



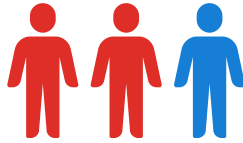
**The Bureau of Prisons (BOP) does not plan for someone's release early enough.
This short period of planning leads to:**

SHORTER LIVES:

Every year that someone spends in prison reduces their life by **two years.**

Vera Institute

MORE REOFFENDING:



Two out of three returning citizens are re-arrested.

DC Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

HIGHER UNEMPLOYMENT:



6 out of ten returning citizens are **unemployed a year later.**

New York Times

\$400,000,000

2,289 DC residents are incarcerated in BOP prisons. At a minimum, we spend at least \$400 million incarcerating people from DC. (5 percent of what taxpayers spend on the BOP).

The federal government has complete control over people in prison from DC.

DCJSAT

CBS News

WAMU

**EARLIER
PLANNING
WOULD
INCREASE
PUBLIC SAFETY
AND EACH
RETURNING
CITIZEN'S
SUCCESS.**

PROPOSAL:

Pre-release planning must happen at least one year before someone is released.

DC should send people to review and develop the release plans for all people in prison from DC—one year before someone is supposed to be released.

ANDREW ANDERSON

PEACE IN OUR SCHOOLS



There are too many reports of violence and crimes that lead to trauma in our schools and throughout our communities.

The CDC says, as many as **7 percent** of young people experience being “threatened or injured with a weapon at school”. If 7 percent of the 50,000 students in DC are expected to be threatened or injured with a weapon in school, that means, **as many as 3,500 may need access to a restorative justice process.**

**ONLY 12 OUT OF 116
DC SCHOOLS**
got support in 2022
for restorative justice
practices.

OSSE Discipline Report

90%

The percentage of incarcerated young people who had at least one ACE (traumatic event in their childhood) can be as high as 90 percent.

NIH: Adverse Childhood Experiences Among Justice-Involved Youth

**CHILDREN SHOULD NOT BE
PUNISHED BECAUSE OF
NON-INVOLVED PARENTING.**

STUDENTS NEED RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AND HEALING.

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education should implement a model curriculum to teach K-12 students conflict resolution skills, awareness, and advocacy. Students would also have access to traditional holistic healing therapies to reduce and prevent trauma.

This is important to breed a new generation and break the cycles of non-involvement parenting and violence.



Artemis Whyte

INVEST IN OUR FUTURE



IT'S OUR ONLY HOPE

We need to invest more time and resources in our youth if we want to change our future. We want to give these youth the tools needed to change their lives, open doors of opportunity, and tap into potential that they may have never known existed.

Black children and young men ages 15 to 34 are victims of gun homicides at

20X

the rate of white children and young men.

Research shows it is the **mentors** who make the **difference** in helping young people. Mentors provide support and guidance while assisting the youth in realizing their potential.

Bureau of Justice Assistance

SAVING OUR CHILDREN IS OUR ONLY HOPE OF CHANGING THE CONDITIONS OF OUR PEOPLE.

DC should create a mentoring program targeted at reducing youth violence.

UNDER THIS PROGRAM:

- The mentors will have extensive in-person training in conflict resolution.
- The mentors will make a two-year commitment to work in this program and are provided with housing in the communities they serve.
- The mentors will be available 24 hours a day and should have access to churches and community centers that are always open.
- The staff have to be committed – 100 percent all in. This is about a commitment to changing and affecting lives.

The program will work in collaboration with Cure Violence DC and the DC Peace Academy.



Similar programs in California have led to an **84% drop** in gun-related injuries and a **35% decrease** in victimization.

Credible messenger mentoring to promote the health of youth involved in the juvenile legal system: A narrative review

What created the homeownership gap in D.C.?

1934 to 1962

Federal Housing Administration insured mortgages almost exclusively for white people.

1933

Redlining: the federally created Home Owners' Loan Corporation (HOLC) created maps that coded areas as credit-worthy based in part on the race of their occupants.

1948

Courts upheld racist private agreements that prevented Black people from buying homes in many neighborhoods in D.C. until 1948.

1950-NOW

Gentrification: D.C. was nearly half Black by the 1950s, and more than 71 percent Black by 1970. In 2023, D.C.'s Black population has fallen to 43%. Black homeownership is at 34%, down from 46% in 2005

Today, D.C. has one of the highest rates of displacement in the country.

Because of these policies, Black people are disproportionately unhoused and many families were displaced outside of the District.

REPARATIONS Through Housing

Black Washingtonians are entitled to housing reparations after decades of discriminatory housing policies that have contributed to a racial homeowners gap in the nation's capital.



Stable housing reduces crime.

When people are stably housed, they have fewer recorded non-violent offenses.

For instance, people commit fewer survival crimes (offenses like theft, robbery, trespassing, loitering, and prostitution), which are chief reasons people with low-level offenses are incarcerated.

PROPOSAL

PASS B25-0151, The Reparations Foundation & Task Force Establishment act of 2023 and include Housing Reparations. The Task Force must consider housing reparations in the form of:

- down payment grants
- housing revitalization grants
- government subsidized mortgages with low interest rates
- Prioritize native Washingtonians and long-term residents

WE BUILT THIS CITY

literally and culturally.

ERIN BONNER



ACCOUNTABILITY FOR CARETAKERS



The Office of the Ombudsman for Children (OFC) is supposed to investigate complaints about the care of children in the custody of the District or receiving supportive home services from the District. OFC does not actually do what they say they're doing for children and families and they do not hold CFSA and other agencies accountable for the abuse children suffer while in care.

Many children involved with various District agencies are sexually and otherwise abused, and the agencies are not held accountable like birth families are. This creates cycles of abusers and traumatized children who become traumatized adults. This makes us all less safe.

THE HARM TO BLACK OR MINORITY CHILDREN PUTS ALL CHILDREN IN DANGER.



96%

CFSA

In 2023, Black and Hispanic children made up approximately 96% of children in foster care in DC, while Black and hispanic residents make up 57% of the population in DC.

Children who were placed in foster care are more likely to experience **bad life outcomes**, including **arrest and incarceration**.

In FY 2023, OFC received **49 complaints** total, **19 from biological mothers**.

"TO PRETEND THAT SEPARATED CHILDREN DO NOT GROW UP WITH THE SHRAPNEL OF THIS TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCE EMBEDDED IN THEIR MINDS IS TO DISREGARD EVERYTHING WE KNOW ABOUT CHILD DEVELOPMENT, THE BRAIN, AND TRAUMA."

—DIANA SINOPOLI,
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
FOR MARRIAGE AND
FAMILY THERAPY

One study found that, nationally, problems with the child welfare system cost taxpayers \$220 million every day due to special education, juvenile and adult crime, chronic health problems, and other costs across the lifespan of the family.

PROPOSAL

OFC should be required to notify all complainants of the D.C. Council's upcoming performance oversight hearings and their opportunity to testify regarding OFC's performance.



Parents deserve an opportunity to be heard to be able to protect their children and to prevent abuse and harm.

Trauma in the Black community calls for more than traditional medication.

Alternative therapy is needed.



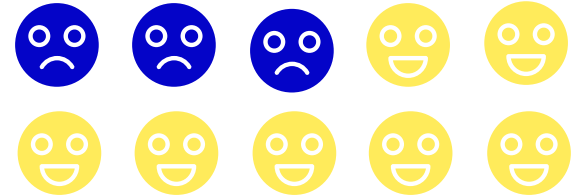
CLOSE TO HALF

of D.C.'s
population is
covered by
Medicaid.

healthinsurance.org

D.C. residents covered under Medicaid cannot access alternative therapies.

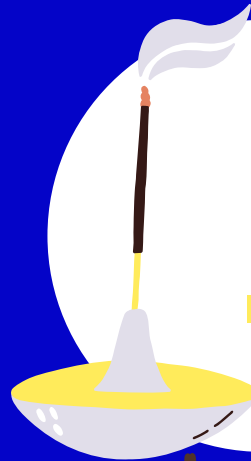
- People want to get better but have not had success in traditional mental healthcare and have no Medicaid covered access to non-traditional healing opportunities.
- Community is not offered opportunities to heal through having different mental health services beyond medicine and talk therapy, which is not attractive and not engaging to our community.
- If we don't like the options for healing available, we are left with no alternatives and therefore we don't heal. This shows up as violence, crime, and poverty in our community that can be improved through access to alternative/different healing practices.



In 2023, over 30% of adults in the District of Columbia reported symptoms of anxiety and/or depressive disorder.

KFF Analysis

Alternative therapies, like yoga, art therapy, and meditation, have been found to **alleviate pain, reduce stress, and diminish depression.**



Holly Tiret, Michigan
State University

NIH: How Might Yoga Help Depression?
A Neurobiological Perspective



The Solution

Expand Medicaid's definition of "therapists" to include certified Social Emotional Learning, trauma-informed yoga instructors, sound bowl practitioners, mindfulness-based stress reduction, art, and music practitioners.



**LaShawn Johns &
Jemelle Harris**

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FUNDING TO GET BACK AND GIVE BACK

Nikila Smith



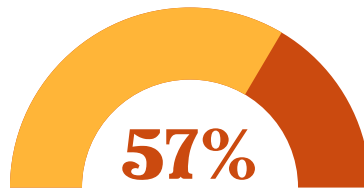
Studies show that as many as half of people coming out of prison are single.

ASPE

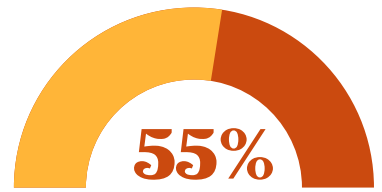
Single people have a harder time getting benefits.

Most people coming out of prison and experiencing homelessness are single people.

This leads to bad outcomes (research shows many single, returning citizens experience the revolving doors of crime and incarceration; unemployment; poor health; and can't contribute to the community).



57%
of people experiencing homelessness in DC have been incarcerated.



55%
said that incarceration had caused their homelessness.

OTHER STATES ARE A STEP AHEAD!



In **California**, a program gives **\$2,400 to people returning to the community** from prison, including many single adults.



Colorado just introduced a bill to do the same thing.

An Oakland, California program gives cash payments – incentives – to people at risk of gun violence if they do things that will make them safer, and accomplish goals (like applying for jobs).

PROPOSAL

Everyone should get cash assistance, especially returning citizens, including single people who are on the streets. Nonprofits should deliver this program.



JOIN US IN OUR FIGHT FOR UNIVERSAL HOUSING RIGHTS FOR ALL WASHINGTONIANS.

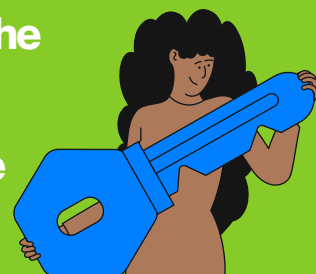
**90
57**

Individuals in DC died without the dignity of a home in 2023.

Of these individuals were matched to vouchers.

THIS IS A RACIAL EQUITY ISSUE!

We must reverse the effects of gentrification and displacement here in the District of Columbia.



WE NEED MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

D.C. is short 32,990 rental homes that are affordable and available for extremely low-income renters.

54,624

Washingtonians spend half their income on rent.



73% of low income Washingtonians choose between healthy food, and healthcare to pay rent.



WE BELIEVE THAT SAFE, STABLE, AFFORDABLE HOUSING SHOULD BE A *HUMAN RIGHT*, NOT A PRIVILEGE.

D.C.'s Interagency Council on Homelessness



PROPOSAL

- Make the housing production trust fund meet its target goal of half of its funds going to families with the lowest incomes.
- Dramatically increase funding and availability for vouchers and subsidies, the emergency rental assistance program, and local rental assistance programs.
- Developing a universal housing tax-based subsidy system to ensure vulnerable populations can achieve the stability to succeed
- In addition to supporting housing subsidies, we are in support of public, social, and cooperative ownership of housing, as it pertains to our Universal Right to Housing Justice for all missions.

PROTECT PEOPLE NOT THE POLICE

Police officers are not being held accountable for their deadly use of force and families are traumatized by the process, without access to services that other victims of violence receive.

These tragic killings have left families **devastated and continuously searching for answers**. Family members of those killed by police **don't know who to talk to for information** on what happened and the investigation while reeling from trauma.

It feels like the government doesn't care at all about the family members of those killed by police. **These survivors of violence need help accessing services for trauma**. Meanwhile, the officers get paid time off.

BLACK PEOPLE ARE

12X

MORE LIKELY TO BE KILLED BY D.C.
POLICE THAN WHITE PEOPLE.

THE GOVERNMENT TREATS
FAMILY MEMBERS OF THOSE
KILLED BY POLICE AS IF
THEY ARE THE SUSPECTS.



MOREOVER, A LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY
FOR POLICE AND THEIR VIOLENT ACTIONS
PREVENTS HEALING IN THE COMMUNITY.

POLICE SHOULD NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO KILL CITIZENS WITHOUT CONSEQUENCES.



- When an officer uses deadly force, the officer should be placed on leave without pay until the investigation is over.
- All victims and their families should receive Crime Victims Compensation, access to a victim advocate, and Burial Funds.

Survivors and victims of police brutality have trauma and unanswered questions, and this would help them know how to access resources and information.

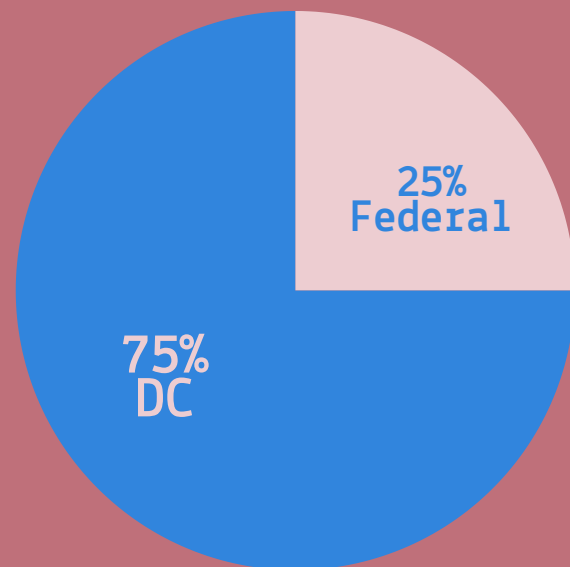
RETURNING CITIZENS FUEL TAKE BACK OF PAROLE FROM THE FEDS!

THE UNITED STATES PAROLE COMMISSION (USPC) HELPS DRIVE MASS INCARCERATION IN D.C.!

First, by not releasing people on parole who arguably should be released from prison (based on their good conduct while incarcerated), the USPC extends prison sentences beyond the terms envisioned by sentencing judges.

Second, by revoking parole or supervised release (and re-incarcerating returning citizens) for minor technical violations of parole or supervised release, the USPC re-incarcerates hundreds of D.C. Code offenders every year.

The USPC's caseload is almost entirely made up of D.C. parole matters:



Washington Lawyers' Committee 2018

USPC's decisions are arbitrary and unfair. Communities are struggling with teen and young adult violence and carjackings. More older male figures in the communities will help make communities stronger and more productive.

4,700 → 2,000

Without the unnecessarily harsh practices of the USPC, the D.C. sentenced prisoner population could fall to fewer than 2,000 men and women over the next few years, down from the current total of 4,700.

Washington Lawyers' Committee 2018

PROPOSAL

Replace the US Parole Commission with a more comprehensive D.C. Parole Board, ran with D.C. guidelines, which includes a member with lived experience.

