

VOLUME 23 ISSUE 22 SEPT. 9 - SEPT. 22, 2026

STREET SENSE

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Subject: Re: Homeless Encampment Removal
Good Afternoon,
Attached is the list of locations we have identified throughout today.
Thanks,

Jeffery Carroll
Executive Assistant Chief of Police
Metropolitan Police Department
Executive Office of the Chief of Police
441 4th Street, NW | Washington, DC 20001

Thank you, Mr. Carroll. We will have a representative there at 5pm. It would also be helpful for outreach, if MPD could provide the sites that will be closed after 6pm. That way, I can get a team of outreach workers to visit those sites and try to move the residents to shelter prior to the engagement.

Subject: Re: Homeless Encampment Removal
Good Morning Deputy Mayor Turnage,

I appreciate you and Director Pierre attending the taskforce meeting last night. As I mentioned yesterday we will begin operations on District property this evening with the taskforce. Can you have the teams that will assist in recovering property and removing trash meet us at 5:30pm this evening at the US Park Police Anacostia Operations Facility (1901 Anacostia Dr. SE) so we will be ready to begin operations at 6pm. Feel free to pass along my contact information for coordination. We will have an MPD official meet the team and serve as a liaison.
Thanks,
Jeffery Carroll
Executive Assistant Chief of Police
Metropolitan Police Department
Executive Office of the Chief of Police

Good afternoon,

Lindsey Appiah is the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety & Justice. She will connect you with the appropriate POC to support the homeless encampment removals tonight.

I am also working on a POC from the Department of Veterans Affairs to assist any homeless veterans encountered during the operation.

Good Afternoon DM Turnage and Director Pierre,
There is an encampment in the 600 block of Pennsylvania Ave, SE that needs services and needs to be removed / cleaned up.

It's my understanding that the encampment team was supposed to have already cleaned this up by it was canceled for unknown reasons. There are photos of the area below and our First District contact is attached.

I appreciate any assistance your team can provide.
Thanks,

Jeffery Carroll
Executive Assistant Chief of Police
Metropolitan Police Department
Executive Office of the Chief of Police
441 4th Street, NW | Washington, DC 20001

Policing with Purpose, Serving with Care

All -

My contact information is provided below. Please ensure that we are contacted as far in advance of an engagement so that Director Pierre and I can marshal the necessary social services support.

Wayne Turnage

DC Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services, Wayne Turnage, is the POC for this evening. He will be at the 8 pm muster this evening with our Director of the DC Department of Human Services, Rachel Pierre, at the USPP Anacostia Operations Facility. I've copied him and his Chief of Staff, Ciana Creighton, on this email.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Appiah
Deputy Mayor
Office of the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice

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Behind the scenes: Homelessness and the federal takeover

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Judge blocks HUD’s attempts to shift money away from permanent housing funding again

CHIH-RONG KUO
Editorial Intern



he U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)’s latest attempt to shift federal homelessness funding away from permanent housing has been blocked by the courts.

On Aug. 7, a U.S. district judge dismissed HUD’s new 2026 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) guidelines for its Continuum of Care grant, the largest pot of federal funding for homelessness, after a lawsuit brought by local governments, states, and the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) against HUD earlier this summer.

The 2026 NOFO, released on June 1, would have set aside \$1.3 billion of the federal grant solely for temporary and supportive programs, which would shift money from permanent housing and could result in roughly 97,000 people experiencing homelessness, plaintiffs argued. The Trump administration has criticized housing first programs, including permanent housing, and attempted to slash funding for homelessness assistance grants, instead prioritizing “less-effective programs,” according to plaintiffs.

“Communities across this nation — in states both red and blue — rely on the federal government to support smart, strategic, lawful, and evidence-based funding opportunities to support their efforts to end homelessness,” Ann Oliva, CEO of NAEH, said in a press release about the ruling. “This decision further reinforces that this administration has repeatedly failed to meet that responsibility.”

NOFOs are public documents federal agencies use to announce their intentions to award discretionary grants. Nonprofits, states, and local governments applying for funding must shape their programs off of guidelines in the NOFO.

In her ruling, Judge Mary McElroy of the District Court of Rhode Island said the 2026 NOFO must be set aside in its entirety, meaning HUD cannot use it to determine funding for this year, but did not grant the plaintiffs a permanent injunction, which would have stopped HUD from using any of the policies, like reserving money for temporary housing and treatment, in a future NOFO.

The ruling focused on the agency’s procedures, not the policy itself. In her decision, McElroy noted there is a framework that allows HUD to create incentives and set aside funding for its priorities. However, the framework requires HUD to engage in a public notice-and-comment process, which HUD did not do in this case.

The decision comes after McElroy also dismissed HUD’s 2025 NOFOs. The 2025 NOFOs would have capped funding for Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) to just 30% of federal homelessness funding, a cut NAEH projected would force 170,000 people nationwide, including almost 1,500 D.C. residents, out of supportive housing.

PSH vouchers allow local housing authorities to address chronic homelessness by providing vouchers for recipients to live in an apartment and receive supportive services. Participants in the program pay a maximum of 30% of their income toward rent. In D.C., participants must be residents of the District, have at least one year of documented chronic homelessness, have a chronic disabling condition, and have limited income-earning potential to qualify.

The future of PSH funding remains unclear. The ruling does not prevent HUD from attempting to make changes to federal homelessness funding, but HUD will have to issue another NOFO to do so.

EVENTS
AT SSM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Street Sense audience survey drops Sept. 23! Earn five extra papers every time your customer fills out the survey.
- Two beloved workshops are back! Photography Workshop will be every Monday at 11:30 a.m. And Theatre Workshop will be every Wednesday at 12:00 p.m., starting Sept. 23. Come see what’s going on!
- The August Vendors Meeting will be Friday, Sept. 25, from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Come for business, community, and pizza!

BIRTHDAYS

Invisible Prophet
Sept. 12
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.
4. While distributing the Street Sense newspaper, I will not ask for more than \$3 per issue or solicit donations by any other means.
5. I will only purchase the newspaper from Street Sense Media staff and volunteers and will not distribute newspapers to other vendors.
6. I will not distribute copies of “Street Sense” on metro trains and buses or on private property.
7. I will abide by the Street Sense Media Vendor Territory Policy at all times and will resolve any related disputes with other vendors in a professional manner.
8. I will not sell additional goods or products while distributing “Street Sense.”
9. I will not distribute “Street Sense” under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
10. I understand that my badge and vest are property of Street Sense Media and will not deface them. I will present my badge when purchasing “Street Sense” and will always display my badge when distributing “Street Sense.”

From the editor: Congratulations to our vendor and writer, Wendell Williams! His piece, “Would we die this early if we were in any other group?” about the death and burial of people experiencing homelessness was named as a finalist for best vendor contribution in the International Network of Street Paper awards in September. You can read Wendell’s piece at bit.ly/Wendell-finalist or by searching the title on the Street Sense website.

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NEWS

A chat with Christy Respress, president and CEO of Pathways to Housing DC

ANDREW ANDERSON
Vendor Reporting Fellow



was invited to the 2026 National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) Conference in D.C. in July.

My focus was to interview people and find out what makes this year's conference so important. The focus of this year's conference was innovative housing solutions, more federal investments, and fighting the criminalization of homelessness, but I still wondered if this conference was more important than in years past. With so many people coming from across the United States, there has to be a good reason why this year's conference matters.

I was introduced to Christy Respress, president and CEO of Pathways to Housing DC, and I asked her what made this year's conference different and the impact changes at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) are having on nonprofits. By the end of the interview, we had a soda and a healthy cup of inspiration.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity. Street Sense vendors and journalists were able to attend the conference through a partnership with NAEH, which allowed reporters to attend for free and provided small stipends for travel. NAEH worked with reporters to set up interviews during the conference, but did not review any of the articles ahead of publication.

Andrew: How many conferences have you attended?

Christy: Oh my goodness, probably about 15.

Okay, and what makes this conference different?

I think this conference has been really critical in understanding what the changes are in current legislation and what we're doing as a community and as a country to push back against some policy changes at HUD. Understand that more in depth, and to also learn some really cutting-edge practices as it relates to funding in this time when things are so uncertain under this administration.

What are your expectations for this year's conference?

That's a good question. My expectations are always a couple of things, and I think it's no different. One is to walk away inspired again. To think about the different innovations and what we can do better as an organization and also as a city, learning best practices from other communities. So I use it as an inspiration. But I think also it's the connection with other people doing the work. And I think the last thing is really understanding more deeply, which I am, what are we doing again to fight and to push back on legislation that we know is actively harmful to the communities that we serve and who are served by HUD's programs.



Christy Respress, CEO of Pathways to Housing. Photo by Andrew Anderson

D.C. expands locations helping people experiencing homelessness get free IDs

CHIH-RONG KUO
Editorial Intern



The D.C. Department of Human Services (DHS) and Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) have more than doubled access points to free IDs for people experiencing homelessness, according to an email from DHS obtained by Street Sense.

The new ID policies, effective Sept. 1, also include digitizing part of the process and increasing how many people each location can help. DHS's website currently lists the most up-to-date access points and walk-in hours.

The no-fee ID process allows D.C. residents to get a free non-driver ID card if they have a Homeless Services Proof of Residency Form, which can only be obtained from DHS-designated access points. Typically, non-driver ID cards cost \$20. IDs are necessary for many housing and benefits programs, as well as finding employment.

In 2025, DHS reduced the number of locations where residents could obtain the proof of residency form, which created barriers to obtaining IDs, prompting criticism from outreach workers.

One of the most significant changes is the expansion from 11 access points to 39 access points, with the addition of locations serving women, returning citizens, and the LGBTQ+ population. Twelve of the 39 access points are walk-in locations, while the remaining 27 are shelter-based. Most of the new locations are at shelters; the change only added one additional walk-in access point and no women-only or LGBTQ+ walk-in access points. There are currently no walk-in access points in Wards 3, 4, and 7.

Past criticisms of the ID process noted some of the access points were in male-only shelters, which can discourage women from going there. Among the shelter-based access points, seven are now designated for women only, six for men only, 11 for families, and one for LGBTQ+ individuals. Walk-in access points are not designated to serve one population. These additions come as a result of resident and community advocacy for women-only sites and access for survivors of domestic violence, according to the email announcing the changes obtained by Street Sense.

Under the previous hard copy system, each form was printed and signed manually. DHS initially only issued 100 forms to each location and granted them the ability to request additional forms. Since Sept. 1, the forms are completed online, so there are no limits to the number of forms each access point can provide, although residents still must bring a hard copy of the digital form to the DMV to get their ID.

Lastly, the updated procedure clarifies the eligibility requirements for obtaining a Homeless Services Proof of Residency form. Prior to the change, the DHS website said clients must have a minimum of two engagements in the D.C. homeless services system within 30 days of the form request date. The current website states clients must have at least a 30-day history in the District's Homeless Management Information System, a database that collects client-level data on individuals and families experiencing homelessness, meaning they would only be eligible for the proof of residency form 30 days after their first engagement.

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

The postman always rings twice, part 2

WENDELL WILLIAMS

Artist/Vendor

This is part two of Wendell's series on his journey through rehab. Read part one at streetsensemedia.org



he last morning of detox arrived. There would be no last-minute call granting me an extended stay. I couldn't be mad; the county had sent me to every facility, promising every solution under the sun.

It turned out to be an "us" trip. My roommate was coming to Belle Haven too.

The cross-county van ride took us to our new home, and, even with its austere appearance, I immediately claimed it. After the lifestyle I'd left of living in abandonements, junk cars, and outside, Belle Haven, Oxford House, looked like the Four Seasons. The property was huge, sitting on a hill off Route 1 in Fairfax, on a major bus line to a Metro. What was there not to like?

At the director's suggestion, I made calls, including to ask a boss who had fired me no less than five times for my job back, because you had to work. In a Random Act of Kindness (RAOK), the director offered us both a \$20 loan, for me to get on my way back to self-sufficiency and for my roommate to pick up a check. Had we been talking, I would have shared my experience with coming out of treatment and picking up a check alone. But he threw his things on his bed and rushed out. It was to be years before I saw him again. After 30 days, according to house rules, we sent a letter to his last address and donated his belongings to charity. This steeled my resolve, for it had happened to me so many times I'd lost everything.

The \$20 scared the living shit out of me, and for the first time in years, I took the suggestion. For some of us, the only option is to sit tight, pull that spiritual seatbelt as tight as we can stand it, and wait the feeling out. For years, I lived off of Annie, "The Sun Will Come Out Tomorrow." I learned to tell myself to hold on to nothing but the promise of a brighter day, because someone further along the path told me, "It's going to be alright."

Therein lies the problem: I was addicted to the quick fix. Later, working with others, I called it the Jiffy Lube approach. It was part of why I kept repeating the same madness. At some point, I started to run out of energy or willingness, or, God forbid, both. That's where I was before that house, which virtually all of my housemates hated. But not me; it had been a long time since I'd been a part of a family, no matter how many people came and went, often before I learned their names. One of the many who showed up, then disappeared? My old roommate. But the house stayed, and I was committed to taking as long as I needed to get it right.

It didn't take long to see what the winners possessed: willingness not to people-please, and to hold people and yourself accountable. "Who am I when nobody is watching?" determines character. For me, character and self-esteem were connected, and if I wanted to improve my self-esteem, I had to start doing esteemable acts. A good place to start was following the 38 rules of Oxford House.

I studied the rules day and night. Some would call this pressure; looking back, I'd call it "basic training." I'll admit I was scared all the time I lived there, but it was a healthy fear. Breaking the rules could cost anything from \$10-50, with major violations resulting in removal. The rules and fines did their jobs, raising our awareness of our behaviors. We complied, maybe only to avoid a fine at the beginning, but slowly because it was right.

For example, paying rent. It's not okay to live off others' labor while we mismanage our funds to, say, buy up the latest gear. Late rent was a \$25 fine, and after seven days, all rent had to become current, or you had to move out. No vote or payment plans, o-u-t. In my experience, in 100% of cases, it was mismanagement or using, either of which calls for immediate removal. Allowing people to stay teaches them nothing and makes them dependent on the expectation of endless chances. Not having to ask for those made

me develop a set of principles that have kept me employed, out of legal issues, and housed in my apartment for the last 13 years, which is truly an Old Testament miracle with my past.

Staying in facilities too long can be fixed, but not staying long enough can't. Some pay the ultimate price, with their lives or freedom, when they gamble on shortcuts and lose. I'm so grateful for not having anywhere to run to when I came to Oxford House. I didn't have the space to not like something or think it wasn't fair. That shit is for children; I had to finally grow the heck up.

All this time, I was continuing with my mental health commitments. My longtime therapist retired to move back to small-town Ohio. So in a RAOK, I was assigned to a new therapist. With my old one, it was two guys shooting the breeze, with about 15-20 minutes of semi-serious work. But the new guy, he was all business. That made me very uncomfortable talking about myself. Then slowly, I started testing the waters, and after a few sessions of lightweight issues, he started to challenge me to come in ready to work. Once I began to feel the benefits, I wanted more.

Over the course of the next four months, seeing him twice a week, along with daily attendance of 12-steppers gatherings, connections with others, and working, time just slipped by.

In my third year, I became stuck. I was ready for a change, but I knew I had run out of chances. I took the mindset of "how could I be mad? I've had more breaks than I deserved," so I resigned myself to having to live a shitty life, and I would not complain.

But then one day, as I walked through Old Town Alexandria, I glanced at the shop windows and did not like what I saw. I looked like a sumo wrestler. It was around this time I began to look at the absence of a relationship and realized my meds played a part in that. So, at my next appointment, I announced I wanted to make some changes. Within 24 hours, everyone in the Alexandria mental health and substance abuse system contacted me.

At my next house meeting, our director announced a new house was opening in Falls Church and asked who would consider helping open it. So, to quote the Jeffersons, in a few months I'd "movin on up to a new deluxe." It gave me something to look forward to, because the crazy train atmosphere at Bellehaven was taking its toll, mainly because of the majority rule process with the newly drug- and alcohol-free. One down.

By the time I could get a psych appointment, I weighed over 340 pounds, headed to 360. But a few months earlier in a RAOK, the issue of loneliness was solved when my old friend found me using social media. We hadn't seen each other since the '80s. Two down!

I made an appointment to see if they could switch me to different meds; I'd now become a positive example of treating those with a dual diagnosis successfully, whether I wanted to be one or not. My psych doctor retired, and a breath of fresh air blew in: a younger, some would later say crazy, female doctor from NYC.

She was the first of the professionals to get on board. If I was to stay on my track, I could see I'd wind up 375 pounds, on food stamps, living in Section 8, and having to live off a disability check. No, my 12-steppers told me, there was enough time left in my life to live out some of my dreams. With her endorsement, the rest would fall in line and respect my right to make the decision.

Next was my therapist, who expressed his concern for me. I know why; he'd seen me get sober and return for years. The reason for the back and forth was still being attracted to parts of my old life, moving too fast toward wellness, taking shortcuts, and being dishonest with myself. He shared a checklist to support me without the meds. We talked about my other attempts and came up with plans for all the possibilities. One more change underway.

The last issue to tackle was being at jobs where I used less than



Wendell at Belle Haven. Photo courtesy of Wendell Williams

25% of my brain. The concern was how that would play out without having meds helping navigate that minefield of my emotions. So it was agreed I would double my sessions with my therapist and see the psych doctor two times a month. Suffering with any part of the big three is a dangerous game that can affect your ability to hold on to employment, one of the cornerstones of self-esteem. When I feel better about myself, it's hard to fall into thinking of harming myself in any way. So how would I react, still confined to dead-end jobs?

Well, one day in a ROAK that would change. I had developed a habit of getting to therapy early and reading all the postings on the doors, bulletin boards, and walls, when I discovered one I'd never seen. Stopping and reading it was the beginning of a beautiful chapter in my life. Before this moment, I was sober but stuck in neutral, just waiting for the other shoe to drop. There was no light at the end of my tunnel. I was putting one foot in front of the other, just putting some distance between me and that moment of desperation that morning of Oct. 23. I was told it wasn't necessary to see the light at the end of the tunnel, as long as I could feel the breeze from that direction on my face and just keep moving towards it.

The poster said if you were looking for a change, the Department of Rehabilitation Services could help. I ripped it off the wall when no one was looking, not feeling worthy to be chosen, and stepped in to see my therapist. In the last 15 minutes, I brought up the flyer, and he said, "Oh yeah, that's a great idea, and she's right down the hall." He picked up his phone, and she said, "Send him on down." Later, I found out how difficult it was to get an appointment. In a RAOK, I was in the right place at the right time, and she was free.

She was German and spoke with a thick accent but a real soft voice that said: "I'm 100% interested in your plans; whatever you want to do, we can get you there." The first of our appointments was set, which left me with time to get over the shock of having another opportunity for the change I needed drop in my lap. It was only a few steps down the hall to school, job training, and a new reality.

As we got closer to the end of my time at Belle Haven, I'd find myself sharing space with that same roommate from detox, only I was further away from a drink, and it didn't bother me as much now that my ticket was punched for a change of venue soon.

My director at Oxford had chosen six veterans of the program to open this new house that was unique since every man would have his own room. The old-timers would match with new residents who we'd mentor. The six of us were very thoughtful about the process, but it didn't change the outcome. New people came and went for the same reasons, but the six of us stayed the course and learned to love one another and forgive, or we couldn't live together. We all had been sober for about three years now. The new house, Glen Carlin, had a calmness that eluded Belle Haven.

And just like that, all excuses for failure or quitting again were taken away from me. An African proverb says it takes a village to raise a child. It also takes a community to reclaim a life, and in a RAOK, they all came together to move me forward again!

FEATURE



Georgetown Ministry's Outreach Coordinator Ben Zack helped the only resident present at 26 and L Streets NW move his belongings as police arrived to the encampment on Aug 15, 2025. Photo by Madi Koesler

Inside the turmoil between D.C. agencies and the White House to clear homeless encampments during the federal takeover

MADI KOESLER

Freelance Reporter

This article was reported with support from SpotlightDC: Capital City Fund for Investigative Journalism.

On the afternoon of Aug. 14, 2025, D.C. police walked the streets surrounding the White House looking for encampments. Officers took notes of where homeless people slept and sat, emails Street Sense obtained via public records request show. After the team of at least three walked the streets of downtown D.C., they created a list of 25 tents, tarps, and benches.

At least 14 of those sites would be removed by local police in federally-driven encampment clearings the next day, displacing over a dozen people. The week that followed — full of sweeps motivated by President Donald Trump's hardline stance against visible homelessness — caused confusion and chaos among people experiencing homelessness in the District and changed the reality of living outside.

While it was immediately clear the closures in August of last year resulted from federal pressure, additional emails from that time obtained by Street Sense shed light on the weeks-long federal influence on D.C.'s homelessness policy, and how that week's actions continue to echo a year after the takeover officially ended.

As jurisdictions across the country pass anti-camping legislation, the White House continues to push for "beautification" and criminalizing sleeping outside through executive orders and funding decisions. In the District, long-standing, multi-tent encampments have been eradicated as single-person encampment clearings have skyrocketed. As Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services Wayne Turnage said during an oversight hearing earlier this year, D.C. has shifted from maintaining encampments to closing them, with the District on track to close twice as many encampments in

2026 as in 2025. The impact of the two-week crackdown on visible homelessness last summer lingers. And so do questions about what actually happened.

Federal interest in homelessness in D.C. began months before the takeover. On March 28, 2025, Trump signed an executive order creating the D.C. Safe and Beautiful Task Force to increase police presence in public areas and maximize immigration enforcement. The order specifically mentioned removing all homelessness on federal land, creating anxiety among outreach teams and encampment communities.

Emails obtained by Street Sense shed light on the taskforce's early interest in the District's response to homelessness.

In a thread beginning on May 2, 2025, Orville Greene, then the White House official in charge of the task force, who also served as the Homeland Security Council's transnational threats director for narcotics and opioids, according to his emails, connected with a mix of local and federal agencies to establish the "Homelessness Working Group."

"We look forward to helping you through any blockers to ensure the execution of President Trump's Executive Order," Greene ended his email.

On May 7, Talor Wasden, nee Allen, policy advisor for the National Security Council (NSC), responded. She listed the organizations that made up the group: the Federal Highway Administration, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban

Development (HUD), the D.C. Department of Transportation, the Executive Office of the Mayor, the National Park Service (NPS), and the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD).

Some of these agencies, including the NSC and MPD, would eventually collaborate on federally led encampment clearings in August 2025.

HUD Deputy Assistant Secretary Caitlyn McKenney replied to this thread with an attached proposal for an emergency shelter in D.C. for the group to discuss with the goal to “decrease unsheltered homelessness and increase public safety and access to public spaces.”

Street Sense has not obtained further communications from the working group’s discussions. But three months later, on Aug. 10, Trump posted photos of tents along I-66 on Truth Social. The next day, Trump declared “Liberation Day” during a press conference, officially invoking Section 740 of the D.C. Home Rule Act, allowing the president to take control of MPD during an emergency, and deploying the National Guard to the District.

Anxiety, chaos, and poor interagency communication ensued over the following days as D.C.’s Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services (DMHHS), which houses the city’s encampment team, cancelled scheduled encampment closures, turning instead to the tents photographed by Trump — setting a precedent of rapid-paced clearings with reduced notice and outreach.

Normally, the DMHHS encampment team partners with locally contracted outreach teams and the D.C. Department of Behavioral Services (DBH) to give encampment residents notice and offer shelter and storage for their belongings before clearings. While police are sometimes present at encampment closures, they are not led by law enforcement. At the time of the federal takeover, DMHHS’ protocol required the District give at least a week’s notice before scheduled engagements unless there were immediate health and safety concerns. All clearings also had to be justified by health and safety concerns until early 2025, when Turnage, who oversees DMHHS, said in an oversight hearing increased closures were “more consistent with the mayor’s goal that people don’t sleep outside.”

NPS has the authority to respond to homelessness on federal lands, like parks and monuments, but, unlike DMHHS, it is not required to provide prior notice or connect residents with outreach services.

DMHHS began preparing for the possibility of a federal surge on Aug. 7, internal emails show. In one email, in response to a concern from a community member, Turnage wrote, “If Trump declares an emergency and brings in the National Guard to supplant law enforcement, whether the encampment is on federal or District land will not matter. This will be a difficult three or four days.”

Emails the evening of Aug. 13 between Greene, who was detailed to the NSC, Turnage, Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice Lindsey Appiah, former D.C. Police Chief Pamela Smith, Chief Inspector Donald Snider — who commands the Capital Area Regional Fugitive Task Force for the U.S. Marshals Service and redacted parties from the U.S. Department of Justice established Turnage as the District’s point of contact for encampment removals that night. Turnage asked federal officials to give his team advance notice so they could marshal “necessary social support services.” This request would largely be ignored.

On the morning of Aug. 14, the District led a closure at the grassy field beside the Peace Institute — now named after the president — which Trump had posted photos of days earlier. It displaced at least eight residents. Despite the heightened attention, the process generally followed D.C.’s encampment protocol, which requires residents receive notice and be offered services; the normal groups of outreach workers, encampment team staff, biohazard engineers, and behavioral health workers just moved on a tighter schedule due to the federal pressure.

Following the clearing, Turnage took questions from the press. He told reporters the District did not have control of a list of encampments federal forces wanted to close, but he had received notice closures could begin that evening. “We don’t control the list. If we got it, we certainly will be happy to share it, but we don’t have a list right now,” Turnage said.

Internal emails obtained by Street Sense show that around the same time Turnage fielded questions, MPD officers, then under federal control, were developing a list of encampments, all within a roughly 10-block radius of the White House. At least 14 sites on the list would be the target of MPD clearings that would break District protocol and send shockwaves of fear across the city in the following days, though outreach workers and residents confirmed several of the other sites were impacted during the federal takeover.

The officers, whose names were redacted, sent their notes, at least some of which were in Comic Sans font, to Commander Jason Bagshaw to compile into a finalized encampment list at 1:31 p.m. One of the canvassing officers specified in a follow-up email to Bagshaw that “All sites provided were encampments of either tents or tarps cover park benches.”

While DMHHS and the D.C. Department of Human Services (DHS) maintain encampment lists and information on people sleeping outside for outreach purposes, neither Street Sense nor outreach workers are aware of police previously leading an effort to identify encampments.

The 25 sites were as follows:

- 1. 1313 New York Ave NW east Side, Park area
- 2. 1405 G ST NW Front of/ North Sidewalk
- 3. 1300 H St NW south side of the Street Blue tent. on sidewalk.
- 4. 901 G St NW Green Tent North side
- 5. 501 5th St NW east side black tent against brick building.
- 6. 436 11th St NW Doorway Harrington Hotel west side of the street.
- 7. 900 blk 27th St NW east side orange tent under bridge

8. 1000 blk 27th St NW (Ramp to Rock Creek PWY, From K st NW) East side green tent with a motorcycle next to it.

- 9. 2300 Blk Pennsylvania Ave NW Green Tent in the Grass median. Just west of the Circle.
- 10. 24th And K ST Opposite 2375 Penn Ave NW - Brown tent, north side.
- 11. 2200 blk K St NW two green tents
- 12. 1000 24th St NW West side sidewalk brown/Blue tent F/O 2401 Penn.
- 13. 21st and E St NW - Blue Tarp in median on park bench
- 14. NB E St Expressway, Exit to 27th St NW - West side of the road there is a tent along the jersey barrier
- 15. NB Potomac River Fwy just north of E ST (Northbound and Southbound sides) – large encampment
- 16. Triangle on N/S of 1800 Pennsylvania Ave NW.
- Large cart of homeless belongings
- 17. Triangle S/S of 2000 Pennsylvania Ave NW - Blue tarp tent set up on bench
- 18. K St and Washington Circle NW (EAST SIDE) - two tents
- 19. Washington Circle NW (Inside circle on east side) - 1 Tent
- 20. Washington Circle NW & K St NW (WEST SIDE) - 4 Tents
- 21. Rock Creek PKWY NB, North of Virginia Ave NW just past the fenced in lot filled with jersey barriers to the north under the trees. - 1 tent
- 22. N/B Potomac River Freeway, in the triangle on the left side on the Exit to Lt St NW - 2 tents
- 23. 24th St NW and Pennsylvania Ave NW - on the north side of the intersection - 1 tent
- 24. 21st and K St NW (SE Corner) – Blue tent
- 25. 22nd and K St NW (SE Corner) – Gray tent”

Highlighted locations are confirmed to have been impacted by encampment clearings on Aug. 15, 2025.

MPD’s then-Executive Assistant Chief of Specialized Operations Jeffery Carroll, now the interim chief, sent the finalized list in a separate chain between MPD officers, Turnage, Appiah, Smith, D.C. DHS Director Rachel Pierre, and encampment team members at 3:57 p.m., asking it not be shared outside the group.

That afternoon, DMHHS notices were placed at several of the tents near Washington Circle. The area was scheduled to be cleared at the end of August; the notices moved up the clearing to that upcoming Monday.

Closure notices became a point of contention between Washington Circle encampment resident Meghann Abraham and federal forces when officers from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Secret Service, and Homeland Security arrived around 9 p.m. later that night to clear the site. Abraham responded by showing them the notice she’d received from the District, insisting she had until Monday to relocate. The large group of federal agents took photos of the notice and surrounding tents, then left.

As this standoff ensued, then-U.S. Attorney General Pamela Bondi issued the now-nicknamed “Bondi Order” to D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser that attempted to seize operational control of MPD. This essentially implemented Drug Enforcement Agency Administrator Terrence Cole as the “Emergency Police Commissioner,” or the police chief. It also directed officers to enforce laws and regulations around unlawful occupancy of public spaces “to the maximum extent permissible by law.”

Federal forces regrouped in the circle around 9:30 p.m. and did not leave the area until around midnight, though they did not attempt to clear the encampment. Outreach workers and local government officials, under the impression the District had prevailed, reassured residents they would have until Monday to pack, relocate, and move into shelter if they wanted.

The next morning, everything shifted when Andy Wassenich, director of policy for Miriam’s Kitchen, received a call around 10:30 a.m. from a friend who worked in a building overlooking the District’s Downtown Day Services Center, where people experiencing homelessness often spend time. An influx of MPD officers had just arrived outside the day center, which was also included on MPD’s list of sites.

Immediately, Wassenich messaged a Signal group chat with other homelessness outreach providers and mutual aid partners. As outreach teams scrambled to mobilize to other sites on the list, MPD officers and multiple Department of Public Works (DPW) crews arrived nine blocks away at Washington Circle around 10:40 a.m. Without any advance notice, DPW workers began filling trash trucks with the tents and belongings of residents, many of whom were not present, as at least 15 officers stood watch.

While Abraham was on the phone with her dad, MPD officers approached her, telling her, “We’re clearing all this up today.” Her boyfriend, who she shared her tent with, was at work, and her neighbors were nowhere to be found. As trash trucks surrounded the circle and DPW workers began to drag tents full of belongings into the street to dispose of them, Abraham rushed to decide what she would be able to carry away with her just as outreach workers arrived at the scene.

MPD and DPW crews then moved west from Washington Circle to continue to clear tents near Godey Lime Kiln, sites also on the MPD encampments list, as outreach workers raced after them on foot to attempt to reach residents before police.

As MPD cars flashing their lights escorted trash trucks full of tents and furniture out of Washington Circle, it appeared the District’s encampment team had no idea. In an email sent by

Turnage at 11:01 a.m. to various members of the team and other local agencies, he warned MPD might close Washington Circle before the District's scheduled engagement three days later, despite his recommendation to them to wait.

"It was not clear to me from the conversation whether my advice will be heeded," he wrote. "We are waiting to hear from federal officials and MPD regarding their plans for tonight and the weekend. By any metric, last night did not go well and they will regroup today."

At this point, the Washington Circle encampment was already gone.

Meanwhile, the balance of power was shifting behind the scenes. Just after 5 p.m. that afternoon, outside of the E. Barrett Prettyman United States Courthouse, Bowser and D.C. Attorney General Brian Schwalb addressed the media, revealing Judge Ana Reyes had restored Smith's position as MPD chief.

"We have made it very clear that we have laws in our city," Schwalb told the crowd.

MPD declined to comment on questions related to the Bondi order and any directives regarding encampments issued by Cole, who Trump had placed in charge of MPD, between Aug. 14 and 15, 2025. To the knowledge of outreach workers and Street Sense, the only MPD-led clearings took place while Cole was in control of MPD. The D.C. Attorney General also did not respond to a request for comment.

While the ruling re-established local control of MPD, it did not stop federal influence, and the fight between local agencies and federal forces to control unsheltered homelessness in the District was just beginning.

In the week after the Washington Circle clearing, DMHHS, DHS, and DBH grappled with how to respond to federal requests for encampment clearings, internal emails show.

Late into the night on Aug. 16, Greene asked Turnage for his "urgent assistance" assigning a point of contact to assist "relocating the homeless encountered by law enforcement [in] the District tonight and tomorrow night."

Turnage responded the next morning, appearing confused, asking about the federal clearings, and noting he was informed the "encampment phase of the operation [was] complete." He again urged Greene to inform the District if encampment sweeps continued, so it could direct its outreach teams for assistance.

Multiple internal interagency meetings wrestled with how to respond to one-off encampment requests from MPD and the White House, the impacts of federal clearings, and how to adapt. An agenda Turnage sent to his administrative assistant on Aug. 20 for one of these meetings includes items such as: "Report on Latest Census For Homeless Encampments," "Resources Required To Execute A More Expedited Encampment Clearing Process, Post Federal Surge" and "Changes Needed To Implement A More Appropriately Aggressive FD-12 Process."

"I will use the information from this meeting to develop a communication to the [city administrator] with specific recommendations to expedite encampment closures following the surge, and to have a more efficacious FD-12 process," Turnage added.

Over the first week of the takeover, emails from Turnage suggest a so-called "tour of duty" began with District staff on 24-hour standby for federal agencies to call about homelessness. An Aug. 20 email from a DMHHS staff member notes Bowser specifically asked for behavioral health and encampment teams "to be ready for deployment once a concern is flagged."

Emails from Aug. 21 confirm at least one federal official, Greene, was still directly involved at this point. Turnage wrote to his team at 7:28 p.m., "But Orville [Greene] is saying 'hold your people until I speak with [Jennifer Reed, director at Office of Budget and Performance Management]'" regarding sending home staff on-call for evening encampment engagements.

This email is the last documentation Street Sense obtained on federal involvement with closures. But outreach workers say federal pressure remains, continuing to cause displacement and disruption.

When asked specifically about collaboration with the White House, MPD, federal law enforcement, and the NSC on encampment clearings between Aug. 11, 2025 and Sept. 13, 2025, a DMHHS spokesperson stated, "There were no special collaborations initiated to report on behalf of DMHHS" and deferred to MPD and federal agencies "to speak to their process on encampment engagements."

MPD, for its part, deferred to DMHHS and stated, "The MPD's role in encampment removals is limited to maintaining peace during engagement events related to encampment protocols." The White House did not respond to requests for comment.

On Aug. 19, then-Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said in a briefing 48 encampments were cleared by "multi-agency teams [and] MPD Patrol units." Street Sense has never been able to independently confirm this number, and the White House has not provided lists of locations or dates despite multiple requests. In addition to the 25 sites on the list, many of which were cleared, there were three more federally mandated clearings and seven District-led clearings between Aug. 18 and Sept. 1, according to DMHHS. Combined with the closures near the Peace Institute and clearings mentioned in internal emails, this could account for up to 40 sites.

Additionally, since the announcement of the Safe and Beautiful Task Force, NPS has cleared 169 encampments on federal land, the agency wrote in a statement on Aug. 28, 2026. NPS declined to provide lists of sites impacted or dates to confirm if these sites were included in the number Leavitt mentioned and has not responded to Street Sense public records requests for the information.

Despite claims by Trump at a rally in August of this year in South Carolina that "The homeless are no longer there [in DC] in the tents that were all over the place," hundreds of people are still living outside in the District and have only been forced to become more mobile.

Following the clearings, Abraham and her boyfriend moved to a secluded part of the woods roughly two hours by bus from Washington Circle. But after their tent burned down last winter, the two have found themselves sleeping outside MLK Library, where the couple met.

Since moving back to downtown, Abraham's been able to reconnect with caseworkers but feels let down by the outreach system. She's been waiting for a housing voucher for about two years and transitional housing for four months.

"They're just making you go around in circles and there is no way out of it," Abraham said.

Even with new enforcement of a sleeping ban at the library, they plan to stay in the area because they count on the groups that come by with food, clothes, and toiletries. Abraham also relies on the internet access and library computers to complete her online college coursework at the University of Maryland Global Campus, where she is pursuing her bachelor's in Homeland Security, supported by Pell Grants and student loans.

In the year since the clearing, Abraham's only seen one of her old neighbors once, while eating in the Miriam's Kitchen dining room.

She had him write down his number on a piece of paper because she shares a phone with her boyfriend, but on the walk home it started to rain. When she got back to her encampment and pulled out the number, the rain had smudged the writing. She hasn't seen any of her old neighbors since.

"I don't know where they went," Abraham said. "It's kinda stressful to have someone in your life for a year and then have no way to contact them. That's what all this displacement is doing."

Outreach teams echo this sentiment. Since several of the clearings last year did not work with District teams to provide outreach, caseworkers have lost contact with dozens of clients, cutting off crucial access to services.

When residents move between the three Street Outreach Network's provider zones, there is no communication between the District-contracted service providers. Providers can see outreach history in a shared database if residents reconnect. But this is not guaranteed.

Amid a voucher drought that continues to delay residents' transition off the streets, outreach workers are fearful of the continued communications disruptions and their lasting impact on people living in encampments. Outreach workers emphasized that without proper communication, repeated clearings can create unnecessary trauma.

"Perhaps society has always felt this way, but to have it said so blankly and then to have the action be so clear, it is felt deeply by our guests," Claire Wilson, executive director of Georgetown Ministries, said. "This past year, we've seen a lot more trauma, a lot more complexity in terms of behaviors. A lot of people are feeling very, very defeated."

According to outreach workers and government employees, the encampments team is trying to adhere to normal protocol when possible, but federal pressure continues to make this difficult.



D.C. police surround two encampment residents near Washington Circle as they hurriedly pack their belongings after being told to move or risk arrest on Aug. 15, 2025. Photo by Madi Koesler

Prior to the federal takeover, outreach workers say there was more communication from DMHHS ahead of encampment closures. But now, on multiple occasions, outreach workers say they are not properly notified of scheduled engagements by the encampment team. Outreach workers have found out about scheduled engagements first from clients, after they received stickers marking their belongings for cleanup. DMHHS has also repeatedly cancelled interagency monthly meetings between DHS outreach partners and the encampments team, according to one of the outreach partners.

The District has cleared more encampments so far this year than in 2024 or 2025. The monthly average for clearings for those years sat between eight to nine per month, but according to data from DMHHS, the monthly average so far this year is closer to 17 clearings.

Clearings this year also look different. Outreach workers and legal advocates have noticed increases in clearings of single-person, mobile set-ups that would be less likely to draw attention in the past. This is especially true of Ward 2, which includes most of downtown, where there's a high number of federal forces. If tents do pop up, they are almost immediately tagged for removal, outreach workers said. There are no longer visible, long-standing, multi-tent encampments in D.C. as a result of these efforts, but people remain outside.

DMHHS denies any of its policies have changed. A spokesperson repeated many times in a statement to Street Sense that "The posture of the DMHHS Encampment Response Team has remained consistent as it relates to supporting service engagements and connection efforts for vulnerable residents residing in encampments, while continuing to address all health and safety concerns or intrusions connected to encampments on public space."

Outreach workers, advocates, and people living outside continue to argue against displacement. Instead, they're urging the federal and local government to shift focus and funding from increasing clearings to housing vouchers and wrap-around services that focus more on residents' well-being than erasing visible homelessness.

"If you really don't want to look at us, you really need to provide services — give us actual options that are viable," Abraham said. "A lot of us are down and out of it. We need a hand up. Give us the hand up."

Franziska Wild and Annemarie Cuccia contributed reporting for this article.



A D.C. Department of Public Works employee tosses belongings at Washington Circle Park on Aug. 15, 2025. Photo by Madi Koesler

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ART

40, 41, 42, 43 / Night & Daymares V

S. SMITH

Artist/Vendor

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My privilege

LILLIE THOMAS II

Artist/Vendor



REMMing out is the beginning of the descent into the dream realm. In the warmth and comfort of my Bowie apartment, I fell asleep and tumbled over the threshold of my future. All-Campus, the uninterrupted continuity of the three colleges I attended in real life, is the setting of this prophecy. Park behind Anne Arundel Community College's careers building but look to your left and peer beyond the sidewalk's path into the taller edifices of the University of Maryland. And slightly to your right, forward, begin the older buildings of Bowie State University.

All-Campus: I had been here in the past, in my dreams. I sat in my alt-real military science class and my foreign travel orientation course, introducing me to the upper lands of Eastern Europe. Today, I walked up the sidewalk towards the careers center. It led up a few steps, around a corner to a quad, and into the brick building. I walked past a small band of playing students and rolling hills. I entered the side doorways of the pseudo-familiar building, but instead of the stairways leading to a hall full of classrooms upstairs as in real life, the stairs led to an administrative office.

Two tall, goofy young Black men joked and laughed as they entered the glass doors of the office. I followed.

The administrative assistant sat patiently in her chair behind a desk with a computer and a phone. A child, a small androgynous preteen, met me at the desk, held out his hand, and asked intently, "Are you alright?"

I looked into his eyes and replied at a near whisper, "I'm scared." I was honest. I sensed this encounter was out of the ordinary and could affect my destiny at All-Campus or even in the waking world. He didn't shrug it off, but accepted my answer.

"How may I help you?" asked the administrative assistant. I answered, "I came to buy without money." She accepted my answer.

After a series of wilder occurrences, I woke up, unafraid, inspired, slightly smiling at my clever answer in the dream. I recalled the passage in the Bible that says, "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost" (Isaiah 55:1).

It has only been a few years since I left the comfort of my apartment in Bowie, falling on harder times. However, through organizations such as Georgetown Ministries, Saint Bakhita's, and SOME, I have personally experienced the privilege of buying with no money.

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).

"For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee" (Isaiah 41:13).

More than halfway home

QUEENIE FEATHERSTONE

Artist/Vendor



Wow! How did we get this far into 2026 this fast?

Of course, there have been many, many ups and downs, ins and outs, good times, and sad times. However, in the midst of it all, for myself and you, dear-hearted readers, we are still alive and well (for the most part), have our health, and have a job (for those who have not retired, are not volunteering, or whatever else your case may be).

Writing this article for you to read enables me to share several months of not being in the best of health. But, because of my strong faith, my terrific doctors, and the right meds, I have made it! January was difficult, but I recovered in the next two months to help many friends and family members get through the nasty winter ice storms, their falls during that horrible weather, some broken bones, and being stranded. And, of course, I did not abandon my homeless population. Yes, there were some deaths and major hospital stays. But, I proudly proclaim, I am alive, and I am very grateful to be that.

I spent much of April, May, and June under doctors' care and having to take giant horse pills. Four specialists finally discovered my poor health conditions (nothing to be alarmed about!) and helped me get back to... ME! So here I am in August and September, healed, happy, bubbling over and totally blessed.

Now that we're in the last half of the year, let's begin getting ready for holiday festivities (they'll be here sooner than you think) and having fun, fun, FUN.

Homeless assistance with Street Sense

ELYNORA HOUSTON

Artist/Vendor



Let me start off by stating my summer has been absolutely awesome and I will never get over the excitement of being present!

I would be very happy if a group and/or a person assisted Street Sense Media with the following as I have many friends that would like answers to the homeless problem. I'm proudly proposing a recycling plant is built and a tiny home community is built on the same lot or at least a few yards away. A recycling plant's annual minimum income is \$150,000. People who live in the tiny home community would work a minimum of two hours a day.

There are some individuals who are in need of housing and are disabled. Tiny homes are for individuals capable of living independently. Exercise can increase mental stimulation and body movement. The minimum wage in D.C. can assist with basic needs so once an individual has their tiny home they can get what they need, like clothes, food, and electronics, so they feel motivated to go to work and pay rent. Rent should be no higher than \$200 a month, to pay for damages, maintenance, and security. At least 50 tiny homes should be built. The recycling center should hire at least 35 people with the rest on standby.

I know the facility would look its best with a huge American flag outside and painted on the wall. Vacant property is very hard to purchase. Street Sense Media has committed vendors who sell papers year-round in various weather. A recycling plant and tiny home community is a well-earned reward!

A letter to January 2026 me

ERICA DOWNING

Artist/Vendor

Date: July 2026

To: Me, at the start of 2026

From: Me, six months later

Dear January me,

I know how you started this year. You had your lists written out, your crisp clean planner open, and a mix of quiet optimism and familiar anxiety about what 2026 would bring. You were wondering if this would finally be the year everything fell perfectly into place, or if life would do what it usually does and throw a few curveballs.

Well, somehow, the year is already halfway over. The months have blurred by in that strange, fast-forward rhythm that always catches us off guard. I'm writing to give you a quick update from the other side of June.

Has it gone how you thought it would? The short answer? Yes and no. If you're expecting a neat line connecting where you were in January to where we are now, you'll be disappointed. Some of the grand goals you wrote down in the first week of January got sidelined by unexpected priorities. A few habits you were determined to build didn't stick, and some plans shifted entirely. But here's the good news: the detours turned out to be the best parts.

What actually happened:

1. The pace of life: You expected 2026 to be a slow, steady climb. Instead, time felt like it accelerated. Spring came and went in a heartbeat, filled with late nights, quiet victories, and moments where you had to learn to adapt faster than you thought you could.

2. Growth in unexpected places: The things you worried about most in January — those big, looming questions about work, projects, and personal directions — didn't unfold the way you overthought them. You handled challenges with far more resilience than you gave yourself credit for back then.

3. The simple highlights: Looking back over the past six months, it wasn't the huge milestones that stood out most, but the quiet consistency: early morning coffee routines that became a sanctuary, unexpected conversations that broadened your perspective, and learning to give yourself grace when things didn't go according to plan.

A few reminders for the rest of the year:

Stop trying to predict everything: The second half of 2026 is going to bring its own surprises. Don't waste energy trying to map out every single detail.

Keep showing up: The work you put in during those quiet, seemingly invisible weeks in February and March actually paid off. Keep that same steady focus.

Enjoy the process: You spent too much of early 2026 looking toward the destination. Remember to appreciate the middle.

You're doing better than you think you are. Take a deep breath, keep going, and let's see what the rest of 2026 has in store.

With love and perspective,
Future you

A great radio station



MARC GRIER

Artist/Vendor

My favorite radio station growing up was WHUR. One of the reasons is every morning, from 5 to 6 a.m., they played gospel music, and it always seemed to put me in a good space. The second reason is they used to play this song by Lionel Richie that says, "Father, help your children, don't let them fall by the side of the road," and that was so important to me as I grew up, because so many kids are falling by the side of the road. And sometimes we need Jesus to help us out because he's the only one who can.

Labor day



WARREN STEVENS

Artist/Vendor

People traveled for September's long weekend. We've had a good time this long, hot summer drinking ice water and staying hydrated. I had a chance to drive around the pool where I live and stay in the water. I've also gone to LA Fitness to swim and stay in the water until the day gets cooler. From 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., I'm sitting in my chair on 17th Street NW selling our paper to my customers. During the day, people outside are riding bikes and skating around Dupont Circle, sitting there enjoying the beautiful weather.

The kids enjoyed the last bit of summer before they returned to school. The District sponsors several summer sports programs to which parents can take children and young teens to win prizes and money. The kids can also play games. But those days have ended! And, hard as it is to believe, now that school has begun, it won't be long before everyone will be getting ready for fall, with its coats, scarves, and sweaters that will keep us warm during those cold nights.

I hope and pray my son and his family will hook up soon. I also hope the rest of my family will have reunions during the winter holidays. I also pray and hope the Democrats take back Congress by winning the November elections. If they do, that will help things return to normal by lowering the cost of living and food and gas. The Democrats will also protect Medicare and Social Security to make sure Americans get the benefits they have worked so hard for.

Donald Trump and his cabinet have made a terrible mess for the American people. But we are not backing down. We are standing strong and fighting for our country.

Love to you all. Stay safe.

We can't change Trump, so let's focus on ourselves



GERALD ANDERSON

Artist/Vendor

I want to put this out there since I'm being straight with you all. This is for everyone in the world, so take this and believe this: Stop, stop, stop worrying about Trump. Let Trump be Trump. If we go to prison today or tomorrow, we'll want a chance. So everyone deserves a chance. Whatever the chance be, let it be.

Stop focusing on him; focus on yourself. Get somewhere, make something out of yourself. He's gonna be him. I'll be honest with you. The guy is a bad guy. If the FBI couldn't hold it, I mean, you can't. And I know how the FBI go.

So, that would be saying, go on with life, and go on with life, without thinking about that. Keep your head up. Keep your kids going. Get the new life. Think about what you're gonna do tomorrow — with your people, with your shopping. Anything except Trump. That's political stuff. Don't worry about it. You can't change it. I can't change it. Don't wish bad on anybody. Wish good for him. Because if you was there, you wouldn't want nobody wishing bad on you.

I wake up every day; I don't worry about who's going to be the president. I worry about if I'm going to get up out my sleep. It's two things you worry about. Your sleep and your birthday. That's a blessing to you. Yeah. A year living? Another year I can see. And that's the way of life.

Life is wonderful without me waking up in handcuffs or shackles, wondering when I gotta go in my cell. I can go where I want when I want. I can walk. That's freedom. Can't ask for more than that. Freedom, and a chance.

Father to son

JAMES LYLES III

Artist/Vendor



The son of the father
who abuses his son for
being his son is torture

The emotional abuse of a child
can be with you when you become an adult

The son sucks up the abuse of hurt and
destruction for getting the wrong answer
and gets slapped and spanked for not understanding
what a father is going through

The angry and hateful
father is very abusive when he teaches his
son mathematics

The son gave his father a plaque saying
he forgives his father

The plaque was for "the best father in the world,"
and the father rejected the son's gift

ART

arugula salad

JAMES DAVIS

Artist/Vendor



Give me your trillionaire Elon Musk, your 2%ers,
your billionaire president, your future
500 CEO's, your millionaires, your sport pros,
your real estate magnates, as they sit
in the parlor of their Fifth Avenue apartment towers
asking the butler, what wine should we
have with our arugula salad this evening?

Give me your upper middle class, your middle
class, your doctors, your scientists, and
computer engineers. Give me your teachers,
professors, your astronauts, and pilots,
as Obama peruses the aisle at Whole Foods
saying, look at the price of the arugula!

Give me your poor, your wretched, your homeless,
your hobos yearning to be free,
your minnows, your bums, your unhoused,
your minimum wage earners,
your cashiers, your buskers and beggars,
as the jobless stand in the unemployment line
saying to one another, What the hell is arugula?

Love letter to the
one in the mirror

STARCHILD BLK

Artist/Vendor



Dear Me,

I'm sorry
for introducing you
to impossible standards.

For every time
I watered everyone else's garden
while leaving yours to thirst.

Today I choose differently.

I'll speak your name
like it's sacred.

I'll celebrate your smallest victories
like fireworks.

I'll forgive the versions of you
that only knew how to survive.

You are not a project.
You are not unfinished.

You are a whole universe
still discovering
its favorite constellations.

With endless patience,
Me

Would you be my
best friend?

RON DUDLEY

Artist/Vendor



She's only two, but she acts like she's five
Look just like her daddy with her grandma's eyes
She's so pretty and smart like her momma;
She loves Alicia Keys, sometimes she sings her to me

When she was one, she did a flip off the couch
She landed on her face, and didn't even say ouch

Now she whines, whines all the time
My daughter Brooke-e's forever crying if she don't get her way
They say I'm crazy, I done spoiled my baby

But me, I just love her to life
Cause if I love her to death
Then I ain't loving her right

Daddy was her first word; it made me proud
When she took her very first step, it made me smile
I'mma do what it takes for you to be straight
Teach you to pray and to say your grace
We got the same face

Would you be my BFF if I didn't have nothing left?
Cause baby daddies do get stressed
But you just let me know I'm blessed
And I believe you will achieve Brooke-e
You are all I need

Your daddy is so proud of you
And now we got the whole world smiling too
Would you be my best friend?

King of the world, jr.

FREDERIC JOHN

Artist/Vendor

Ahh, sweet Laurel — gonna miss those cool, clear mornings. Yes indeed... with that incredible, inimitable sensation rising all the way through my being. From the thick gummed soles of my Medicaid-issued orthotic clode-hoppers up to the cloud of my still-shaggy head.

The thin 11 a.m. light hovering off the rainbow-hued telescreens feels so reassuring, as I nod, wink, and wave to the first shirt line tellers as they set up. Loading thinner ticket rolls and toting up their cash-on-hand, I spy their relaxed expressions of serene ennui.

Floating sober on my cloud ten (but oh, all those endorphins)

I'm on my way over to "winners" clubhouse dining room for a Virgin Mary spiced tomato juice to slake the endless thirst (and craving for vitanourishment) of mine and my D.C. cohort "Uncle" Jimmy. And yes, both Jim and I require a mandatory metoprolol pill for our concomitant "over 70" blood pressure concerns.

My first round of wagers was usually a handful of "Big A" (Aqueduct) wins and exacta stubs from my buddy of 45 years, Wendy. Now, she has retired (reluctantly? Maybe not — irate "punters" can rattle one's peace of mind), and the elite Saratoga and freshly rebuilt Belmont are what represent New York racing's upper-crust offerings nowadays.

Avowedly, when one clutches nothing but potential fat cashers (and on the other hand — when you've managed to avoid the money-pit of Maryland keno slips), the euphoria engendered through non-substance stimuli can be incredibly overwhelming — and just plain fun!

By 1 p.m., Jimmy and I have divvied up a huge double turkey club — all fresh and actually tasty! (The sinful French fries are relegated to my lipid-loving palate alone). Lately, I have "hit" an occasional "superfecta" (four top horses in any order), and at least a pair of double-digit long-shot winners.

Not only New York, I might add, but Tampa Bay Downs, where I once spent time a while with their delicious bean soup, when my spouse's mom lived nearby. Alas, all dream-phases fade eventually. This coming winter, Laurel shall revert to a race training facility. No more live horseplay and no word on any future of simulcasting!

Happiness

TASHA SAVOY

Artist/Vendor



Have you ever sat back and wondered whether you were really happy, rather than just pretending you were?

Some people walk around with a smile, even though they are not happy with their lifestyle, their job, their marriage, their profile, or even with themselves. How do you become happy? Were you born happy? Did you create your happiness? (Good questions, don't you think?)

All I know is, some people walk around smiling while being polite and respectful. Yet, behind the scenes, they are not happy. They have feelings they cannot explain. Happiness is not a lot of work, but it is a lot of peaceful work.

Happiness has to come from deep down inside. It has to feel real and be real. I'm not saying every day will have a happy ending, but at least you will know and feel. No one else can feel or know your happiness. It will be something you can give to generation after generation.

Here are some key words for happiness. Which one fits you?

H - heart
A - attitude
P - patient
P - proper
I - intelligent
N - nice
E - excited
S - serious
S - soul



Photograph by
Frederic John

Ten Commandments

CRAIG THOMPSON

Artist/Vendor

WAR FOR GOD IS RIGHT, Hindus knew
Is Hollywood's chosen few?
Asked this lonely, old Kung Fu

Gandhi STYLE all the way
What can we TRUCKIN' SAY?
IS TAO THE WAY?

Lords in heaven, holy ghost
May I never start to boast
Allah Adonai being by far THE MOST

I hurt, I'm old, I greed, I covet
Ten Commandments, I should shove it
Which is the way WE REALLY LOVE IT

FAITH AND FOCUS for me
ECOLOGY and TRULY FREE
JUSTICE FOR ALL the key
But in God's sweet time it will surely be
Plant that tree

Plant some more
Is war in-store
What are we hating for?

Is love the HIGHEST LAW
Oom Pa Pa
Is it time to break your jaw
Or mine?

Swine, litter bug, rapist, murd
This world is ABSURD
Please please help me THE WORD

Is not each one BROTHER?
Did you wrong your mother?
Tether doesn't rhyme
TIME



Illustration by Craig Thompson

When life gets blurry, adjust your focus

ELIZABETH WINDSOR

Artist/Vendor

I have always loved taking pictures around the world. I have seen so much all these years. I have walked around the D.C. area and taken many pictures, mostly flowers. I've taken cattails and other wildflowers.

I have a passion for pink flowers and red roses. Red roses mean bravery, honesty, and love. Pink roses mean elegance, gentleness, and grace. Lilac roses mean the first emotions of love. Purple means enchantment and love at first sight.

Yellow means friendship, joy, respect, or... jealousy! White is purity, loyalty, reverence, humility, and sincerity. Blue represents ambiguity, mystery, and new opportunities. Orange? Enthusiasm and desire. Coral also signifies desire; peach stands for anticipation and appreciation. Black means farewell, sorrow, loss, and morality. Pastel is sociability. Red and yellow are celebration, happiness, and joy. Mixed colors? You are everything to me.

You might think I've been off topic from my love of taking pictures of flowers to what the different colors of roses mean. My point is that life is like a camera. We focus on what's important, and capture the good times. You develop pictures from negatives. So what happens when the process doesn't work, you might ask? Take another picture! Picture!



Illustration by Elizabeth Windsor

Warrior queen

JEANETTE RICHARDSON

Artist/Vendor

I like to write about myself and things I have been through. And as the sixth child in a crew of 10, I have experienced a lot!

I was always using tricks to stay away from the older ones trying to take things from me cause I was younger, but I sure wasn't dumber!

I'm sorry I was so blind but I grew up to be so fine.

My Street Sense number comes from Rognel Heights Elementary School in Baltimore City. The school was #289, a lesson to remember and to keep that number.

Life in the sunshine

MONIQUE RIVERS

Artist/Vendor

I am happy
Healthy

Optimistic

And still excited about what happens next
The sun inspires me
Joy is everlasting
Everyday
I am alive
I know
Because the sun will show
The certainty of joy, change, and growth

How I survived

WILLIAM SHUFORD

Artist/Vendor

I wasn't raised up in or around the best, but I learned along the way. Just like every other child, I wasn't paying attention to what grown folks were doing, because I could never understand how life worked back then. I know my brothers' and my life was born in it. The street, I mean. My mother worked her fingers to the bone, and I promise I learned a lot growing up from that strong lady.

Here's where it all went different in my life: Somebody put poison in my hand. It was good. I was helping out my mom with the bills, not knowing life on the streets would have a dark ending. I went into survival mode. I was in a bad place. Jail. A prison, young. It was my first time. I don't really like talking about it.

I grew up to never think I'm better than nobody. My mom, her mother, my dad, and his mother taught me that I'd always think I was in jail because I didn't listen, which was true; I was starting to look at life different. When I came home, it was different people, a different language. I learned, but the second time ended with a life plus some years to the sentence. But I got a second chance, or third, any way you call it.

I go through stress sometimes because I can't see my mother, but I think she's looking over me. All I want now in life is to do something other than run the streets. Make something better. Thanks to Dre, I move different. He put me onto Street Sense. I've been away from trouble ever since. Thanks to my big brother. I am a survivor.



Baltimore homeless encampment

JENNIFER MCCLAUGHLIN

Artist/Vendor



Baltimore has encampments under bridges. Government officials come and put up signs that evict the homeless from their tents, only for the homeless to come back a few days later. I interviewed advocate Christina Flowers, and she talked about outreach and resources to the encampment. The resources seem to be in gridlock. The Mayor's Office of Homeless Services removed an encampment earlier than the scheduled time. There were tents over the whole place. Peoples' personal belongings were lost. Homeless advocates and the Mayor's Office of Homeless Services should come up with a solution to all these encampments, so no homeless lives will be lost

FUN & GAMES

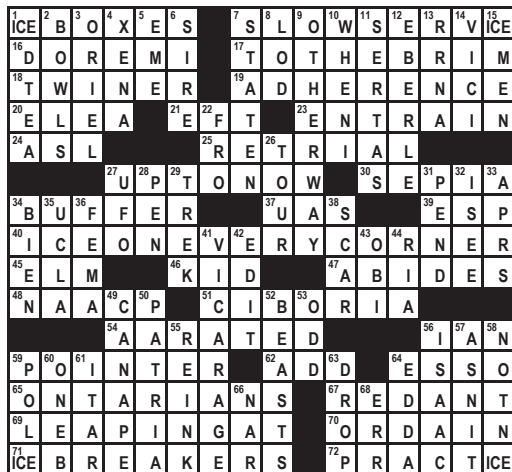
Across

1. Stamp on a bill
5. "My turn; hand me that bat" (2 wds.) (2,2)
9. Double-reed orchestral instruments
14. The "A" of ABM
15. Pro with the title of Esq. (abbr.)
16. Prodded
17. Cries uncontrollably
18. "Get your butts in ____!"
19. Hemingway's "For Whom the Bell ____"
20. This 2012 comedy-action film with Katherine Heigel as a bounty hunter borrows its title from the opening lines of a race-starting rhyme (4 wds.) (3,3,3,5)
23. Word said just before opening the eyes
24. Frequently, in poetry
25. This 1970 road film classic with Jack Nicholson has an iconic chicken salad scene (3 wds) (4,4,6)
32. Bring home the ____
33. Malt kiln
34. Musical Yoko
35. Ado
36. Like something cool before it was cool?
38. "Dracula" author Stoker
39. ____ West of early Hollywood or Daisy ____ of the L'il Abner comic strip
40. Olympics track-and-field legend Usain
41. Unvoiced "Ouch!"
42. In this early (1940) John Wayne western with strong political themes his character heroically protects a family that has fled from the Nazis to N. Dak. (3 wds.) (5,5,4)
46. Big D.C. pro-arms lobby (abbr./init.)
47. Having gently been placed (upon), as flowers on a coffin
48. This 1964 political thriller, featuring Kirk Douglas, Burt Lancaster and Ava Gardner is about a military-political cabal's planned U.S. takeover (4 wds.) (5,4,2,3)
55. Courtyards or heart chambers (Lat. pl. ending)
56. Treat rudely, in slang
57. She doesn't harbor even one [Greek word] of regret...
58. Israeli desert
59. Peach or beech, or plum or gum
60. Uptight, informally
61. End of a battery that, read as two (2) words, sounds like a poem of praise
62. Matches the preceding bet or raise, in poker
63. Miner's quest

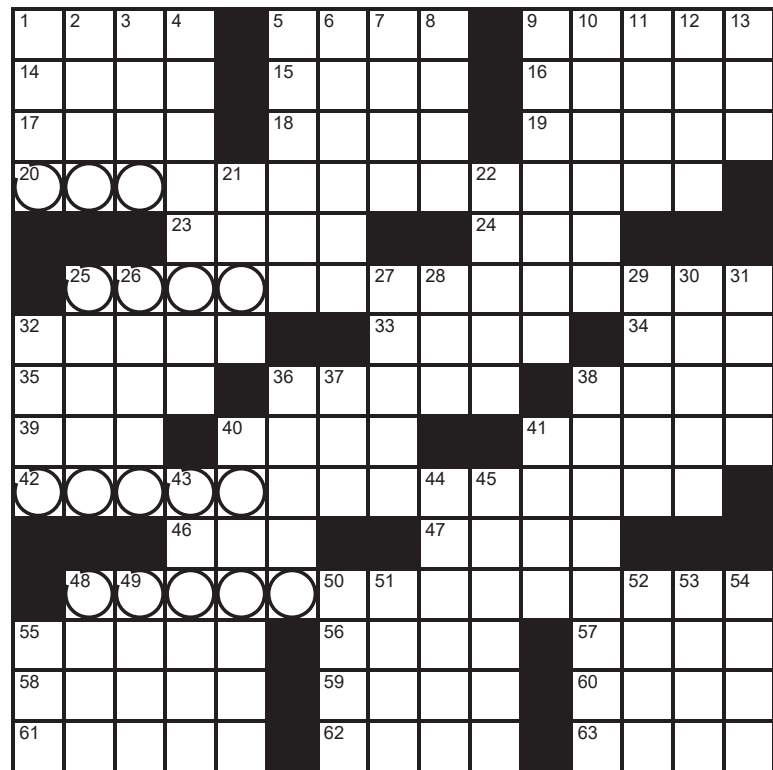
Down

1. El ___, Tex.
2. Auth. unknown abbreviation
3. The Beatles "Let ____" (2 wds.) (2,2)
4. What the black sheep in a family is treated with
5. "That's my feeling, exactly" (2 wds.) (1,5)
6. Sicilian steamer, for short (2,4) (incls. abbr.)
7. Bryce Canyon locale
8. Viking funeral fire
9. Unconscious or totally confused (3 wds.) (3,2,2)
10. Literary sisters Anne, Charlotte and Emily
11. Eye amorously

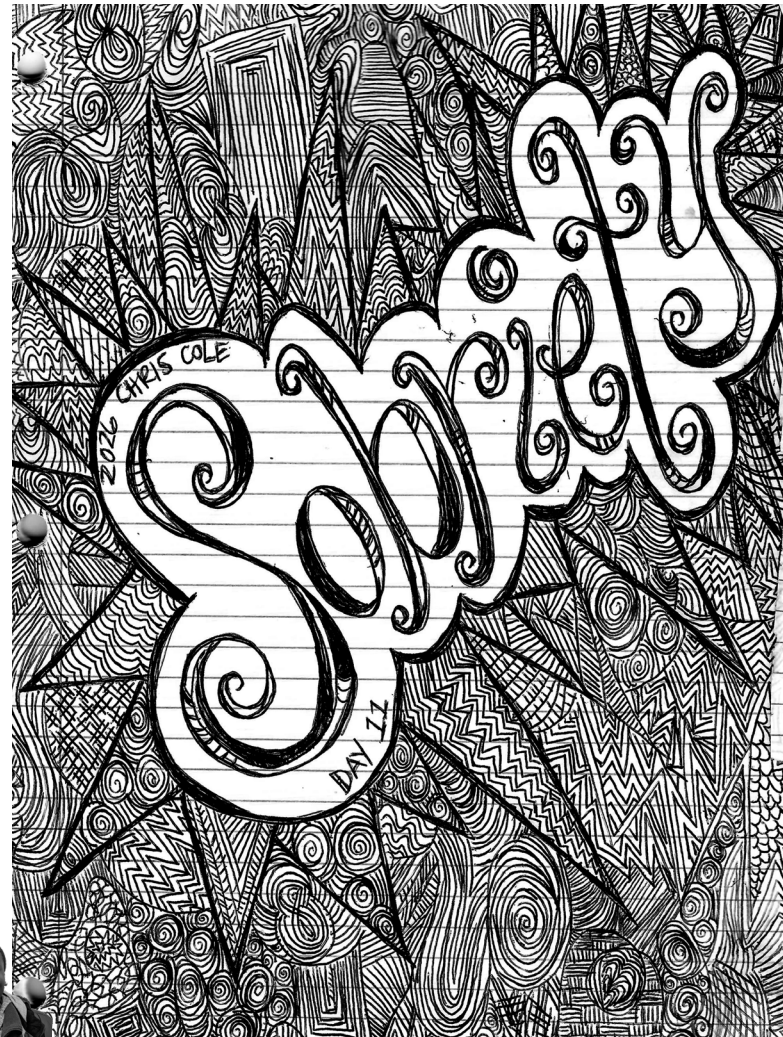
LAST EDITION'S PUZZLE SOLUTION



12. Hard to grasp and hold onto (sounds like General Robert ____ of the American Civil War)
13. 60's protest grp. (abbr./init.)
21. Black cat, maybe
22. Beatrix Potter rabbit
25. Al ____ (PLO faction)
26. Less friendly, or more frozen over
27. Starting point for civil, but not criminal, trials? (2 wds.) (4,1)
28. China's Sun ____-sen
29. Woes on toes
30. Pass into law, as a bill
31. Not all
32. Cellar, in real estate ads (abbr.)
36. Not quite totally impolite description of your feelings toward someone you're far from fond of (2 wds.) (2,3)
37. Worldwide dockworker's org. (abbr./init.)
38. Occurring every other year
40. Make grief-stricken
41. Huge armed conflict that ended with V-J Day in 1945 (2,2) (incls. abbrs. and Roman numbs.)
43. Coveted in a way that violated one of the Seven Deadly Sins
44. The ____ Palace (French President Macron's residence)
45. Gives back-talk to
48. British submachine gun
49. "Cogito ____ sum" ("I think, therefore I am") (Lat.)
50. Outlawed pesticides (abbr./init.)
51. Suffix with million or zillion
52. Like pre-stereo recordings, for short
53. Very small amount, familiarly (2 wds.) (1,3)
54. New Haven university
55. Santa ___, Calif.



PIECE OF THE WEEK



CHRIS COLE
Artist/Vendor

This crossword puzzle is the original work of Patrick "Mac" McIntyre. It is provided to us courtesy of Real Change News, a street paper based in Seattle, Washington. Learn more about Real Change News and the International Network of Street Papers at realchangenews.org and insp.ngo.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

SHELTER HOTLINE <i>Línea directa de alojamiento</i> (202) 399-7093	YOUTH HOTLINE <i>Línea de juventud</i> (202) 547-7777	DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE <i>Línea directa de violencia doméstica</i> 1-800-799-7233	BEHAVIORAL HEALTH HOTLINE <i>Línea de salud del comportamiento</i> 1-888-793-4357
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 Housing/Shelter <i>Vivienda/alojamiento</i>	 Education <i>Educación</i>	 Health Care <i>Seguro</i>	 Clothing <i>Ropa</i>	 Legal Assistance <i>Asistencia Legal</i>	 Laundry <i>Lavandería</i>
 Case Management <i>Coordinación de Servicios</i>	 Food <i>Comida</i>	 Employment Assistance <i>Assitencia con Empleo</i>	 Transportation <i>Transportación</i>	 Showers <i>Duchas</i>	

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

Housekeeper

Residence Inn by Marriott Silver Spring // Silver Spring, MD

Full-Time (Onsite)

Clean and maintain guest rooms and public areas, vacuum and dust, clean bathrooms and floors, inspect rooms, perform minor maintenance tasks, and maintain hotel cleanliness standards.

Requirements: Ability to perform physical cleaning duties, attention to detail, ability to work independently and as part of a team, and willingness to perform room maintenance and cleaning tasks.

Pay: Check posting for current rate.

Apply: shorturl.at/QtO3h

Food Service Worker

Aramark // Washington, D.C.

Hourly/Seasonal — Onsite

Assist with food preparation, serving meals, cleaning and sanitizing kitchen areas, stocking supplies, and maintaining food-safety standards.

Requirements: Basic ability to read, write, and follow verbal/written instructions; ability to work quickly under pressure. The posting does not list prior food-service experience as a requirement.

Pay: \$18.65/hr

Apply: shorturl.at/pwGV1

Food Prep Worker

Aramark // Washington, D.C.

Hourly/Seasonal — Onsite

Prepare and portion food items, follow recipes and production requirements, maintain sanitation standards, organize food-preparation areas, and assist with general kitchen duties.

Requirements: Food preparation and sanitation duties; ability to follow instructions and work in a fast-paced environment. Low entrance requirements and no degree requirement listed.

Apply: shorturl.at/S963Q

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





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PERSONALIZED CARE

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Through local partners and outreach events, we meet people where they are and help build healthier communities.

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We provide education, resources, and regular follow up to empower patients to take control of their heart health.

STORIES OF TRANSFORMATION

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Today, he is employed, working toward permanent housing, and making healthier choices every day.



CONTACT

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