

# HOUSING NOT HANDCUFFS

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## e-news update

August 2017

**Dear Supporters and Endorsers of the Housing Not Handcuffs campaign,**

**Follow on social media**

**#HNHNow**



Our campaign continues to grow, over [500 endorsements](#), including from NYC Council Member Stephen Levin and Vancouver City Council Member Ty Stober. Keep encouraging your friends, colleagues, and elected officials to endorse!

If you have submissions for the next newsletter, send them to [skang@nlchp.org](mailto:skang@nlchp.org) by **September 13**.

## Campaign Updates

### Local

#### [Santa Ana, CA Sued for Sweeps of Homeless Encampments](#)

A Southern California legal team, including HNH Campaign participants Carol Sobel and the [Elder Law & Disability Rights Center](#), filed a complaint against the City of Santa Ana and a Joint Powers entity with Orange County over civil rights violations. Those trying to survive on the streets have been hit with citations and threatened with arrest by police, had property seized without notice and stored improperly or destroyed, and have been forced to move to an unsafe space.

#### [Washington, DC Introduces Homelessness as a Protected Class](#)

D.C. Councilmember David Grosso (working together with [NCH](#), [NLCHP](#), [SOME](#), and [People for Fairness Coalition](#)) introduced the Michael A. Stoops Amendment to include homelessness as a protected class in the DC Human Rights Act.

#### [Osceola County, FL Criminalizes Street Survival](#)

Osceola County has enacted a regressive law to criminalize street survival. Setting up temporary habitation is now punishable by up to a \$500 fine and 60 days in jail.

#### [Sarasota, FL Settles Lawsuit with ACLU](#)

Criminalization took a hit with the settlement of a lawsuit between the ACLU and the City of Sarasota. The city agreed to provide beds rather than mats on the floor and has contracted the Salvation Army to connect those who are unhoused with resources.

#### [Indianapolis, IN Sweeps Homeless Encampment, Violating Spirit of Protective Ordinance](#)

The city of Indianapolis exploited its "emergency" exception to its ordinance requiring the city to ensure homeless encampment dwellers be provided with adequate housing before displacing an encampment in order to sweep several downtown encampments. The city claimed the potential for a terrorist attack on sporting events downtown as its justification, despite having no specific reason to believe such an attack was imminent.

### **New York City, NY Provides Low-Income Tenants Guaranteed Legal-Aid**

Congratulations to HNH participant, [National Coalition for a Civil Right to Counsel](#) (NCCRC)! In a historic decision, the New York City Council passed a law guaranteeing counsel for low-income tenants in housing cases. The City increased its eviction legal aid funding to ensure all tenants earning less than 200 percent of the poverty level will receive counsel. As the first place to guarantee tenants counsel, New York City is laying the groundwork for access to justice for under-represented populations.

## **State**

### **Pennsylvania Introduces Homeless Bill of Rights**

On July 25, State Reps. Thomas Murt (R) and Isabella Fitzgerald (D) announced their bi-partisan introduction of PA [House Bill 1664](#), a Homeless Bill of Rights to protect fundamental civil and human rights of homeless people.

## **National**

### **HUD Continuum of Care Funding Application Includes Question on Criminalization**

For the third year, HUD's Notice of Funding Application (NOFA) for homeless Continuums of Care includes a question asking Continuums what they are doing to combat the criminalization of homelessness, worth up to 2 points. See NLCHP's [webinar](#) here for advice on how to make the most of this incentive.

## **Announcements**



### **Peace Train: Next Stop -HOUSING**

HerStory Ensemble will present "[Peace Train: Next Stop -HOUSING](#)" as part of Delaware's Peace Week events, September 17-24, 2017. "Peace Train: Next Stop - HOUSING" is an interactive presentation on homelessness, its emerging issues, and remedies. The impact of Delaware's pending Homeless Bill of Rights and the National Housing Not Handcuffs campaign are central to the presentation and the meaning of peace for those who do not have safe,

affordable, and secure housing.



**Webinar | Implementing Change:  
Working to Address the Intersections of Juvenile Justice and Youth  
Homelessness; September 21, 2pm-3pm**

A growing number of communities are working to ensure that young people do not experience homelessness as a result of involvement with the justice system, and that similarly, they do not come into contact with the system because they are experiencing homelessness. Join us to learn how Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Minnesota are working to combat this cycle, and learn about the Principles for Change, a series of policy recommendations that communities and states can adopt to help address these intersections, and the application of these principles for youth in custody.

Presenters Include:

Callie Aguilar, Juvenile Justice Specialist

Jennifer Pokempner, Juvenile Law Center, Child Welfare Policy Director

Naomi Smoot, CJJ Executive Director

To register, click [here](#) today!



## **Constructing Effective and Powerful Stories**

Sharing stories has the power to build empathy, connect people, and change perspectives. Storytelling allows us to share our personal experiences to move discussions of homelessness and health care from a focus on individual failures towards discussions aimed at solutions to the larger root causes of poverty and illness. NHCHC's [National Consumer Advisory Board](#) used their lived experience to develop this [Storytelling Guide](#) to help people consider how to construct effective stories that connect their experience to the broader social context.

## **Use of Campaign Branding**

We encourage campaign endorsers to link relevant events to the national Housing Not Handcuffs campaign. Please see the guidelines for branding your materials [here](#).

**HOUSING**  
**NOT HANDCUFFS**

## In the News

**CNBC, July 14** [\*Only .1% of US Minimum Wage Earners Can Afford a 1-Bedroom Apartment\*](#)

The National Low Income Housing Coalition's report *Out of Reach 2017* is featured on CNBC, pointing out that there are only 12 counties that a minimum-wage earner can afford even a one-bedroom home.

**Governing, July 25** [\*The Unexpected Reason Panhandling Bans Are Being Struck Down Across the Country\*](#)

"In 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of churches' free speech. The case had nothing to do with panhandling, but it set a new legal precedent that's now being used to take down panhandling laws in cities across the country."

**Citylab, July 27** [\*Why Jimmy Carter Believes Housing Is a Basic Human Right\*](#)

"I don't see how a family can enjoy other human rights like freedom of expression, freedom of speech, freedom of religion, the right to vote, if they live in a disreputable place of which they are ashamed and makes their family lower their standard of ethical and moral values." –President Jimmy Carter

**NATIONAL LAW CENTER  
ON HOMELESSNESS & POVERTY**

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[housingnothandcuffs.org](http://housingnothandcuffs.org)