housing options in the District “while protecting what makes neighborhoods feel like home...Housing decisions are best made locally by leaders who understand DC’s neighborhoods.” He did not respond to Street Sense’s questions.

Leniqua’dominique Jenkins is a former staffer for Bonds, teacher, a former ANC commissioner, and a policy advisor. According to her campaign website, Jenkins will invest in affordable housing, protect tenants, and expand services to prevent homelessness.

In a housing candidate forum on May 23, Jenkins said she was invested in expanding the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act, which she has benefited from, and including tax breaks for seniors. She also said she would support fully funding the Housing Production Trust Fund, education for potential homebuyers, and the Emergency Rental Assistance Program. “I will also expand community benefit agreements to make sure that when development happens, we’re mindful that displacement doesn’t, and that we’re making sure that we’re making intentional commitments to make sure that we’re hiring locally,” she said.

During the forum, Jenkins said the District should be investing in the root causes of homelessness, such as economic insecurity, mental health issues, and substance abuse. Jenkins did not respond to Street Sense’s questions.

Greg Jackson is a community organizer. On his website, he says that he aims to build more housing for all income levels and protect renters. In a May 23 forum, he said, “A huge focus of mine is not just making housing more affordable, but creating more pathways to ownership, and also helping make sure that we sustain those who are already homeowners.” Jackson’s main priority is “making sure DCHA is running as properly as possible,” he said. He supports workforce housing, supporting small housing providers, mixed-use, mixed-income housing, and community land trusts.

People experiencing homelessness “are folks who are literally just like us, and so many of our neighbors are one paycheck away from being experiencing homelessness. So, first of all, we have to crush that stereotype and get back to treating folks like people and like humans,” he said. He said he supports creating more short-term family housing across the District. Jackson did not respond to Street Sense’s questions.

Candace Tiana Nelson currently serves as president of the DC Black Democratic Caucus. On her campaign website, Nelson says housing is a human right and proposes to extend rent stabilization and increase funding for housing vouchers. She also proposed to “protect unhoused neighbors from inhuman encampment evictions and... Support best-practice solutions with proven success in DC, such as permanent supportive housing, to improve health and rebuild roles and relationships in the community.” Nelson did not respond to Street Sense’s questions.



Oye Owolewa. Photo courtesy of Team Oye

Oye Owolewa is D.C.’s shadow representative in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Owolewa said preservation would guide his approach to affordable housing. As an ANC Commissioner in Ward 8, Owolewa made sure older adults could stay in their building using TOPA. Owolewa said he would dedicate significant amounts of money from the Housing Production Trust Fund for preservation, tenant purchases, and nonprofit acquisitions, and that he would restore emergency rental assistance. Owolewa called the presence of thousands of unused units in D.C. a “policy failure” during a May 23 candidate forum.

Owolewa said D.C. does not have enough shelter beds. He said he would “push for population-specific shelter capacity that serves the full range of people with dignity.” Beyond this, Owolewa wrote that housing first programs are the only effective approaches, and that he would “fight to fully fund permanent supportive housing,” including through a millionaire’s tax.

Owolewa opposes no-tent zones and encampment closures that result in a loss of property, destruction of documents, and loss of relationship with outreach workers. He said criminalizing homelessness pushes people further away from resources. He would require “genuine housing options” before encampment closures and supports “fully funded outreach teams, day centers, safe storage, continuity of care, and keeping pets with their owners.” At the forum, Owolewa also said Rapid Rehousing is important for addressing chronic homelessness. Owolewa said he’d worked with communities dealing with violence and evictions, and that he believed “the person in front of me was the expert on their own life” who should have a say in policy.

Read Oye Owolewa’s full questionnaire on the Street Sense website.

Lisa Raymond has served on the D.C. Board of Education and worked for the council and the attorney general. Raymond wrote that the solution to housing unaffordability is to “build much more housing of all types, and directly subsidize the residents whose incomes will never meet market rents.” Raymond said she would advocate for restoring the Local Rent Supplement Program, fully using the Housing Production Trust Fund, and protecting housing vouchers. “I will also press the Council and the Mayor to actually deliver on the 2050 commitment of 15 percent affordable housing in every planning area,” she wrote.



Lisa Raymond. Photo courtesy of Lisa Raymond for DC Council

Raymond said the District does not have enough shelter beds. She supports “expanding capacity in the directions where the evidence is strongest,” such as non-congregate shelters and beds for youth and the LGBTQ+ community.

While she says encampments are not safe or healthy for residents, Raymond said the District cannot solve homelessness by clearing encampments without real plans for housing. Outreach workers should offer shelter and storage, and the District should focus on creating affordable and supportive housing. “I support a balanced approach: the District should continue addressing encampments, but it must do so safely, respectfully, and with a focus on helping people move indoors permanently,” she wrote.

Raymond does not support the mayor’s budget, which does not fund any new permanent supportive housing vouchers. She would “fight to make permanent supportive housing, the Local Rent Supplement Program, and ERAP baseline commitments rather than line items that get cut first when the budget tightens.”

Raymond currently works at Covenant House Greater Washington, where she says she works with youth experiencing homelessness every day. They have shaped her platform on housing and homelessness, and she pledged to continue regular listening sessions.

Read Lisa Raymond’s full questionnaire on the Street Sense website.

Ward 1

Brianne Nadeau has been the Ward 1 councilmember since 2015, but will not be running for a fourth term. Five Democrats are vying for the party nomination for this seat, and the winner of the primary will run against Republican Jett Jasper and Green Party’s Jude Crannitch.



Rashida Brown. Photo courtesy of the RB4DC team

Rashida Brown, endorsed by Nadeau, is a social worker and advisory neighborhood commissioner.

Brown supports equitably distributing affordable housing throughout the District. She said she would support programs such as rental assistance and TOPA, and reforms that make it easier to build housing. As a community member, Brown said she led the fight for the Park Morton and Bruce Monroe apartments, with 60% of new units being affordable. At the May 23 forum, Brown said she is on the Home Purchase Assistance Program and is a “fan of anti-displacement tools” like it.

Brown said there are not enough shelter beds in D.C., especially low-barrier options. “As a social worker who has

spent my career working for families, I’m particularly interested in ensuring we have enough shelter and housing for LGBTQ+ youth.”

Brown said she opposes current encampment clearings and called the practice “cruel.” Instead, she focused on the causes of homelessness; she proposed fixing the voucher-to-housing pipeline, funding bridge housing and housing-first programs, employing people with lived experience of homelessness, and strengthening the Interagency Council on Homelessness.

Brown, who has been part of the strategic planning process around ending homelessness, said she supports funding new vouchers. “We have to raise revenue by taxing our wealthiest residents in order to pay for the housing and services our residents need,” she wrote.

As a social worker, Brown has met with families in poverty and near homelessness. “The work I would do as a Councilmember is deeply informed by the families I’ve served and the people I’ve helped throughout my career,” she wrote.

Read Rashida Brown’s full questionnaire on the Street Sense website.

Terry Lynch has worked in nonprofits and is the co-founder of the Washington Area Community Investment Fund.

D.C. needs more housing, wrote Lynch. “I have committed to bringing 5,000 new units of housing to Ward 1 with at least 25 per cent affordable,” he wrote. He would introduce a “use it or lose it bill,” requiring the city to purchase long-vacant buildings, return them to affordable housing, and sell them.

Lynch would prioritize housing and shelter for LGBTQ+ youth, women, older adults, and people with mental illness.

“I support encampment enclosures as I believe encampments put those residing there at high risk - health risks, violence risks,” Lynch wrote. He said there needs to be shelter available for residents cleared, and that social workers should assist those who lose their homes in clearings.

In the face of budget cuts, Lynch was skeptical: “I am not certain resources are limited,” he wrote. Lynch proposed higher taxes on the top one percent of households in D.C. Only “when all possible revenue sources are investigated and implemented” can the city cut the budget, he wrote.



Terry Lynch. Photo courtesy of Terry Lynch

Lynch has a history of working with unhoused populations, and in 1983, he founded Calvary Shelter for Homeless Women, now Calvary Women’s Services.

“The homeless taught me from the get go - they wanted to be self reliant and not get hand outs to succeed. I have incorporated that yes we can yes we will overcome attitude,” he wrote.

Read Terry Lynch’s full questionnaire on the Street Sense website.

Aparna Raj is a community organizer.

Raj said she would fight to expand rent stabilization to all multifamily buildings, strengthen oversight of the Housing Production Trust Fund, restore and strengthen TOPA, and fund housing vouchers, bridge housing, and the Emergency Rental Assistance Program. “I will also reintroduce a Green New Deal for Social Housing, so that in the long term we can use public land to build mixed-income, publicly owned, tenant-controlled housing that meets both people’s means and their needs,” she wrote.

She said Ward 1 does not have enough shelter beds, especially for LGBTQ+ youth and young families, and that more shelter is needed so “residents are not left cycling between the streets, shelters, and unstable housing situations.”

Raj opposes routine encampment clearings “because to properly address encampments, DC must invest in the housing, services, and support systems people need to transition into stable housing – not simply displace people from one block to another,” she said. She said she would advocate for a housing first approach and that the District should offer encampment residents case management, transportation, housing aid, and medical care. In the face of a tight budget, Raj said she would push the council to raise taxes on the ultrawealthy and corporations while fighting for housing vouchers, bridge housing, and emergency rental assistance.

Raj said she would “govern as an organizer,” involving all residents in policy-making. “My housing policy has been shaped directly by organizing alongside tenants and residents across DC, including people who have experienced homelessness, housing insecurity, displacement, and unsafe living conditions,” she wrote.

Read Aparna Raj’s full questionnaire on the Street Sense website

Jackie Reyes Yanes has worked in D.C. government for two decades. According to her campaign website, Reyes Yanes has experienced homelessness and has helped tenants navigate rental assistance programs to prevent eviction. She supports expanding the Home Purchase Assistance Program, strengthening rent control, and creating an “Anti Displacement Task Force” for affordable housing. She did not respond to Street Sense’s questions.

Miguel Trindade Deramo is an advisory neighborhood commissioner and local organizer.

Deramo said his campaign is built around housing. He supports subsidized affordable housing and the Housing Production Omnibus Act, and using the District Opportunity to Purchase Act. He said the District must also expand efforts to create publicly-funded mixed-income, or social, housing.

There is an “unmet need” for shelters in Ward 1, Deramo wrote. He supports expanding D.C.’s capacity to offer low-barrier, emergency shelter options as well as non-congregate shelters and permanent supportive housing. He supports creating a new facility in Ward 1 to support women experiencing homelessness and creating shelters for LGBTQ+ youth.

Criminalizing homelessness and conducting encampment clearings do not properly address homelessness, wrote Deramo; “they only serve to disrupt service delivery, stigmatize residents facing homelessness (who often lose their belongings during clearings), and pointlessly chase them from one jurisdiction to another.” Deramo said he would require the city to provide data to the council on their outreach efforts and housing offered to residents before closures.

Deramo said housing vouchers are essential, and his priority would be to grow D.C.’s tax base to avoid cutting programs. “I support Councilmember Parker’s proposal to create a tiered surcharge on realized capital gains, to increase taxes on realized capital gains primarily on the top 1 percent of DC taxpayers,” Deramo wrote.

He has worked with people experiencing homelessness through his role as an ANC, which he said has shown him the bureaucracy that can get in the way of housing.

Read Miguel Trindade Deramo’s full questionnaire online

The seats for **council chair and wards 3, 5, and 6** will also have Democratic primaries. Council Chair Phil Mendelson and Ward 3 Councilmember Matt Frumin are running for their party’s nomination unopposed, though Patricia Stamper is mounting a write-in campaign against Mendelson.

Wards 5 and 6 have incumbents, Zachary Parker and Charles Allen, respectively, vying for party nomination against challengers Bernita Carmichael and Bridget French in Ward 5, and Gloria Ann Nauden and Michael Murphy in Ward 6. No candidates in either race responded to Street Sense’s questions.



Aparna Raj. Photo courtesy of Aparna for DC



Miguel Trindade Deramo. Photo courtesy of Miguel for Ward 1

FEATURE



City workers clear a Brentwood encampment in March 2025. Photo by Madi Koesler

Homeless encampment clearings increase across D.C. without steady roads to housing

MADI KOESLER

Washington City Paper Contributor

As summer approaches, city officials are faced with a familiar question: Where are people experiencing homelessness supposed to go?

The answer this year could be more complicated than most because while the District is cracking down on encampments, it has also run out of housing vouchers. D.C. Housing Authority Interim Executive Director Nicole Wickliffe confirmed during a recent oversight hearing the District is out of money to fund new housing vouchers and is unable to award new ones until next fiscal year.

Spokespeople for D.C.'s Department of Human Services and the Office of the Deputy Mayor of Health and Human Services did not respond to questions about the dual problems heading into summer, but both offices confirmed the shortage of vouchers in fiscal year 2026, which ends in September. DHS Director of Communications Kevin Carpenter says the agency anticipates 104 new site-based subsidies (where the voucher is attached to the unit rather than the tenant) in fiscal year 2027; more than 9,000 households with locally and federally funded vouchers are currently active in DHS programs, he says.

One of the only consistent routes out of homelessness is through locally and federally funded housing voucher programs such as Permanent Supportive Housing vouchers and the Local Rent Supplement Program. Homeless residents have waited for years for these subsidies, and that wait will keep rising.

Meanwhile, outreach workers and legal advocates are concerned about the impacts of a housing shortage for residents as the Bowser administration has drastically increased encampment clearings — they're on track to spike by more than 200 percent in 2026 compared to 2024.

With the weather is warming up and emergency shelter beds closed, advocates worry the amount of beds in year-round, low-barrier shelters are not sufficient to meet the need. Getting a spot in a low-barrier shelter is "not a slam dunk," says Andy Wassenich, director of policy for Miriam's Kitchen.

"There are really no ways out of homelessness right now," Wassenich says. "There are no vouchers, there are no interventions, so people who are, you know, new to homelessness or newly becoming homeless ... they're going to end up being homeless for a while."

The rise in encampment clearings comes after convicted felon and President Donald Trump's focus on crime and homelessness in D.C. in his bid to take over the Metropolitan Police Department and direct national attention on homelessness in D.C.

"The Homeless have to move out, IMMEDIATELY. We will give you places to stay, but FAR from the Capital," Trump said in August via Truth Social.

During the federal takeover, MPD officers and Department of Public Works employees, under the direction of the federal government, cleared encampments throughout downtown while Trump called for the "beautification of the Nation's Capitol." This federal incursion violated D.C.'s encampment protocol and kick-started the District's current approach to encampments — pitting the well-being of human beings against aesthetics.

"We've transitioned from the notion of maintaining encampments to the point of closing them," Deputy Mayor of Health and Human Services Wayne Turnage said during an oversight hearing earlier this year.

Eight months ago, it wasn't uncommon to drive through downtown or near Whitehurst Freeway and see tents dotting the grass. Now, they're nowhere to be seen. There are no visible, long-standing tent encampments in the District, according to multiple outreach groups.

"Since the federal surge, shortly afterwards ... the city basically confirmed and said, 'Look, everybody who has a tent is gonna lose it.' And that's pretty much the case," Wassenich says. "The number of tents that you will encounter across the city on city land are few and far between at any given time."

Most of the sites cleared by the city in 2026 included only a single person. These sites don't typically have tents, and people lug their belongings with them as they move around the city during the day. This is a huge departure from the large tent communities near 26th and L Streets NW in 2025 or around McPherson Square in 2023. Tent encampments that do pop up are now quickly scheduled for closure and are removed in about three to four weeks, according to outreach workers.

But less visibility doesn't mean fewer people experience homelessness.

The Point-in-Time Count was canceled this year due to inclement weather, so DHS' census counting 764 people sleeping outside in August 2025, following the federal takeover, is the most reliable figure, according to outreach teams.

“Before, you would see tents, but you wouldn’t necessarily see the people,” Wassenich says. “Now you see the people with their stuff with nowhere to go, in bus shelters, on the buses, on the Metro.”

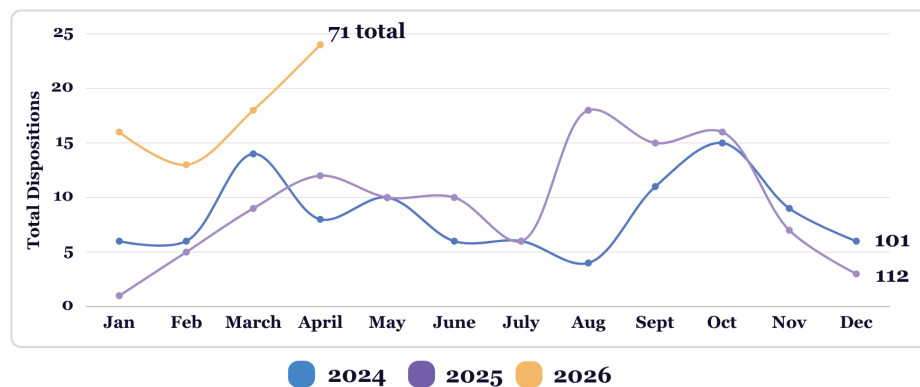
The Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless says these single-person sites aren’t encampments. Often the residents move after receiving notice from the city. The clinic’s outreach indicates there are fewer traditional encampments across the District even though clearings — specifically immediate clearings — continue to increase.

“People are also being cleared from the streets when that’s the only place that they may feel safe to go,” says Brit K. Ruffin, a legal director at the Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless. “There’s no long-term plan for people who are extremely low income or experiencing homelessness.”

Immediate dispositions are similar in function to cleanups and closures (also known as standard dispositions). The main difference is residents are only given 24 to 48 hours’ notice, rather than seven days. DMHHS policy changed last year allowing for looser guidelines, meaning encampments can now be cleared for non-health and safety reasons. Since the start of 2026, there have been at least 12 of these immediate dispositions versus only four at this time last year.

DMHHS Director of Communications Rebecca Dooley says in an email statement that the encampment team’s support to vulnerable residents “continues to remain consistent with the enforcement of the Protocol for Responding to Homeless Encampments on Public Space as needed to address any health and safety concerns that may be present in addition to returning access to public spaces for their intended use by the community and its patrons.”

Encampment Clean-ups & Closures



Encampment closures were higher this year, as of April. Chart by Madi Koesler

So far in 2026, the city has cleared an average of more than 17 encampments per month, according to DMHHS data. That’s the highest monthly average since Mayor Muriel Bowser took office in 2015. The monthly average was about nine clearings in 2025 and about eight clearings a month in 2024, according to publicly available DMHHS data.

The trend of increasing monthly clearings is concerning given the last winter’s frigid temperatures in D.C. The DMHHS encampment team’s protocol generally does not allow for clearing encampments during inclement weather or when the temperature (including wind chill) is below 40 degrees. Multiple clearings were rescheduled for this reason, but there were still 16 clearings in January and 13 in February, according to data from DMHHS and Street Sense Media.

A comparison of encampment clearing data and the locations of active housing vouchers in D.C. reveals a troubling trend.

Ward 2, for example, is home to the fewest number of housing vouchers but the highest number of encampment clearings.

Of the 6,664 locally funded vouchers DHS tracks in a publicly accessible database, only 265 are within Ward 2. Wards 5 and 6 have 902 and 1,188 voucher holders, respectively. Wards 7 and 8, where relatively few encampment clearings take place, also have high numbers of voucher holders at 1,129 and 1,138, respectively.

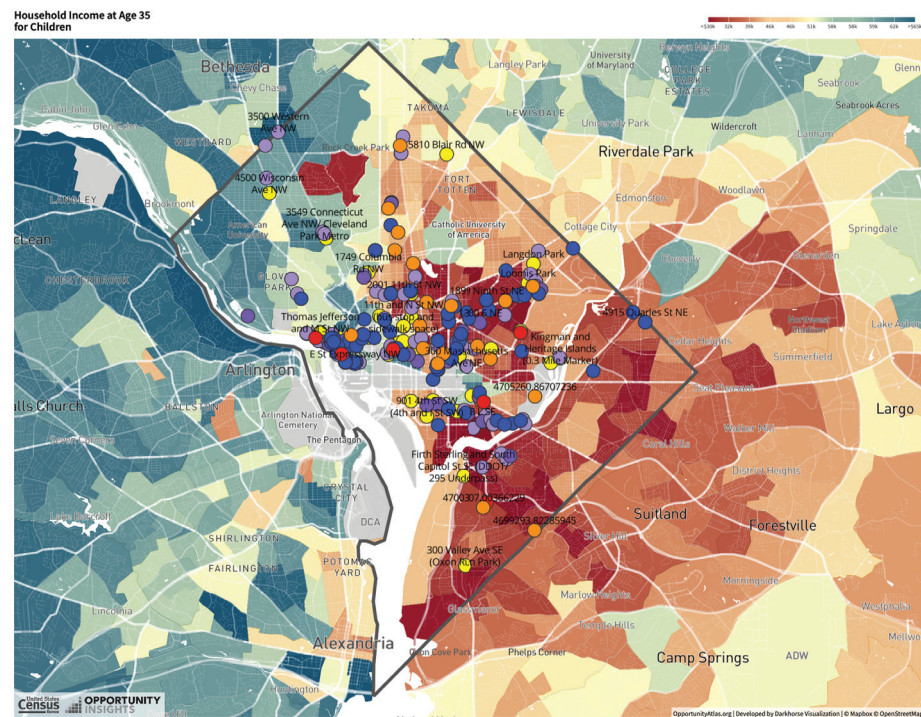
According to Harvard’s Opportunity Insights’ research on economic opportunities, Ward 2 is an area with high economic mobility, meaning residents there are more likely to earn more money than their peers by age 35. The Opportunity Insights research on economic opportunities also shows Wards 7 and 8 have lower economic mobility than Ward 2.

Encampment clearing data for 2024, 2025, and 2026 so far reveals two major conclusions:

1. Wards 2, 5, and 6 are hot spots for encampment clearings compared to other wards; Ward 2 has had the highest total number of clearings between 2024 and 2026.
2. Encampment clearings increasingly took place in locations near homeless services providers.

The District contracts three service providers (Miriam’s Kitchen, Pathways, and Community Connections) to provide outreach, case management, and a variety of other services to their designated areas. But there are additional service providers and day centers like Georgetown Ministries and Adam’s Place Day Center people experiencing homelessness also frequent.

Now that DMHHS is taking a more aggressive approach to single-person setups, these service providers and outreach workers are having a harder time building relationships with potential clients. A sense of community among tent encampments is also disappearing.



2024 clearings in blue, 2025 clearings in purple, and 2026 clearings in yellow. Shelter locations are orange, and service providers are red. Data via Opportunity Insights at Harvard University. Map by Madi Koesler

“People are less trusting,” Wassenich says. “People are less willing to share information—sometimes out of the fear that when we show up, then shortly thereafter, so does DMHHS.”

Some of 2025’s biggest tent communities were located between Georgetown Ministries and Miriam’s Kitchen on the Foggy Bottom side of the K Street Bridge. But these long-standing groups have not returned after they were cleared during the federal takeover.

Many of the people who lived in tents and were cleared at the end of 2025 have lost touch with their service providers. Miriam’s Kitchen attests to this struggle of reconnecting with people who moved to other areas of the District or across the river to Virginia.



A single tent at Godey Lime Kilns Park, near 26th and L Streets NW. The area used to be home to several encampments before 2025. Photo by Madi Koesler

But these people aren’t gone; they’re likely hiding.

According to outreach teams and City Paper reporting, these tactics by the city are pushing people into less visible areas. More people are moving their tents into Rock Creek Park and heavily wooded sections of Northeast, Southwest, and Southeast. The trend has been increasing steadily since last summer, according to interviews with people living in these secluded encampments.

This creates a new set of problems: disconnection from case management and social services, social isolation, and potential issues caused by ticks and foxes. When people are pushed farther away from the services offering them help, it often prolongs homelessness and can cause substance abuse and mental health issues to heighten.

“It’s like every time I step forward, I stumble backward,” Mikey says about his time living outside along the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail last spring and early summer before getting placed into housing. His encampment on District Department of Transportation property was cleared by the city twice before he moved into the woods so his tent wouldn’t be visible from Anacostia Drive.

This story was originally published by Washington City Paper on May 11.

OPINION

I'm not a Black voter, I'm an American voter

My repudiation of being identified by my race rather than my reputation

JEFFERY MCNEIL



Being in the public eye, I've decided to pause giving my opinion on politics. I live in the D.C. metro area. I get it, this town votes 95% Democrat. There was a time when you could be on the corner, at a bar, or in a cafe, taking positions that weren't going to get you applauded and cheered. Today, if you aren't a clapping seal, trust the plan or No Kings, literally, if you're in the midst of the wrong mob, your safety could be in danger.

I learned there are people who can't accept you're not a Democrat, running with their hair on fire over the latest deportation, price spike in gas, or what's going on in the Middle East. They think because they hate Trump, you must be enraged too, or you are complicit with hate. It's ridiculous, but that's their mentality: conform or face policing, harassment, or worse.

But I have sad news for those who left the tribalism of the Democrats. I've experienced identical behaviors from Republicans recently. I posted a mild criticism of President Donald Trump, who, to some on the right, is God. I wrote: "I'm not a fan of the Trump Ballroom. Having private events with donors, not the people, doesn't sit right with me."

Someone responded "Then vote Democrat, and next time have the government build whatever it is. Don't worry, it will cost 10 times as much and take 5 times as long, and you will cover the government incompetence with your taxes."

When I voted for Trump, I didn't support him because he was pure. I thought it was okay to oppose him on immigration, but I fully got behind forcing government employees back on the job, cutting the deficit. But I say hell no to new wars; this is America, not North Korea. However, a faction of Trump supporters sees dissent as betrayal and TDS (Trump Derangement Syndrome).

This is why I call myself politically homeless; both sides have been hijacked by policemen and gatekeepers. It's why I don't take sides but call balls and strikes, not cheerlead blindly. I joked that if Trump stood out on the White House lawn and relieved himself, and you called it disgusting, a Trump supporter would accuse you of having Trump Derangement.

Despite the policing and intimidation, I stand my ground. Despite the cacophony of calls for me to be fired — or that I'm shilling for white supremacy — I won't toe the line to get favorable treatment. I want to know where I stand in the marketplace: am I held back by racism, or not?

I'm a writer. I'm being published because my writing is better than the other articles, regardless of race or gender. I hope they don't print me because they need a Black voice, or a woman's voice, or a trans voice. Same when I work at Wingo's: I work certain shifts because I'm the most qualified, not because they need a Black person or a woman for a particular shift.

I don't think what I'm saying is trafficking in hate, but I've been attacked by white liberals, MAGA supporters, Black activists, and once, a disabled man so angry he threw his prosthetic leg at me. I'm not exaggerating, I have receipts.

I posted this statement and asked people to judge for themselves whether it was offensive or inflammatory: "I'm not a Black voter; I'm an American voter. I vote for what's best for America, not for 'the Black race.'"

One response came fast: "You're a racist m***** like Trump!"

Then there was this from a racist Trump supporter: "I honestly don't care about Blacks or their 'plight.' It's not even an 'anymore' statement but a 'never really did' statement. The vast majority are teat-sucking, civilizational, boat anchors. I was apathetic until the day of the Rodney King riots. Since being attacked three times that day, A bunch of emotionally and intellectually stunted savages. The tiny few that aren't? Not worth the trouble of the rest."

Reading things like that, I realized that, as a Black man, I don't have a real home in either of the two major parties. I'm tired of hearing Republicans freed slaves when they haven't done a damn thing for their descendants today. I used to love the civil rights movement, but today I see Black leaders who are still trying to recreate Selma and Birmingham. It's sad, and embarrassing. It was inspiring in the '60s, '70s, and '80s, but in 2026, it's pathetic and mocks their legacy.

The battle today isn't separate water fountains or slavery; it's artificial intelligence, digital currency, the high cost of living, and the fact many Black men don't have the skills to compete in this new world. I don't have to go back and forth talking about battles already fought when I must find a way to eat, no matter who's president.

Not all of the rage is online; my pause comes from actual customers. Some still remember my past positions: "You used to love Obama. Didn't you vote for Trump?" The other day, a long-time customer — passionate about his issues — tried to gauge whether I regret supporting Trump. I don't get it. I hated Biden, but never asked anyone if they regretted it, because I don't care. I vote, I win some, and some people I vote for lose. I live with the repercussions.

Of course, that wasn't the answer he wanted. He's an ideologue. He started yelling, "Trump's a fascist!" I pointed out, "You're two blocks from the White House, calling the leader of our country a fascist. Do you see how ridiculous you sound?"

I told him, "I don't have a problem with Trump being president." This became a problem for the customer because I didn't see myself living in Birmingham in 1963. I finally lost it, and said, "I'm tired of hearing about past victories or defeats during the '60s; it's not 1965. I'm focused on what I see: boarded-up buildings, misery, and despair. I see both parties are doing nothing and keeping up the same thing to me, which is insane. The solution is to get rid of both."

He got so angry he put his phone in his pocket and walked off. I thought, good riddance. I don't care how much money the guy gives me — I'm not interested in being co-opted into his worldview.

Someone nearby said, "You just lost a sale." I replied, "What's the price of preserving your dignity?" I'm a salesman, not a prostitute for partisan loyalty.

I don't want to talk about politics, but if you bring it up, you might get an opinion you don't want to hear. I don't want to hear one side is better than the other. They're both the same. Some progressives think disagreement makes you immoral. Some conservatives treat criticism as disloyalty. Everybody wants conformity. Almost nobody wants conversation.

My view about selling papers is simple: people are buying and helping me out. What they do outside of that is their business — unless they're holding Klan rallies or taking an unethical position, in which case I may decline their money. Otherwise, I don't care who buys: Republican, Democrat, lover, or hater. I really don't discriminate — unless they start talking politics. Then I may apply some ethical considerations.

These days, I'd rather focus on writing, selling papers, and dealing with people as individuals instead of as political avatars. Life is hard enough without turning every interaction into a battlefield. I still vote. I still pay attention. But I don't need to argue with strangers about politics in public spaces.

Peace of mind is worth more to me than winning debates.

Jeffery McNeil is an artist/vendor with Street Sense.

Interesting side view

SASHA WILLIAMS



was listening to a post on social media and was like, "Hold up, I got to write about this."

A man was talking about a list of women who men should date if they work in certain businesses, like people should be careful. Like the guy was talking about working in places, especially being social at work.

Now, I am not saying people are all good, but I am definitely pointing out people are not all bad. People deal with life in their way, as they should.

I know some people are changing for the better, but some folks may or may not be ready for that, and it's a process or journey regardless. People can change for the better, and for some, it takes time to adjust to change. With others, they want change but struggle to get there. The process is different with everyone. Of course, this is just my opinion.

That is sad. What type of BS y'all on with that? Someone hurt y'all bad to agree with this process of thinking. It ain't acceptable to judge people; y'all need to figure out y'all destiny.

Stop with that. Anyone will cheat whether they work or not. If a man or woman isn't content with themselves, that is an issue to work on. If people aren't for a real situation or in a real relationship, that is what it is. But like y'all be doing the most.

It's men who're f'up and women who're f'up and those types should date each other, working or not. People are free and living, so don't f'around with an immature man or immature woman who can't change or ain't ready.

Men may or may not cheat, but also women may or may not cheat. People's mindsets are f'd up. Judging all the time. Keep being low vibrational, cause that ain't going nowhere....

There are good women and men. There are healed men and women out there. There are rebels in men and women as well. You're dating a person, not dating a job. For real, don't date if you're not ready. In general, that is for some men and some women, but not all people are working.

People are on social media and dating apps, whether they are at home or not.

It's definitely not just a certain list of women talking about the list of men from a man's perspective.

The focus should be on living with yourself and treating people right.

Sasha Williams is an artist/vendor with Street Sense.

The throes of being a political candidate

REGINALD BLACK

In a city full of politics, it is no wonder that in this election season, communities are bombarded with forums in which candidates deal with the many areas of their resident's concerns. One such forum was hosted by the National Coalition for the Homeless. This forum focused on the issue of homelessness.

Homelessness concerns me because of my decade of lived experience with it in D.C. I have seen politician after politician, mayor after mayor, and city council after city council. These people come before the public to display and describe their leadership plan for the city.

There was a season where I also participated in the candidate process as an advisory neighborhood commissioner (ANC). I didn't get the chance to grace the debate stage, but I do understand the process through which candidates form their stances. Some stances residents can agree or disagree with, but as far as delivery, candidates must be able to inspire, and this forum gave me a lesson in how candidates can deliver their message. This forum featured three candidates for mayor.

The first candidate to answer questions was Myrtle Alexander, who touted she is an educator and entrepreneur, shared she was currently homeless, and was asked to stop encampment sweeps.

"When you ask the question about sweeps," Alexander said, "this is the nation's capital if we can take care of the homeless. We have a blank check." Alexander said we are entitled to about \$20 million.

"We should not have anyone homeless," Alexander said. "We have empty buildings that need to be refurbished." I felt that.

"We can create jobs immediately," Alexander said. "We can bring back a building so that it could be housing. There will be no sweeps. Everyone deserves dignity."

Alexander ended her statements with, "Love your neighbor as you love yourself. Where is the love?"

I definitely agree with the need to get people into work, but this candidate lacked a clear plan to produce funds to support these ideas to stop sweeps. In my campaign for ANC, I tackled the issue of pop-ups. This concept exploded after the Obama administration amended the height of buildings act to allow penthouse additions to single-family homes. The residents of my prospective single-member district were very concerned about rising property values tied to the pervasiveness of pop-ups appearing in the neighborhood and selling for millions. Some residents shared their property incurred damages and rodent infestations due to the construction and rehab of such properties. When delivering this message for the pop-ups, people questioned where funds would come from to defend their communities. While the residents understood it should come from their tax money, they also didn't want to foot the bill for their defense against potentially harmful and expensive development, nor did some of them have the time or energy to conduct legal proceedings. I felt I was tasked with organizing and funding what these particular voters

wanted. While Alexander's message, I think, was spot on, I can see that in creating a platform, you still will have gaps in what you present to voters

Joe Zero, who is also a Street Sense vendor and artist, as well as currently homeless, was the second candidate. When asked about his commitment to stopping sweeps and if there were paths to housing, Zero replied, "Yes, 100% there are paths to housing. We first need to get the people that want the help. There are plenty of people who just need a small push, a small edge. They just need to get a foot in the door."

He continued to say, "We have the very best of people coming here to D.C. on a daily basis. If we can get people to come here and train our workforce, have them train once again using technology, building electricity things not affected by AI, things improved by AI."

I can see the influx of residents migrating to D.C. for AI. I did notice during my ANC run not all the residents I encountered were originally from the



Attendees at the National Coalition for the Homeless candidate forum. Photo by Reginald Black

District of Columbia; some residents moved in either during or after the census was taken. While a great plan, I would estimate voters would want to know more about how newer residents factor into training, whether this training would be through the government or philanthropy I am by no means dismissing that being a candidate is difficult because voters will always have in-the-weeds questions, but it does take courage to stand on any political stage as a candidate.

Zero said he supports Universal Basic Income. He promotes a better civic system.

"If we use our civic system the way it's supposed to be used, we won't need sweeps," said Zero. "Then we go and help the people who need more help."

Dr. Rhonda Hamilton, who shared she is a small business owner and mental health advocate, was also asked about committing to stopping sweeps.

"Absolutely, there would be no sweeps. I don't see the need for them," she said. "What I realize is that as a District we struggle with this so much so that I was one of the advocates interviewed by media when we had that unfortunate circumstance over at M Street under the underpass with the construction crane vehicles that were used to remove our homeless."

I was also present for this incident when it happened. I was appalled. I was first alerted to the happenings from a woman making a sound no one should hear. It was the kind of shriek that involves fear and anger from a man and warrants him to jump into action to protect the one making that sound.

"At no time should we be a city that would represent that kind of callous decision making," Hamilton said. "Homelessness, in my opinion, professional or otherwise, is that it should be temporary. The challenge we have before us as citizens and as advocates is that just getting them into housing in our current state has proven insufficient because we have a heavy problem with the presence of slumlord behavior."

Hamilton also highlighted the income disparities in the city.

"What we recognize in an 81-times wealth gap setting in the District is that there are far more people who are going to be susceptible to homelessness. We have to elect leadership that understands this."

These are people who are not front-runners in the current mayoral election, but nonetheless, they are candidates, and they have chosen to put themselves up to advance a platform and have a voice in how they would want to see the city. I, for one, commend each and every candidate who dares to run for something. Politics is a hard game. Most of the deliverables are ideas people can't see or touch, but when there is an impact, you will see it on the voter, the resident, the one to whom we as candidates present ourselves. In this election season, I hope all the voters will choose each candidate, even the ANC ones, with great care and consideration. This election is big because after it ends we will have a new government and with the new government, I hope all will be heard.

Reginald Black is an artist/vendor with Street Sense.



Illustration by Reginald Black

ART

Sunrise/Sunset

APOLLOS ROBINSON

Artist/Vendor



First off: to be true to you, forget what they think

Finesse you, finesse you, play the fool
 Finesse you, staying true to oneself
 Who's playing the fool, smile in your time
 Guess they call that keeping it cool

Even if it is a coalition, I still wouldn't fit in
 I don't aspire to be a part of a titled group
 When my confidence comes off as arrogance
 Said they were helping, pulled out a felt-tip pen
 Little did I know diggin' diggin' diggin' for information
 Ex-addicts doing junky stuff, hating on the sideline
 Playing in my face but not telling me it's just the sun rising

How will you sell stamps?

WENDY BROWN

Artist/Vendor

Ask your friend
 Ask your case manager
 Ask your mom
 Ask your dad
 Let me make sure I have my money

Denise

PATRICIA DONALDSON

Artist/Vendor



My cousin Denise and I went to hang out at the store and buy kids' clothes. We went to eat out at a restaurant with the kids. We tried to go to different places and eat out, and we took the kids home. We went to a bar for a nightcap. We got to spend time with each other before she passed.

She was a good auntie, spending time with her grandchildren and cherishing them. A funny cousin who felt like a best friend. A special bond often described as having a partner in crime who shares family roots and brings immense laughter. These relationships are cherished for the joyful, lasting memories they create as both family and friends.

Cousins share secrets others don't know. They do not judge you because they are family. Cousins look for the best in you. She was a nice person to spend time with. She is going to heaven, so I miss my cousin Denise.

Last night

RANDALL SMITH

Artist/Vendor

Last night, I went to Walmart. I came back here. I ate some food. I took a very short nap. At 1:30 a.m., I left my place and took the Night Owl to City Hall and then the 30th Street station. I got some water and ate a little bit at the train station. I got a little sleep until 6:30 a.m. I came to Street Sense and got some newspapers. I didn't eat or sleep much last night, and I am tired now at 11 a.m. I need to go back and get the train to go home to get some sleep. Tomorrow is a new day by God's grace, a new day to make things better. I pray for peace.

The closed and opened doors

CARLTON "INKFLOW" JOHNSON

Artist/Vendor

Control of what's open or closed
 at the end of no place
 feels like no control of the game

Nature talks to me,
 not knowing the world
 is the whisper in my ear
 of all blessings
 to unfold in my life



All I wish for my life,
 all in front of my eyes

Nature is all I see
 she is all and all
 the emotion from the sky
 as the rain falls
 to the ground



I see the colors when I look
 at this water of all
 she holds until the end of time

This walk of life, when you walk
 from the past to now
 to where you have come from
 to where you wish to be
 the events of time spent
 in this green land
 and the parts of your dreams



Lean on me

TONYA WILLIAMS

Artist/Vendor

Lean on me
 is an old story.



I was a little child
 and that song brings
 back lots of memories.
 Then, it became
 a remix as far
 as go-go music.

But I still love it
 as spirituality and having
 fun with that go-go remix.
 It touches my heart.

If you think about it,
 when I say I need
 somebody to lean on,
 my friend is Jesus.

GODFIDENCE pt3

RONALD DUDLEY

Artist/Vendor

God, could you help me please, cause I'm lost
 The devil keeps saying Jesus is false
 He tried to tell me, God, you ain't real
 Then the earth shook, believe it, you will

I saw death at night while I slept
 I can't sleep the moment I rest
 I just wanna thank the Lord before I go
 For the good times and bad times, and more

Ain't nobody perfect, we all make mistakes
 God forgave, so don't throw it in my face
 Lord, forgive me for the thoughts
 I've been hearing voices in my head
 Why the devil keeps laughing?

Now I laugh with a scripture and a prayer.
 Momma Assante said, "The truth is everywhere"
 Then she told me if I seek, I shall find
 To close my eyes, and I can see like the blind
 That's Godfidence

Cold on the hottest day

RENEECE BRINKLEY

Artist/Vendor

I walk around tall
 with a huge smile on my face.
 But no matter the season,
 It's always a cold day.

Temperatures start to rise,
 There are frozen stares my way.
 No matter the time,
 It's cold on the hottest day.

Street Sense

GRETA CHRISTIAN

Artist/Vendor



Street Sense has a lot of events in different places when you go out. You go out to sell your paper. Help homeless people and help them all over the world. Street Sense helps you so much.

Summer is here. When you go out in the sun, you get hot and sweaty. Ladies come out and ask you, "Do you have a bottle of water?" Men ask you, "Would you like to get something to eat?" They help you with that, and they give you some money to help Street Sense. When the people come out, they talk to you, and they laugh with you. They make you feel good inside.

There is a whole lot you could do in the summertime. Play ball. Watch the kids play football. You can play games. You can go swimming. You can go to the movies. You can go out to eat. You can go dancing. You can walk your dog.

Sell, sell, sell, sell your paper. This year will be a good, beautiful year. Street Sense is the place to work.

Mother's Day

DOMINIQUE ANTHONY

Artist/Vendor



Happy Mother's Day to all of you. I wasn't a good mother to my kids, but I did the best I could to be there. It was not healthy for me to be around my boys, but I got clean, mental health treatment, and HIV treatment. I was doing better because I wanted to see my oldest son graduate from the University of Maryland with a degree in business administration.

He also works a full-time job now, and my second-oldest, Eli, is 16 years old. He is into sports and education. He is very tall and handsome. He looks like my father. My oldest son used to give me cute stuff when he was very little. He used to make me Mother's Day cards and call me Mother Domo. I feel so blessed to have these boys in my life.

Happy Mother's Day to my mom, the person who gave me life and the person who always had my back no matter what. My mom and I's relationship wasn't always good, but she is a good grandmother to my boys, and I just wanted to let her know I love her so much. We don't all see eye to eye, but one thing I know is she loves me, and I am ok with that.

I wish both of my grandmothers were still helping me and supporting me the way they did when I was young. I miss them both like crazy, and I love them so much. When they were here, we did things, and I talked with them, and I learned to cook and make different kinds of foods. They both were great cooks, and I just want them back so bad. I wish they could see what type of person I am now. Getting clean and getting in treatment for my mental health and HIV. I am living my best life out here. All the things I went through, God knew what I needed to make me get my life in order. It made me stronger.

When I was young, when I had my boys, if I knew what I know now, I would do things a little differently. I would be a much better parent and continue working on myself. Keep on movin' like Soul II Soul in one of my favorite songs. "Keep on moving, don't stop."

I have learned from my mistakes, and I'm a much better person. I am in school, and I am a peer supporter. I am writing for Street Sense Media, and as a writer and vendor, I am doing well. But one thing I do truly miss is my son Eli. I love him so much, and we will see each other someday.

Happy Mother's Day to all women in the world, and happy Mother's Day to all the women in my life, and happy Mother's Day to all who love Dominique.

Diamonds and pearls

KYM PARKER

Artist/Vendor



Diamonds and pearls, they're beautiful gems made of high-pressure materials. They were made by God when she was thinking about us. Diamonds and pearls. These are things to show love. She raised us. She gave us wisdom and power to make it through.

Love yourself. Love God. She loves you. Think about the stuff she needs you to do. When you think about pearls, you think about their beauty. She created all of us. Every child of hers has something different.

Some think about these gifts and talents. When you get up in the morning, you should calm your feelings. She loves us all. It fills my heart and my soul.

Diamonds and pearls. What makes you happy? What gives you joy? She thinks about that. Hears y'all, and she heals y'all. Never letting you go. Never stopping. She is there. I love God because she taught us to love. I love everyone, I love you, I love my hair, and I love my skin tone. I love that she made me different. I love my family, my mother, my father, and my twin girls. God blesses everybody. She shows us kindness and love. There is nothing she can't do. Diamonds and pearls.

Fix this!

ANGELA NORRIS

Artist/Vendor



Can't fix the chasm sparked by your betrayal and continual lies, damage caused, obstacles that unjustly rerouted my progress — discerning eyes!

Turning my heart cold and bitter to reflect and mirror yours; I despise!

But my God is faithful and fights for me.

His right hand against you, He stands ever present by my side!

Torn between prayers; mercy for you —

but I must, because to do anything other is disobedience to the one in whom I trust!

You can never have what you never formed.

From the beginning of this earth and before —

by God, I was born!

You laugh, you mock, you scorn my being and meaning,

destroying my life, my property, and my being;

but the power in me is something with which you must contend;

it is the Holy Spirit of God that never ends!

He is NOT weak against your

reckless, callous, self-righteous indignations;

my God is sure, right by my side,

and so will be my side until I die!

So don't assume you will win or have won,

because the power of God's right hand

against you has only just begun!

For this I praise, I bless, I thank the Most High above;

and stand watching as He unfolds against you

and will overcome!

Sports

JACQUELINE TURNER

Artist/Vendor



Sports were made to participate in when you are young. You want to get in the game and PLAY!

But, not all can play. I was born with an enlarged heart, which I still have, so my mother kept me close, warning me not to do too much running or roughhousing. Imagine playing baseball and not being able to run to the next base because your mom says "she has to walk." That made me feel awful because I knew everyone else was thinking, "What's wrong with her?"

Yes, this put a damper on my life. However, I got stronger as I grew and no longer had to watch when others got in the game. Remember that some people don't know how it feels NOT to be able to play sports. So, enjoy and let your children play and frolic all they can.

You never know

ANTHONY CARNEY

Artist/Vendor



I might go before you.

You might go before me.

Give me my flowers while I'm here.

I will give you your flowers while you're here.

I can't smell the flowers when I die.

Give me my flowers while I'm here.

Spread love

Who knows? Do you?

BRIANNA BUTLER

Artist/Vendor



Secrets we have

Secrets, you don't know why

Secrets we try to find

Secrets we try to hide

covered by our facial

expressions and our clothes

The further we dig in

we get in so deep

we may not recover

Should we tell our secrets

to those we look up to, surprising

the ones we love? Or would that be

doing something wrong to ourselves?

That's why some of you try to expose other people and pin blame on others for what you know you've done

Tell the truth: are we breaking up

over this? Can we still be friends again?

We both want to give love and to receive

love with specific treatment

Lessons

JACQUELINE GALE

Artist/Vendor



Some days, I look back on how I made it through over 30 years of homelessness. First things first, I guess you can say I was born homeless. I had a very hateful mother, so surviving on my own came early. I learned to eat other people's trash and get along with the rats and the roaches.

I remember the first time I decided to run away. I was 13 living in New York, and I took the train to 42nd Street, Times Square. There were so many lights, I was thrilled. Back in the day, Times Square was the hot spot of New York. I remember the \$5 movies, and you got to watch two movies for your money. I would go, and I would have a bottle of liquor, get drunk, hide in the theater, and find a place to sleep until the last show, and then walk about at night.

When I started sleeping on the train, I had gotten this gut feeling to go to my grandma's house. Mama would always be happy to see me and tell me she was praying for me, and I would hug her very tight. My grandmother taught me the Bible when I was living with her.

And I can tell you now the Bible has life's best-learned lessons. I have read many scriptures, and all have taught me something valuable. I am still not that sociable, but I have learned to trust God.

If you read the Bible with an open mind and are not so judgmental, you will find out we are all cousins related in Christ. In the book of Deuteronomy, the Ten Commandments are written.

These commandments are life lessons to learn, live, and love.

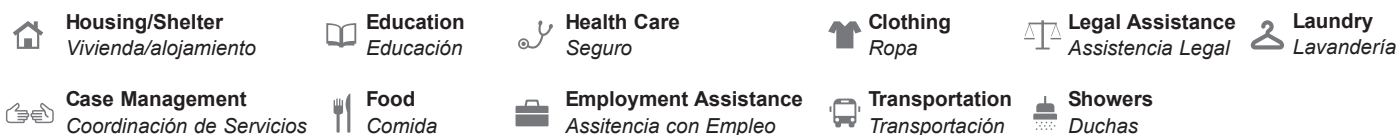
COMMUNITY SERVICES

SHELTER HOTLINE
Línea directa de alojamiento
(202) 399-7093

YOUTH HOTLINE
Línea de juventud
(202) 547-7777

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE
Línea directa de violencia doméstica
1-800-799-7233

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH HOTLINE
Línea de salud del comportamiento
1-888-793-4357



All services listed are referral-free

Academy of Hope Public Charter School
202-269-6623 // 2315 18th Pl. NE
202-373-0246 // 421 Alabama Ave. SE
aohdc.org



Bread for the City
1525 7th St., NW // 202-265-2400
1700 Marion Barry Ave., SE // 202-561-8587
breadforthecity.org



Calvary Women's Services // 202-678-2341
1217 Marion Barry Ave., SE
calvaryservices.org



Catholic Charities // 202-772-4300
catholiccharitiesdc.org/gethelp



Central Union Mission // 202-745-7118
65 Massachusetts Ave., NW
missiondc.org



Charlie's Place // 202-929-0100
1830 Connecticut Ave., NW
charliesplacedc.org



Christ House // 202-328-1100
1717 Columbia Rd., NW
christhouse.org



Church of the Pilgrims // 202-387-6612
2201 P St., NW (1-1:30 on Sundays only)
churchofthepilgrims.org/outreach



Community Family Life Services
202-347-0511 // 4860 Fort Totten Dr, NE
cflsdc.org



Community of Hope // 202-232-7356
4 Atlantic St., NW
communityofhopedc.org



Covenant House Washington
202-610-9600 // 2001 Mississippi Ave., SE
covenanthousedc.org



D.C. Coalition for the Homeless
202-347-8870 // 1234 Massachusetts Ave., NW
dccfh.org



Father McKenna Center // 202-842-1112
19 North Capitol St., NW
fathermckennacenter.org



Food and Friends // 202-269-2277
(home delivery for those suffering from HIV, cancer, etc)
219 Riggs Rd., NE
foodandfriends.org



Foundry Methodist Church // 202-332-4010
1500 16th St., NW
foundryumc.org/idministry

Identification services

Friendship Place // 202-364-1419
4713 Wisconsin Ave., NW
friendshipplace.org



Georgetown Ministry Center // 202-338-8301
1041 Wisconsin Ave., NW
georgetownministrycenter.org



Jobs Have Priority // 202-544-9096
1526 Pennsylvania Ave., SE
jobshavepriority.org



Loaves & Fishes // 202-232-0900
1525 Newton St., NW
loavesandfishesdc.org



Martha's Table // 202-328-6608
marthastable.org
2375 Elvans Rd, SE



2204 Martin Luther King Ave. SE



Miriam's Kitchen // 202-452-8926
2401 Virginia Ave., NW
miriamskitchen.org



My Sister's Place // 202-529-5991 (24-hr hotline)
mysistersplacedc.org



N Street Village // 202-939-2076
1333 N St., NW
nstreetvillage.org



New York Avenue Shelter // 202-832-2359
1355-57 New York Ave., NE



Patricia Handy Place for Women
202-733-5378 // 810 5th St., NW



Samaritan Inns // 202-667-8831
2523 14th St., NW
samaritaninns.org



Samaritan Ministry
202-722-2280 // 1516 Hamilton St., NW
202-889-7702 // 1345 U St., SE
samaritanministry.org



Sasha Bruce Youthwork // 202-675-9340
741 8th St., SE
sashabruce.org



So Others Might Eat (SOME) // 202-797-8806
71 O St., NW
some.org



St. Luke's Mission Center // 202-363-4900
3655 Calvert St., NW
stlukesmissioncenter.org



Thrive DC // 202-737-9311
1525 Newton St., NW
thrivedc.org



Unity Health Care
unityhealthcare.org
- Healthcare for the Homeless
Health Center: 202-508-0500
- Community Health Centers: 202-469-4699

1500 Galen Street SE, 1251-B Saratoga Ave NE,
1660 Columbia Road NW, 4414 Benning Road NE,
3924 Minnesota Avenue NE, 765 Kenilworth Terrace
NE, 850 Delaware Ave., SW, 3240 Stanton Road
SE, 3020 14th Street NW, 425 2nd Street NW, 4713
Wisconsin Avenue NW, 2100 New York Avenue
NE, 1333 N Street NW, 1355 New York Avenue NE,
1151 Bladensburg Rd., NE, 4515 Edson Pl., NE



Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless
1200 U St., NW // 202-328-5500
legalclinic.org



The Welcome Table // 202-347-2635
1317 G St., NW.
epiphanydc.org/thewelcometable



Whitman-Walker Health
1525 14th St., NW // 202-745-7000
1201 Sycamore Dr., SE
whitman-walker.org



Woodley House // 202-830-3508
2711 Connecticut Ave., NW

For further information and listings,
visit our online service guide at
StreetSenseMedia.org/service-guide



JOB BOARD

Customer Service Associate
Wawa // Washington, D.C.

Part-Time (Onsite)

Assist customers, prepare food and beverages, operate cash registers, and maintain store cleanliness.

Requirements: Customer service skills, reliability, ability to work in a fast-paced environment.

Pay: \$19 – \$23/hr

Apply: shorturl.at/3dlI6

Fleet Maintenance Technician
FedEx // Washington, D.C.

Part-Time (Onsite)

Maintain and repair FedEx vehicles and equipment, perform inspections, troubleshoot issues, and complete maintenance records.

Requirements: High school diploma/GED, four years of vehicle repair experience, valid driver's license, and ability to lift 50 lbs.

Pay: \$33.00 – \$43.41/hr

Apply: shorturl.at/XmZ4u

Retail Merchandise Associate
TJ Maxx // Washington, D.C.

Part-Time (Onsite)

Stock merchandise, organize displays, assist customers, and maintain a clean shopping environment.

Requirements: Customer service skills, teamwork, ability to lift merchandise and work flexible schedules.

Pay: \$17.95 – \$18.45/hr

Apply: shorturl.at/Jqolt

Hiring? Send your job postings to
esmat@StreetSenseMedia.org

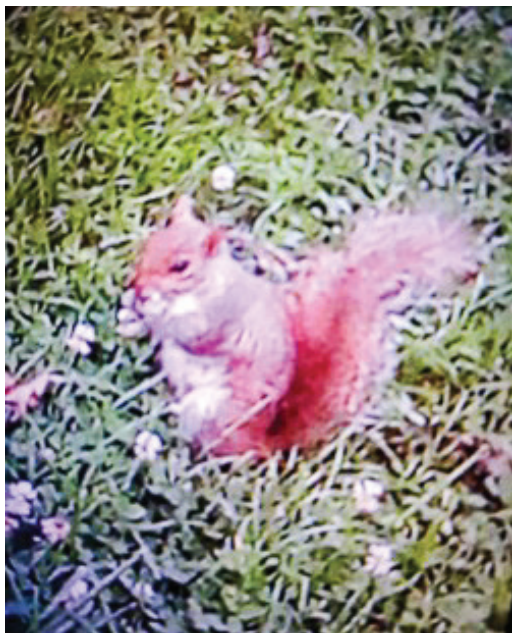


My day at the park

ELIZABETH WINDSOR
Artist/Vendor



On weekdays and a few weekends, I spend time at some of the parks around D.C. I like to sit and feed the birds and squirrels with small packs of peanuts. I haven't been to the park much since it's been chilly lately. I enjoy sitting and watching the squirrels running around, chasing one another, and the birds, and seeing the people around and the cars. They have some pretty parks here. Parks are a great place for picnics in the summertime. I love feeding the birds and squirrels. Here is a picture I took. Hope you enjoy seeing it as much as I did taking it.



A squirrel in the park. Photo by Elizabeth Windsor

Falling into darkness

FLEGETTE RIPPY
Artist/Vendor



Seeing clearly while slowly going blind. I never thought I would see the day when my sight would go away. I can't express the anger I feel. This is surreal. Surely everyone is a stranger. People say you know me, not anymore, because I can't see. Everyone is a stranger, they seem to forget I can't see.



ABEL PUTU
Artist/Vendor



AKINDELE AKEREJAH
Artist/Vendor

Blocks on blocks

DRAKE BRENSUL
Artist/Vendor

Time is the transfer of life into another life. It only satisfies the movement between a life created and the life consumed. Gravity is the sole arch preventing its absence. For life would freely move through each other to evolve. Then there is gravity, it did not kill energy. Instead, it increased its evolutionary cost so space had it free, founded in its limits were by time.

Thank you for reading Street Sense!

From your vendor, _____

JUNE 3 - JUNE 16, 2026 | VOLUME 23 ISSUE 15

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STREET PAPERS

35
COUNTRIES

25
LANGUAGES

Silhouette

ZERO
Artist/Vendor

Fading is the silhouette
A loss of time is what I inherit
My shape is blurring
Into the infinite cosmic churning
That is existence

As my skin liquifies and coagulates
In the pure darkness it evaporates
I am from nothing
Knowing this is numbing
Any feeling is resistance

In this branding moment
There is no need for atonement
Only mourning
Forever yearning
For the end of persistence



AIDA PEERY
Artist/Vendor