Family Separation

By Zack Mohamed

‘Family Separation’ is a term that has been floating around in the United States to describe immigrant families separated from each other while fleeing man-made issues such as war, famine, drought and etc... But family separation is nothing new to this country and nothing new globally, if we think about how colonization and imperialism has worked throughout different eras. “The truth is, family separation is a devastating tradition in the U.S. From the nearly 250 years of slavery in the U.S. to the harsh conditions in Japanese internment camps of the 1940s. U.S. policy has torn families apart, causing deep intergenerational trauma and betraying any sense of humanity,” said Tometi, Executive Director of Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI).

To look at how we got to the implementation of the current administration’s “Zero Tolerance Policy” we have to look at back on the ideologies that went into laws and policies. Imperialism, neoliberalism and capitalism are root causes behind the displacement of millions of people around the world. The value of dollar signs have trumped humanity as the lands everywhere are pillaged for resources. The global economy controlled by the West is devastating the countries immigrants come from. It is important to recognize that thousands of migrants from Africa, Central America, South America and the Caribbean are among those crossing the U.S. Mexico border asking for asylum.

The federal government has been using the framing of a “border crisis” to imply that migration has suddenly become a huge problem. However, migration at the border is actually the lowest it has been in over 40 years. The current crisis is harm being done to rise, the situation on the streets become exponentially more dangerous. Sidewalks with more encampments mean more pedestrians are forced into the streets to walk while residents on their bikes compete with 10 Metro bus lines, commercial trucks, and oblivious commuters speeding into or out of downtown.

LACAN’s Ride 4 Justice campaign began with the simple goal of getting the City’s “Mobility Plan 2035” amended to include 5th and 6th Streets on the Plan’s Bicycle Enhanced Network. Although it seems like a public safety “no-brainer” to put bike lanes in a bike-dense neighborhood like Skid Row, we faced a long and complicated bureaucratic process to get it done. We first had to draw attention to the fact that 5th and 6th Streets are “high injury” thoroughfares and obtain that designation on

Continued page 9

Continued page 9
Black Mama’s Bail-Out

By Angela James

On April 13, 2018, twenty-six-year-old Deshay Murphy was arrested for her alleged involvement in a minor family dispute. The price of her freedom, the amount of bail, was set at $30,000. In other words, with the legal presumption of innocence and in advance of ANY judicial determination, the freedom of this young mother was taken, and she was locked up in Los Angeles County’s Century Regional Detention Facility for women. Looking at Ms. Murphy, a small, slender woman, who is eight-and-a-half months pregnant and with a four-year-old daughter at home; it is hard to imagine her constituting a threat to the community that is of such magnitude as to deprive her of her liberty. It is important to understand that the men and women in Los Angeles jails have NOT BEEN CONVICTED OF A CRIME. The concept of “innocence until proven guilty” is ignored by a justice system that compounds the harms of disproportionate arrests, and over reaching charges listed in the arrest, with a money-bail system that essentially robs poor communities. Bail is one of the ways the poor are punished simply for being poor. In the current system, poor people are given a harsh choice of paying a non-refundable 10% of the bail amount to private companies whom then put forth the entire bail amount to guarantee the appearance of the defendant to court. If they do not pay the 10%, then they must sit in jail unfairly deprived of their freedom, until they get their day in court. On May 17, 2018, LACAN worked as part of a coordinated effort with other local organizations as part of the National Black Mamas Bail Out Day Campaign to #FreeBlackMamas, were able to secure Deshay’s freedom and that of her unborn child. Insuring that this child would not be born in captivity, and that Deshay’s four year old, other family members, and the community be spared the continued trauma of her incarceration.

Bail Reform Betrayal: SB 10 Falling Off The Rails

By Pete White

LA CAN has and continues to be a powerful voice in bail reform nationally, locally, and statewide. We recently released our bail reform framework called, ‘Preserving the Presumption of Innocence’ (it can be found at www.cangress.org) to a national audience and called for very specific principles to be included in any bail reform bill. We’ve participated in numerous bailouts highlighting the need to reform the pre-trial detention practice of holding people simply because they’re too poor to bail out. In our own state, California, we’ve been battling feverishly to halt SB10, a bail bill that started out okay and rapidly turned to crap.

In short, the following has happened:—Dishonest dealings by organizations propped up to be the voice of the community. The following organizations represent the official SB 10 Co-Sponsors: ACLU, Western Center on Law and Poverty, Anti Recidivism Coalition (ARC), Californians For Safety and Justice, SEIU, Ella Baker Center, Silicon Valley DeBug and Essie Justice. These organizations were responsible for carrying the voice of the community to the negotiation table consisting of law-makers, judges, prosecutors, law enforcement etc.

—The bill had gradually taken a turn for the worst over the past few months and then total silence. Organizationally, we know that you can’t make a bad bill better and started calling on community organizations to stand against the bill. Then suddenly, in early August, the latest version of the bill was leaked to us and to our shock and horror it was no longer a bail reform bill but a preventive detention bill. The bill, as written, gives California judges the power to hold defendants indefinitely pre-trial and pre-conviction. Yes, you heard me correctly, it removes money bail and replaces it with risk assessments and judges having the final say on who stays and who goes.

—Without doubt LA CAN has been in full “kill the bill” mode with numerous strategies underfoot. Among those strategies has been to ‘call our allies in’ urging them to drop their support and join the growing chorus of opposition. Essie Justice and Silicon Valley DeBug were the first to come out in opposition understanding the deleterious impact this bill would have on their membership. ACLU would follow by taking a weak neutral position that would only

Continued page 10
Follow the Money...

By Craig Roberts

Monitoring Proposition HHH and Reporting to the People

You’ll remember we Angelenos passed Bond Proposition HHH with a super majority in November 2016 to build up to 10,000 units of permanent supportive housing over a ten-year period.

Since it is never wise to blindly believe political promises we at the Los Angeles Community Action Network set for ourselves the task of monitoring the implementation of said proposition through its oversight committees, public documents, as well as the actions of both the City Council’s Homelessness and Poverty Committee, and the Housing Community Investment Department (HCID LA). Our ongoing review has brought out some unsettling facts and a few critical questions:

FACT 1. As of July 2018, more than a year and a half since HHH passage, no permanent supportive housing has emerged ready to be occupied. The process is intolerably slow.

FACT 2. Almost all the developers so far seem to be politically well-connected gentrifiers who are building high cost projects, with up to $650,000 per unit price tags (which means they didn’t really need the subsidies in the first place). Average cost in 2016 was $425,000.

FACT 3. Even though one-third of the $1.2 billion has already been “spent” on unit and facility subsidies, no new permanent supportive housing is scheduled to be completed until the middle of 2019.

Fact 4. According to the HHH citizens oversight committee’s own report, 10,000 unit is being treated as a ‘goal’ and now they estimate only 6000 actual units of permanent supportive housing will be built.

Having worked hard to help pass the $1.2 billion bond proposition to build 10,000 housing units for the chronically homeless and poor, we the residents of skid row and our supporters are petitioning Mayor Eric Garcetti, City Comptroller Ronald Galperin and Housing and Community Investment Department General Manager Rushmore Cervantes to immediately conduct a financial audit to answer several critical questions.

1. Are any of the HHH bond money going to law enforcement? If so, how much and why?
2. How much HHH bond money is being diverted to phony housing plans that are actually shelter plans? Rows of cots in a warehouse, are not housing -- only permanent supportive homes are.
3. The Mayor’s shelter plan is nothing more than a criminalization of the homeless plan, it should not receive a DIME of HHH money. Number 3. Who are the developers/gentrifiers who are getting subsidies? Are there low-cost builders who are not? If so, WHY NOT?
4. Having worked hard to help pass the $1.2 billion bond proposition to build 10,000 housing units for the chronically homeless and poor, we the residents of skid row and our supporters are petitioning Mayor Eric Garcetti, City Comptroller Ronald Galperin and Housing and Community Investment Department General Manager Rushmore Cervantes to immediately conduct a financial audit to answer several critical questions.

We demand a financial audit and we hope you’ll join us in demand it by going to the LA CAN website (cangress.org) and signing a petition or coming by our headquarters, 838 East 6th Street, Los Angeles, 90021. We invite you to also call us at 213-228-0024. All Power to the People!

Hey Mayor!

Skid Row is Located in Los Angeles

By Eddie H

As an organization, the Los Angeles Community Action Network (LACAN) has worked vociferously, tirelessly and unwavering in our efforts to bring non-existent resources to our constituents of Skid Row. As it relates to quality of life and human rights issues our sustained battles to bring restrooms, water fountains, handwashing stations and trash cans to this area has literally fallen on deaf ears time and time again. The benign neglect, disdain and disrespect emanating from the Mayor's office and the office of Council member for City Council district 14 (Jose Huizar) is egregious, reprehensible inhumane and heartless.

The cognitive dissonance and tone deafness of these public officials combine with a seeming aversion to having the political will to address these issues. This is all the more astounding when you juxtapose this response to the billions of dollars being spent on developments west of Main. In two reports written by LACAN members (“Share the Wealth” and “The Dirty Divide”) we illuminated the disparities and inequities in resources for individuals east and west of Main. From the Mayor's continued cheerleading for developers, business owners and stakeholders operating west of Main, to Jose Huizar's “Bring ing Back Broadway” they continue to push their exclusionary vision, while at the same time continued calls to address basic human rights issues have largely gone unaddressed.

Silence is the language of defeat, and as an organization we refuse to allow our voices impotent or to be stopped as long as these injustices persist. As a matter of acknowledgement, we will continue to beat the drum loudly for our constituency here on skid row. In a recent interview following the death of John Mack, Garcetti (who has been missing in action) threw shade/ disrespect at those of us who would dare to have the audacity and the unmitigated gall to fight for what is right (Liberation, Justice, Freedom and Resources) by saying that we were “talking loud and sayin nothing.” To that we say Mayor you are clueless and talking foolishly as you continue to do nothing to address the basic human conditions on the ground. We will not be silenced, so that drumbeat that you hear Mayor, is only going to get louder and louder and louder. Keep your earplugs handy.
Exposing Predictive Policing

By Jaime Garcia

July 24, 2018, The Los Angeles Police Commission held a hearing on predictive policing. Stop LAPD Spying along with LA CAN and other organizations, called for the end to predictive policing because it is patently discriminatory and is a tool for racial profiling and over-policing. The program is fundamentally based on the presumption of guilt for specific individuals and for entire communities.

Predictive Policing is rooted in war and occupation, and is part of a long lineage that includes: slave patrols, lantern laws, Jim Crow, and Red Squads, as well as the more recent, war on drugs, war on crime, war on gangs, war on terror, Operation Hammer, SWAT, aerial patrols, ‘Weed and Seed’, ‘Stop and Frisk’, gang injunctions, ‘Broken windows Policing’, and Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR). However, in this episode of this horror story, this the veneer of science and technology, algorithms and data processing, hotspots, horror story, this the horror story of predictive policing.

LAPD claims that historic crime data like field interview cards and crime reports are unbiased and accurate measurements of crime. Using this historic crime data LAPD claims it can predict where and who will commit crime. However we know that historically and currently there exist an intention and purpose of categorizing and documenting acts by certain communities as criminal. That is, crime is created and enacted into law by those in power in order to serve the interests of the powerful. From slavery to sharecropping to the current prison industrial complex, crime has been constructed to criminalize and incarcerate Black, Brown and poor people in order to generate revenue for the state and private entities. Furthermore, predicting human behavior with any real certainty is impossible for a multitude of reasons one being that there are numerous factors contributing to human behavior and no algorithm can measure and account for all of them.

Further, using biased algorithms to harass people, based on the presumption that they will be guilty of a crime that has not yet occurred, is an obvious violation of HUMAN and civil rights.

LAPD uses two predictive policing programs. One is called PredPol, and the other is called LASER. Predpol uses historic crime data that is fed into an algorithm to predict which 500x500 blocks of the city will have crime before anything has happened. In fact the co-creator of Predpol Jeff Bruntingham claimed that “criminal offenders are essentially hunter-gatherers... they forage for opportunities to commit crime. The behavior that a hunter gather uses to choose a wildebeest or gazelle is the same calculations a criminal uses to choose between a Honda and a Lexus.” The other program in use, Operation Los Angeles Strategic Extraction and Restoration (LASER), develops ‘hot spots’ in neighborhoods and a list of people that police are instructed to surveil and target as they would suspect criminals. To keep track of people on the list, a Chronic Offender Bulletin (COB) similar to a most wanted poster, is created. Field interview cards are used to select a chronic offender. The system uses a circular logic to justify police harassment of individuals in certain communities. For example, the more police stop somebody the more likely it is that they will be on a COB, which in turn instructs officers to stop them without cause. The implications of this practice extends from individuals to the entire community. If your home or business is in a LASER hotspot it can be targeted for eviction, abatement notices or gentrification. LASERs intention is clearly to displace people from their homes and communities.

We must put an end to predictive policing. Join the Stop LAPD Spying Coalition in its fight to dismantle the Los Angeles Police Department’s use of surveillance, spying, and infiltration technologies and tactics that stalk and target Black, Brown and poor communities, and social movement. We meet every 4th Tuesday of the month at 6pm at LA CAN! Will we sleep or will we fight!

U.N. REPORT SHINES DESPICABLE LIVING CONDITIONS IN U.S.

By Monique Noel

Frantz Fanon notably stated “A society that drives its members to desperate solutions is a non-viable society”.

Following a recent visit to the US, including a walk around Skid Row and a Town Hall meeting at LA CAN, Philip Alston, the United Nations’ Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, wrote an unabashed report on poverty in the United States.

During his time with LA CAN Alston was particularly moved by the lived experiences of Skid Row’s houseless community, LA CAN staff, and members who shared with him the stories behind the statistics. Alston reviewed statistics and reported that, while overall arrests in the city had declined 15% between 2011 and 2016, “14,000 homeless persons were arrested in 2016 alone, an increase of 31 per cent over 2011.” In the report, Alston noted that, “In many cities, homeless persons are effectively criminalized for the situation in which they find themselves. Sleeping rough, sitting in public places, panhandling, public urination and myriad other offenses have been devised to attack the “blight” of homelessness. The criminalization of homeles individuals in cities that provide almost zero public toilets seems particularly callous.

Another strong point made in the report is that homelessness on the scale we see in Los Angeles is far from inevitable and that it largely reflects political choices to see the solution as law enforcement, rather than adequate and accessible affordable housing, and other social support. In Alston’s words, “Citizens and local authorities, rather than treating homeless persons as affronts to their sensibilities and neighborhoods, should see in their presence a tragic indictment of community and government policies.

Unfortunately, Mayor Eric Garcetti’s does not appear to have read Alston’s report. Just recently, he announced plans to revive the enforcement of L.A. Municipal Code 41.18(d), previously deemed unconstitutional in Jones. Garcetti justification for this foolhardy decision was to put forward the lie that adequate numbers of housing units have been built to meet the requirements of the Jones settlement, which prohibits enforcing laws that prevent people from sleeping on the streets who have nowhere else to go. Garcetti’s green light on the criminalization of homelessness is a prime example of Alston’s point about political choices. The Mayor’s despicable position serves to sends a clear message that despite the voter’s resolve as expressed in the passage of measures H and HHH, that legislators come up with real solutions to homelessness, Garcetti continues to treat homeless people as the problem, instead of following the will of the people to work on real solutions. We thank Philip Alston for allowing community voices to inform. Our stories are our truths, lifting our lived experiences is a catalyst for positive change. The UN’s report offers strong support of LA CAN’s position that criminalizing poverty is manifestly wrong, it is a crime against humanity, and it must stop! The report offers strong support of LA CAN’s position that criminalizing poverty is manifestly wrong, it is a crime against humanity, and that it must stop!
A Green Side to Gentrify

By Ivy Beach

As I turned the corner by 5th and Gladys next to Ocean Choice Seafood, I noticed a sidewalk empty of people and the 20 or so brightly colored tents that used to line up along the walls. Instead the area was inundated with rows of predominantly invasive plant species. Bizarre ‘resort-like’ fan palms (Washingtonia robusta), some confused looking bird-of-paradise (strelitzia reginae), and scrappy poking dragon trees (Dracena Marginata) were stealing wide. Share images of them, post them, and speak about them. Identifying these efforts to displace people from our public spaces is a crucial step to ultimately dismantling them.

The hostile foliage is guarded by small green fences, and always appears to be extremely well-watered despite the dry surrounding landscape. The hostile foliage is guarded by small green fences, and always appears to be extremely well-watered despite the dry surrounding landscape. 

#Hostilearchitecture, or ‘designs against humanity’, are deliberate alterations to spaces that discourage, evict, harm, and expel civic life through design, it’s easily one of the worst urban trends of the past few years. Cara Chellew, a Suburbanism researcher (and considered the first to use the term), notes, “Vulnerable groups of people suffer disproportionately where there is a lack of benches, public washrooms and shelter from elements.”

Aggressive designs have appeared across the city in the form of randomly landed boulders/rocks, painfully raised spikes, leaking sprinkler heads watering cement, militant security robots, intolerable bench-seats, erratic garden boxes, and now irrational swathes of mainly invasive plant species around Skid Row. These plants represent the inability of many to confront the reality of inequality and the systemic changes needed to reach real solutions. This sly ‘greening’ is a deceptive practice of removal. It is, unfortunately, very consistent with a range of current policies that criminalize poverty and further marginalize the poor in Los Angeles.

It is important that we shine a light on these tragic designs whenever we notice them, they can be stealth and deceiving so keep eyes wide. Share images of them, post them, and speak about them. Identifying these efforts to displace people from our public spaces is a crucial step to ultimately dismantling them.

New York Rep Hopeful Visits Skid Row

By Ariana Alcaraz

Downtown L.A. received an unexpected visit from Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez -- the 28 year old House of Representative candidate who shook-up the political world when she unseated congressional mainstay Joe Crowley during the primaries. Ocasio-Cortez, who represents the democratic socialist wing of the Democratic party, avoided the Hollywood's elite during her West Coast tour and opted instead to make a stop in Skid Row. She is revered by social justice activists who praise her for her support of issues such as Medicare-for-all, free college education and calls to abolish Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Ariana Alcaraz of the Los Angeles Community Action Network met Alejandra on her walking tour of Skid Row. During their walk Ocasio-Cortez asked Ariana, “Have there been any policies in the last 10 or 20 years that has worked in addressing the issue of homelessness?” Ariana replied, “no not really.” She highlighted the local government's failed attempts to address the housing crisis. "Politicians think that by funding police and building temporary shelters they can alleviate the housing crisis," she said. "They have shown no political will to build housing for the poor at a rate we need to get people housed and keep people housed," she said. Ariana also brought up the need to protect public housing. "Public housing needs to be expanded and funded by states and local cities because we cannot lose any more units!" She explained to Ocasio-Cortez that keeping people housed is at the root of addressing homelessness. "House keys not handcuffs is the core of real solutions," Ariana told Ocasio-Cortez.
Maccapone was an exception champion of the people. Born in 1978, Marcus Davion Higgins was a native of Los Angeles. Mac went to Crenshaw High School & was a member of the Rollin 60s Crips-CRIP was an original acronym for "Community Revolution in Progress". After graduating from Crenshaw, Maccapone grew more in tune with his mission to be a part of a black revolution for the advancement of our people. The people loved Maccapone because: Mac fearlessly stood vs police terrorism Mac was on the frontlines vs terrorism Mac was an exceptional champion of advancement of our people. The Council of Ujima Africa Town Coalition Maccapone was also an active member of: - Cease Fire - Black Lives Matter - LA Maccapone helped establish: - Africa Town LA - the #atc #breakbread Free Food Program - the closing of numerous unethical businesses throughout Los Angeles - Community patrols to intervene vs police terrorism - Freedom Schools throughout South Central LA to empower black youth during the summer It was because of Mac's connection to our community and consistent involvement in action on our behalf throughout the city that we acknowledged him as mayor of Africa town. Since Maccapone's transition, people from around the world have shared how much of an influence & inspiration he was to them. Mac's legacy will shine throughout eternity. By Billion Godsun
On June 16, 2018 the Los Angeles Community Action Network recognized the outstanding legacies of LA’s most powerful social justice icons during its 8th Annual Freedom Now Awards and Celebration. The sold-out event brought together LA CAN’s family of social justice advocates, donor-activists, elected officials and grassroots leaders for an inspiring evening acknowledging the contributions of the honorees.

The evening honored Professor Kelly Lytle Hernandez & UCLA Million Dollar Hoods Project; Artist, Mike De La Rocha (Revolve Impact); internationally celebrated, political recording artist Mandeep Sethi (SETI X); dynamic civil rights attorney, Shayla Myers (Legal Aid Foundation Los Angeles); educator, filmmaker and ‘Father of Leimert Park,’ Ben Caldwell, the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and George “Pan-cake” Herrod (LA CAN member and volunteer leader for Team Food).

In his opening comments, Pete White, LA CAN executive director, told those in attendance that the phrase “Freedom Now” speaks of the goal to obtain immediate freedom. “When we say ‘Freedom Now’ we’re not talking about freedom the day before yesterday or freedom some long way away, we’re talking about freedom right now,” says White. He encouraged those in attendance to commit themselves to working for freedom now.

The Freedom Now Celebration featured artistic expressions by the legendary spoken word artist, Taalam Acey and violinist Lila Hood. At the evening’s end, it was clear that the enthusiastic crowd was uplifted by the messages and art performances.
Relaxing Day in the Park for Downtown Women

By QM Tabia

Nearly 200 women arrived in Elysian Park on May 25th to celebrate Women’s Day in the Park. Women from Skid Row, South Central and East Los Angeles enjoyed a day in the sun. Organized by the Downtown Women’s Action Coalition (DWAC), low-income and homeless women of were transported to the green outdoors of Montecillo De Leo Politi in Elysian Park for a day of relaxation and pampering. They were treated to manicures, meditation sessions, yoga, dancing, and tasty Jamaican food.

Representatives and volunteers from various healthcare, housing, and other social service agencies also join in on the day of festivities by providing service, gifts, activity and information tables.

Women then finished off the day by dancing and singing throughout the afternoon. At day’s end, the women boarded the buses home and it was evident that they had enjoyed a day of sisterhood and celebration.

Spots in the Hood:
Monte Carlo Cafe Still Reigns

By Arianna Alcarez and Mr. Pancake

In this edition of Public Comment, we spotlight the Monte Carlo Cafe, located at 109 E. 5th St. off of Los Angeles and 5th streets.

Opened in 1975, the Monte Carlo Cafe is settled smack dab in the middle of the hustle and bustle of Downtown Los Angeles. Now, it finds itself right along the “Dirty Divide” still holding the line for long-time downtown residents and providing very affordable classic dishes.

The classic diner atmosphere takes you back to the 1970’s – much of the original decor has been left untouched. Home to the iconic “BEAT IT” video by Michael Jackson, Monte Carlo is one of the few cafes in the historic core of downtown Los Angeles that hasn’t caved to gentrification.

Ownership has changed recently which has sparked a bit of uncertainty about the future of the cafe. We sat down with the new owner, Roberto Sanchez and talked about the cafe’s future. He always wanted to own a restaurant and one day while eating at the Monte Carlo Cafe, he struck up a conversation with Jenny, the previous owner, who offered to sell the restaurant to him. It was an offer he could not refuse. He assured us that he intends to maintain the affordable prices and he plans to extend the hours of operation to 7pm for dinner and is adding some new items to the menu like burgers and a coffee bar.

The diner has a must-see gallery of photos of old Downtown LA that might spark nostalgia for some of the older folks in the neighborhood and delightfully inform the young.

“I’ve been living here since 2009 and I’ve been coming here since then,” says Rudy Pinzon from the Baltimore Hotel. “I always found it to be interesting because I would always run into friends and neighbors. It really is a pleasant place to relax,”

We are excited for Monte Carlo’s future and hope it doesn’t follow the paths of the other downtown businesses that have had to completely change in order to adapt to the changing community. We continue to support this small business and hope you do as well, check it out!
At the June 22nd City Council meeting, Councilmember Paul Koretz introduced a motion to create a Tenants’ Right to Counsel Program for the City of Los Angeles. The motion, seconded by Council President Herb Wesson and referred to the Housing Committee, calls on the City to develop recommendations and report back within four months. In his press release, Koretz states “[He’s] long felt that helping people keep their homes is an important tool for reducing homelessness.” If created, this program would provide legal representation to L.A. renters facing eviction and likely keep many of them in their homes. Approximately 30,000 L.A. renters received unlawful final eviction notices in 2017. Last year, New York City became the first city to create a ‘Tenants’ Right to Counsel’ program. San Francisco voters just passed a ballot measure to establish one this year. And now, LA CAN is working with partners to make sure that the City of Los Angeles takes this small, but important, step to protect tenants by preventing homelessness for the thousands of renters facing evictions.

LACAN Rides a Small Victory

the City’s Vision Zero plan. The designation allowed the bike lane proposal to move into the labyrinthine-like system of the City’s approval and implementation process. Council district 14, where Skid Row is located, would have to file a motion to amend the Mobility Plan within its district. After months of repeated attempts to secure a motion from Councilman Jose Huizar’s office, Ride 4 Justice organizers, Craig Roberts and General Dogon, decided a visit to City Hall was in order. When told by staff that the councilman was not in, they encountered him leaving his office by the back door. During an awkward exchange caught on camera, Huizar told the organizers, “I’ll have it done today.” Within days, we received a copy of the motion we needed.

When our team turned out for the Transportation committee meeting, LACAN’s General Dogon, in his public comment, pointed out that “Outgoing Chief Beck, in his last Police Commission appearance, said that crime has dropped citywide but that hit and run fatalities of cyclists has doubled this year, and it’s only June!” That meeting, Councilman Bonin declared that he would support the amendment to the mobility plan. We continued the press on council members at every opportunity. When council president, Herb Wesson, spoke at LACAN’s Freedom Now event in June, he signaled his support for the bike lane proposal.

Finally, a vote on the motion was scheduled for June 22nd. Our team and our allies, including many members of the Los Angeles Bicycle Coalition, showed up in big numbers for the vote. LACAN’s Wesley Walker gave an impassioned public comment. Council President Wesson made brief remarks endorsing the passage of the motion and when the roll was taken, it passed overwhelmingly, 11-0! The celebration was loud, and moved out into the hallway. But everyone there that day knew that the fight had only begun. Says LACAN’s Arianna: “The work doesn’t stop here. It will actually get harder now because we have to force the city to show that they actually care about bike safety and not just write it in a book or a plan.”

We know that it could be years before the City Council, that has so far ignored Skid Row, assesses the feasibility of the bike lane proposal and allocates funds. However, our team will continue to press the city to look at this issue and demand that councilman Huizar immediately put up bike safety signs so cyclists can begin to feel safe in Skid Row. Until then, we will not wait for the city to put up signs. The team will put up our own.

Family Separation continued...

migrants and NOT the number of migrants at the border. The question is, WHY ARE WE BEING LEAD TO BELIEVE OTHERWISE? The answer is probably MONEY. The U.S. has the largest immigration detention system in the world with over 360,000 people in detention. Trump’s Executive Order uses keeping families together as an excuse for building more family jails and does not include a plan to reunite the families that have already been separated. Money is made with every jail built and servicing the prison/detention centers has become a de facto job program for rural areas across the country. There are opportunities for people to take action against the atrocities that are happening to migrant families being separated. Freedom for Immigrants, a U.S.-based nonprofit, has created this tool, REUNITE, to assist in locating adults or children who have been disappeared into the U.S. immigration detention system. Despite the lack of leadership and courage from our elected officials on this issue, Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI) is committed to advocating for a humane and ethical immigration system that prioritizes the well-being of all immigrants, regardless of race, ethnicity, or sexual orientation.

In conclusion as we fight for the liberation of all we must use inclusive language and ideals that fight and tear down the systems that oppress us. As we call for #AbolishICE we must also call for the erosion of ALL FORMS of criminalization and be intentionally intersectional in our fight for justice. We will continue to urge lawmakers to pursue immigration policy that upholds human rights.

Join BAJI in this continued fight.
http://baji.org
Bail Reform Betrayal continued...

change after constant dragging; numerous legal scholars calling out their complicity in this judge takeover; and, a point-by-point analysis of the depths of their deception. They finally moved over to a position of opposition but quite frankly, as the saying goes, “it was a day late and a dollar short.”

—On the other-hand, Western Center on Law and Poverty, SEIU, Californians For Safety and Justice, Anti Recidivism Coalition, and the Ella Baker Center remain steadfast in their support for a law which will drastically expand mass incarceration - and doing so in the face of swelling opposition everywhere.

—There has been a major push by Hertzberg and the Governor to pass any bail bill because it has been the civil rights/decriminalization effort of their careers. They don’t give a damn what’s in the legislation they just want to pass it. It’s their version of SB10, it’s their need to have people arrested.”

—The current legislation is nothing short of a power grab by Judges and Prosecutors to increase their ability to fill cages. Yes, its that bad and will lead to a reversal of many key decriminlization campaigns that we’ve waged.

—We should see before Hertzberg is promising to push this through committees, the assembly, and signed by the Governor in short order. It’s on! So, we’ve shifted some of our resources to fight back. We have taken folks to Sacramento; have been in coalition with amazing abolitionist organizations; rolled out an amazing communication strategy which led to mass destabilization at the capitol; and, continuing to push for the killing of this bill. Please read the short analysis below.

NEW CALIFORNIA BAIL BILL

The new California Bail Bill proposes to do the following:

[1] Replace money bail with a system of “pre-ventitive detention,” defined as pretrial incarceration without possibility of release;
[2] Give judges nearly open-ended discretion to preventively detain based on completely subjective legal standards;
[3] Provide detention hearings with little procedural protections for people accuse of crime, including allowing judges to incarcerate based on a prosecutor’s hearsay statement, a police report or a risk assessment score;
[4] Require nearly everyone to submit to a predictive risk assessment that labels them high, middle or low risk based on a statistical prediction of what they might do in the future;
[5] Use these risk assessment scores to determine who is eligible for immediate release or incarceration, and to influence the judges’ ultimate decisions;

[6] Provide no meaningful regulation to combat or limit the racial and economic class biases that are inherent in these risk assessment tools;
[7] Place control of the scoring system of the risk assessment tools entirely in the hands of the judiciary, thus allowing judges to make the high risk category as large or small as they desire in order to justify whatever rate of pretrial incarceration they choose;
[8] Allow local jurisdictions to carve out nearly unlimited categories of people who will be ineligible for release;
[9] Put probation departments, whose main function is monitoring and supervision, in charge of assessing risk and recommending incarceration, release and conditions of release;
[10] Allow police and prosecutors to have undue influence over the pretrial services recommendations for release, incarceration or supervision;
[11] Expose undocumented people to jail booking, assessment and detention by ICE even for low-level crimes;
[12] Exclude community representatives and organizations, civil rights and racial/economic justice organizations, formerly incarcerated people, defense attorney and public defenders, and anyone who isn’t a judge or law enforcement official from any role in implementation or oversight of this new scheme;
[13] Cost taxpayers tremendous amounts of money, all going to courts and probation department, and away from community needs like housing and schools;
[14] Have no expectation or intention of lowering rates of pretrial incarceration; but it will have great potential to increase pretrial incarceration.

The new bill completely deletes the existing bail framework and completely deletes the proposed framework of the original version of SB10.

The new bill completely deletes the existing bail framework and completely deletes the proposed framework of the original version of SB10.

“The new bill completely deletes the existing bail framework and completely deletes the proposed framework of the original version of SB10.”
Recipes for Cleansing and Cooling Down

It’s HOT!
SUMMER’S HERE!
JUST Juice!

By Yvonne Michelle Autry

Some like it Hot! Some do not! I LOVE the heat!! I use the sauna, steam room, hot Epsom baths as health maintenance. A clean body is a healthy body. Why not use this heat: to relax, detox & lose weight! Use what you’ve got to get what you want!

TROPICAL COOL
1 cup of coconut cream or Water
Squeeze of Honey
1 cup Aloe Vera juice
1 Pineapple
Juice & Blend

Coconut kills germs, bacteria & fungus! Honey is a natural antibiotic -- it kills germs & bacteria! Aloe Vera is MASTER HEALER! It helps diabetes & eliminates constipation! Coconut, honey & Aloe Vera have many healing properties! Pineapple juice is a natural anti-inflammatory; GREAT in fighting the common cold! High in Vitamin C.

SUMMER FRESH
1 cup Aloe Vera Juice
1-2 Beets
1 Cucumber
1-2 Apples
2-3 Carrots

Juice & blend together!
Beets are a super food! It cleanses the liver & kidney and it’s good for blood pressure. Cucumbers are high in water! Carrots are high in beta carotene and it’s good for the skin, hair & eyes! Carrots also help eliminate constipation! Aloe Vera is an excellent general tonic -- it helps diabetes and to eliminate constipation.

THE BERRY BEST
1 Basket Strawberries
1 box of Blueberries
2-3 Plums
1 Pineapple

GOOD to cleanse! Berries help fight & prevent cancers! Blueberries are HIGH in antioxidants! Berries are also good in helping us maintain our youthfulness. Plums are excellent for cleansing the intestines! Pineapples are powerful anti-inflammatory (helps neck, back pain & arthritic pain) and high in Vitamin C.

SPICY SMOOTHIE
1/2 cup of Black Tea
1 squeeze of Honey
1 Lemon
1 slice of Ginger
Sprinkles of Cinnamon
1 / 2 cup of Almond Milk or Rice Milk

Green Tea is high in estrogen! Recommended for women! For men I would recommend Black tea! Both are high in antioxidants! Red Tea is an excellent and powerful blood cleanser/purifier! Use this heatwave to cleanse, detox & lose weight.

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 3, MONDAY
LABOR DAY GALA 2018

MONDAYS, 11 A.M.
HOUSING

MONDAYS, 12:30 P.M.
CIVIL RIGHTS

TUESDAYS, 11:00 A.M.
TEAM FOOD

3RD TUESDAYS MONTHLY, 6 P.M.
STOP LAPD SPYING GENERAL COALITION MEETING

WEDNESDAYS, 6:00 P.M.
LEGAL CLINIC

THURSDAY, 4:00 P.M.
RIDE FOR JUSTICE

1ST AND 3RD FRIDAYS MONTHLY,
6 P.M.
RESIDENTIAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

OCTOBER 12TH, 7 P.M.
FELA KUTI, CULTURE ART AND RESISTANCE—FROM LAGOS TO LOS ANGELES
The Mayor and the City of Los Angeles have said they met their housing plan obligation around the Jones Agreement [the agreement that allows people to sleep on the streets from 9 pm to 6 am]. The Mayor wants to start enforcing 41.18D which means homeless people cannot rest on the streets at any time.

The Mayor’s Plan for the homeless is to open shelters in all council districts. This plan allows for 65-100 shelter beds. He is giving people the option of going into a shelter or being subjected to police enforcement. We asked a few people in the streets what would they do if their only choices were going into a shelter or being penalized by law enforcement. We recorded a few responses.

“I don’t like shelters so I’m going to have to fight and take action. I have P.T.S.D. and schizophrenia and don’t like or can’t be around a lot of people.”
—First Sgt. Israel U.S.

“If I am offered a space in the shelter I will take a spot. However. the odds that I will be one of the 100 people are slim. What I am doing is taking action.”
—Wendy Brown