



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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August 22, 2018



13th Annual Unity Walk - September 16, 2018

Opening Ceremony 2:30 - 3 PM
Washington Hebrew Congregation,
Massachusetts Ave NW at Macomb St

The Unity Walk is a public celebration of solidarity and unity among different faiths and cultures in our region. Twelve houses of worship and religious centers along the Massachusetts Ave. route welcome walkers to visit their facilities, hear about their faith and rituals, and sample traditional foods. Walkers are welcome to join the walk at any point - and walk as long they wish! The closing ceremony will be at the Islamic Center, 2551 Massachusetts Ave NW, at 5:30.

Expect a beautiful day! No rain predicted.

Further information including registration and a map at the [Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington](#). Good Faith is a sponsor of the Unity Walk.

DC General Closing and Short-term Family Housing - Update

In Spring 2018 Mayor Bowser announced that the DC General Family Shelter would close in October 2018. At the end of July, 130 families with more than 250 children continued to live at DC General. The Department of Human Services promises the families will be placed in housing or in motels and the shelter will close as scheduled.

Before the last families would leave DC General in early fall, a building only 250 ft from DC General had been scheduled for demolition. In a petition, over 40 organizations (including Good Faith) and 1000 individuals demanded that the demolition be postponed until the families could be safely relocated. The city stated that the demolition met safety standards for possible air borne contaminants. However, lead was subsequently found in soil samples at the site and soil remediation was initiated. Next steps are uncertain.

Construction of Short-term Family Housing in Ward 3 is to begin in early September. The parking structure adjacent to the site is complete and in use. Applications for construction permits have been filed. The city reviewed the final [plans and construction](#) schedule with the Ward 3 Family Housing Advisory Committee this week. The facility as constructed will be a "gold" level certified green building (LEED). Details on construction in other wards can be found on the [Deputy Mayor of Health and Human Services website](#).

Challenges Remain:

The [Neighbors for Responsible Government](#) appeal of the Board of Zoning Adjustment

waivers allowing construction on the Idaho Ave site in Ward 3 was heard on March 29. No decision from the Court of Appeals as yet.

A Good Neighbor Agreement for the Ward 3 facility is planned: the [Advisory Committee](#) (scroll down to Ward 3 for Advisory Committee membership) will seek feedback from the community, and workshop(s) will be held to recommend language. A timetable has not been set.

The Washington Post reported this week that *6,000 children from families considered homeless* (in shelter, doubled up, living in unsafe conditions) began the school year in the DC public and charter schools.

Good Faith Board of Directors (2018): Rev. James E. Terrell, President, Rev. John Graham, Rabbi Gerry Serrota, William Kelley SJ, John Hisle, Ann Friedman.

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



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Good Faith Communities Coalition
goodfaithdc@gmail.com
<http://www.goodfaithdc.org>

