

## **Good Faith Communities Coalition**

Taking action on homelessness and affordable housing with and for the poor in the District of Columbia

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"In a city as progressive as ours, we can - and must - better serve those in need."

Mayor Marion Bowser, February 9, 2016

Shelters for Families Who Are Homeless - Next step forward....

In the District's strategic plan to make homelessness "rare, brief and non-recurring" (Homeward DC), small neighborhood shelters in all 8 wards for short-term stays for families who are homeless were proposed. Each shelter would house 40-50 families. After completion, DC General, regarded as totally unsuitable for families, would close. Today the Mayor has announced the locations and designs of the shelters to be built over the next two years: <a href="http://dc.gov/homewardDC">http://dc.gov/homewardDC</a>.

Good Faith supports placing appropriately designed and located shelters for families throughout the city. Good Faith also strongly supports community discussion and comment on the proposals. **Community meetings** in each ward to discuss the short-term housing facility in the ward will take place simultaneously this **Thursday**, **February 11th at 6:30 PM**:

Ward 1: Anthony Bowen YMCA (Conference Room - 1325 W St. NW

Ward 2: One Judiciary SQ (Old Council Chambers) - 441 4th St. NW

Ward 3: Metropolitan Memorial UMC - 3401 Nebraska Ave. NW

Ward 4: Paul Public Charter School (Auditorium) - 5800 8th St. NW

Ward 5: New Canaan Baptist Church - 2826 Bladensburg Rd. NE

Ward 6: Friendship Baptist Church -900 Delaware St. SW

Ward 7: Capitol View Public Library - 5001 Central Ave. SE

Ward 8: Matthews Memorial Baptist Church (Fellowship Hall) - 2616 MLK Ave SE

The shelter plan is the first step in a long journey to address issues of homelessness in our community. Over 1,000 families with more than 1,800 children are in shelter this month. Share your questions, concerns and willingness to embrace the plan with the Mayor and your Council member. They want to hear from you.

## Reasons to advocate for families who are homeless...

- Human dignity is dependent on being able to meet the basic physical needs of one's family and oneself. Homelessness breeds desperation and instability in the city.
- Everyone benefits when everyone has housing: students do better, families are healthier and more productive, communities are strengthened.
  - What is moral can be best judged by how our actions affect the most vulnerable; every

man woman and child is made in the image of God. What we do for my neighbor, we do for God.

- Because I live/work/worship in DC.... Because I am a woman/man/human being.... Because I am a Christian/Muslim/Jew and honor my faith traditions....
- Because I am a child of God who believes in justice and mercy.... Because I know we can do better!

And we continue to pray....

Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

## BE INFORMED, BE ACTIVE, MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

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