

HOUSING NOT HANDCUFFS

e-news update

October 2017

Dear Supporters and Endorsers of the Housing Not Handcuffs campaign,

Our campaign continues to grow, almost 600 endorsements so far! [Keep encouraging your friends, colleagues, and elected officials to endorse.](#)

Follow on social media

#HNHNow  

If you have submissions for the next newsletter, send them to skang@nlchp.org by **November 17.**

Announcements



Ask Congress to Reinvest Savings from Homeownership Tax Reform into Key Affordable Rental Housing Programs

BY TOMORROW (Oct. 27): Calling all Housing Not Handcuffs Campaign Participants! Ask your representatives to sign onto [Representative Keith Ellison's \(D-MN\) "Dear Colleague" letter](#) urging Congress to reinvest any savings from changes to the mortgage interest deduction and other homeownership tax benefits into key affordable rental housing programs for people with the greatest needs. [Read more.](#)

Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week 2017

National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week will take place this year from November 11-19. The week is a chance to educate your community, draw attention to the problem of poverty, and recruit new volunteers and supporters for local anti-poverty agencies. You can help build the movement to end poverty by organizing Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week in your

community this year. Visit HHweek.org to learn how to get involved in Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week.

New Disaster Manual Coming Soon

The National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty will be releasing an up-to-date disaster manual to share information on how to address homelessness issues in the aftermath of a disaster.

Campaign Updates

Santa Ana planning ban on camping, structures to reduce homeless encampment at Civic Center

In the name of public safety, the City of Santa Ana is considering enacting a camping ban. Mohammed Aly, founder of the HNH member organization [Orange County Poverty Alleviation Coalition](#), warned "the effort would only shuffle the homeless population elsewhere- perhaps ultimately to jail, which would be more costly than properly sheltering people."

LAPD Arrests of Homeless People on the Rise According to UCLA Study

A newly released UCLA study revealed an increase in policing the city's homeless population. Pete White, executive director of the HNH-endorsing organization [L.A. Community Action Network](#), indicated the three zip codes with the highest rate of arrests of homeless people are "areas that are rapidly gentrifying."

Dane County Supervisor fights for Housing Not Handcuffs in Budget

HNH Campaign Endorser and Dane County Board of Supervisors Member Heidi Wegleitner is actively opposing a budget item that would borrow money for a new jail; she suggests addressing the housing and services needs instead, referencing Dane County's commitment to housing as a human right and closing with the statement "Let's fund housing, not handcuffs. Health care, not jail cells."

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

Amnesty International, Oct. 02

[Governments are criminalizing homeless people to distract from their own failures](#)

"But instead of tackling the root causes of homelessness, governments around the world are increasingly targeting people on the streets with criminal laws and regulations. Whether through anti-vagrancy laws, policies which block homeless access to essential services, or punitive measures and sweeping operations to force them out of the city, authorities are trampling on the rights of homeless people."

The News Tribune, Oct. 04, Tacoma, WA

[City Council Extends Public Camping Ban as Homelessness Crisis Persists](#)

"The Tacoma City Council has voted unanimously to extend a law banning camping on public property until the end of the year along with a declaration of a public emergency relating to homelessness."

Honolulu Star Adviser, Oct. 10, Honolulu, HI

[City sweeps homeless from Kakaako sidewalks](#)

City crews accompanied by police cleared sidewalks dotted with tents and tarps in the wake of a state sweep of three nearby parks.

KOMO News, Oct. 11, Tacoma, WA

[Tacoma's Homeless Outreach Team clears hundreds of illegal encampments](#)

"Homeless Outreach Teams" have cleared over 300 encampments this year.

Daily Press, Oct. 11

[Panhandling is protected](#)

Newport News, VA, repealed a 2012 ordinance that criminalized panhandling in most public places. With a unanimous vote, Mayor McKinley Price and the city council affirmed that panhandling should be protected under First Amendment rights.

Santa Cruz Sentinel, Oct. 14 Santa Cruz, CA

[Homeless problem demands action and SCPA is acting](#)

The Santa Cruz Police Department announced its new approach to outdoor sleeping and the camping ban. From 9 pm until 6 am, SCPD will not issue camping citations unless there is a complaint by someone in control of that property.

The San Diego Union Tribune, Oct. 15, San Diego, CA

[Homeless in Seattle: tent encampments seem to be working](#)

As San Diego moves into a second week of operating a tent city for the homeless in Golden Hill, officials here can look to Seattle to gauge whether such temporary shelters are likely to be helpful.

The Daily Journal, Oct. 16, San Francisco, CA

[Renters Rights are Civil Rights](#)

This month, San Mateo County and a handful of nearby local governments officially recognized what many of us already knew: Large rent increases and no-cause evictions are an urgent civil rights issue on the Peninsula. These practices undermine the housing security of many — but they disproportionately harm African-American, Latino, Filipino and Pacific Islander renters.

KOMO News, Oct. 17, Seattle, WA

[City Mulls ending unsanctioned homeless camp removals](#)

Members of the Seattle City Council are considering defunding encampment sweeps: "The many, many hundreds of homeless sweeps are not working, they are ineffective at solving homelessness and they are also inhumane."

KIRO 7 News, Oct. 17, Seattle, WA

[Seattle Councilor Wants to Stop Sweeps Until Human Rights of Homeless are Ensured](#)

Seattle City Councilwoman Kshama Sawant wants to keep city workers from sweeping unauthorized homeless camps until their human rights are ensured, including through providing sanitation and trash removal.

Washington Post, Oct. 23

[America's affordable housing stock dropped by 60 percent from 2010 to 2016](#)

"The number of apartments deemed affordable for very low-income families across the United States fell by more than 60 percent between 2010 and 2016, according to a new report by Freddie Mac."

**NATIONAL LAW CENTER
ON HOMELESSNESS & POVERTY**

This newsletter was designed, drafted, and distributed by the
National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty
nlchp.org

on behalf of the Housing Not Handcuffs Campaign
housingnohandcuffs.org