

HOUSING NOT HANDCUFFS

e-news update

December 2018

Dear Supporters and Endorsers of the Housing Not Handcuffs Campaign,

Follow on social media

#HNH  

This has been a busy time for the Housing Not Handcuffs Campaign, with multiple communities stopping enforcement of and even repealing their criminalization laws and beginning to explore shelter, housing, and other alternatives! See stories below. Also, the Campaign continues to grow, almost 800 endorsements so far! [Keep encouraging your friends, colleagues, and elected officials to endorse.](#)

If you have submissions for the next newsletter, please fill out [this Google form](#) by **January 17th**.

Campaign Updates

National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day

December 21st, the longest night of the year, was National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day. All over the country, events were held to honor those who have died while experiencing homelessness. These events could be organized by anyone including advocates, service providers, organizations, homeless and formerly homeless individuals/families, religious leaders, city representatives, students, and concerned citizens. The memorial services often include reading the names of those who have died while homeless, prayers, personal remembrances, marches, and moments of silence. We at the Housing Not Handcuffs Campaign offer our condolences to those who have lost loved ones to homelessness.

The National Coalition for the Homeless Publishes 2016-2017 Hate Crimes Report

The National Coalition for the Homeless published its biannual report on bias-motivated violence against people experiencing homelessness on December 21, in honor of National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day. *Vulnerable to Hate: A Survey of Bias-Motivated Violence against People Experiencing Homelessness in 2016-2017*, outlines the 48 lethal attacks and

the 64 non-lethal attacks on homeless people that occurred in 2016 and 2017 throughout the United States. The report discusses the structural violence that has created endemic poverty, and proposes legislative solutions to lawmakers and advocates working to protect people experiencing homelessness from violence. Read the full report [here](#).

Syracuse Pursues Constructive Solutions to Panhandling

In the summer, Onondaga County (NY) Legislators proposed a law against aggressive panhandling. But after extensive meetings with social services providers and homeless advocates, including the Law Center's Legal Director Eric Tars, they have decided to stop pursuing the criminalization of homelessness and instead offer more constructive, long-term solutions. On December 12th, Syracuse city and Onondaga county officials announced a \$200,000 pilot program to provide people who are panhandling with day-labor jobs. Through the pilot program, up to eight individuals will be offered transportation to work sites three days a week. The aim of the program is to provide connections to healthcare services or drug treatment in addition to wages. The Law Center will continue working with the City of Syracuse to gather data on the program's effectiveness.

Developments in Durango

On December 12, the Law Center partnered with the ACLU of Colorado to host an informal dinner and discussion on homelessness. Community members, people experiencing homelessness, city officials, and members of law enforcement were in attendance. The discussion focused on Durango's response to homeless encampments. In August, when the city of Durango discontinued its only sanctioned encampment, the Law Center and ACLU pressured the city to cease its enforcement of its camping ban in certain public places. The city agreed to cease enforcement between sunrise and sunset, but both the ACLU and Law Center believed that this was an inadequate response to their homelessness issue. [This report](#) released by the ACLU and Law Center, describe the impact of Durango's criminalization policies and makes recommendations for how the city can actually bring an end to homelessness.

Panhandling Campaign Updates

On December 3rd, Shorewood, Wisconsin repealed its panhandling ordinance as a result of the HNH Panhandling Campaign. Stay tuned for more repeals!

Announcements

HNH Annual Report will be coming in the New Year!

There is still time to submit your impact stories and victories. Please email rllee@nlchp.org with your updates or fill out [this google form](#)

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](#).

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In the News

[Cruel and All Too Usual](#)

Sojourners, January 2019

[Nevada Ranks Highest in Unsheltered, Homeless Youth According to Federal Report](#)

My News 4, December 18, 2018

['Sesame Street' Tackles Homelessness with This Muppet's New Storyline](#)

Today, December 14, 2018

[United Way of King County, King County Bar Association and Seattle Mariners announce \\$3 Million Partnership to Stop a Leading Cause of Homelessness-Eviction of Tenants](#)

PR Newswire, December 14, 2018

[OPINION: A Year Without Sleep](#)

Pagosa Daily News, December 13, 2018

[The Criminalization of Homelessness \(Ep. 26\)](#)

ACLU, December 13, 2018

[Housing Needed to Solve Homelessness, Advocate Says](#)

Durango Herald, December 12, 2018

[PRESS ROOM: Public Charge Rule Undermines Human Rights, Harms Families and Communities](#)

Black Press USA, December 11, 2018

[Ban on Pushy Panhandlers Quietly Repealed: 'This is an Important Victory'](#)

Chicago Sun Times, December 6, 2018

[Homeless Man Finds \\$17,000, Gives it to Food Bank](#)

Tribune Media Wire, December 5, 2018

[Islandwide Homeless Restrictions Approved — But Are They Legal?](#)

Honolulu Civil Beat, December 5, 2018

**NATIONAL LAW CENTER
ON HOMELESSNESS & POVERTY**

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