



## 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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December 11 , 2015

Memorial for those who died on DC streets this year.....

### Homeless Persons Memorial Day DC, December 18, 2015

Procession to Freedom Plaza for Overnight Vigil, Thursday December 17 at 5 PM

Gathering begins at 4 PM

Luther Place Memorial Church, 1226 Vermont Ave. NW (Thomas Circle)

Procession from Freedom Plaza to New York Ave. Presbyterian Church (1313 NY Ave. NW)

Friday, December 18, 11 AM, Service at Noon.



Sponsored by the [People for Fairness Coalition](#), a community organization dedicated to ending homelessness in Washington DC through outreach, peer mentoring and advocacy. The organization is led by individuals who have experienced housing instability themselves.

Shelter Census on November 4, 2015: 629 families with 1247 children in shelter and transitional housing + 1182 individuals in low barrier shelters.

### Encampment cleared under the Whitehurst Freeway ...

On November 20th DC government staff cleared the encampment under the Whitehurst Freeway at Virginia Ave. Other encampments in the city will also be cleared. The rationale is that it is not safe for people to be outside when it gets dangerously cold. The intent is to provide shelter and eventually housing.

25 organizations, including Good Faith, signed a [letter to the City](#) administration applauding the City for its significant investments in programs to end homelessness. However, no matter the good intent to move people to shelter, the safety, well being and rights of people who sleep outside must be protected as clearing proceeds:



- shelters are not options for many because of extreme

- fear of shelter conditions, theft and violence;
- valuable documents such as birth certificates and ID's must be protected and secured;
- life saving materials such as blankets and tents must be preserved;
- continued outreach to those who remain on the street in the hopes of connecting them to housing is essential.

## Neighborhood family shelters....

The city is promising detailed plans and locations around the first of the year.

## From a Hanukkah family prayer service....

"...You are not to harden your heart, or shut your hand from giving to your needy brother. No, you must open your hand to him and lend him enough to meet his need and enable him to obtain what he wants." Deuteronomy 15: 7-8

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

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

**Good Faith Communities Coalition**

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