

“The arc of the moral universe bends towards justice.” Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr



Community Action Community Newsletter - October, 2021

ABOUT US

Community Action Committee members of the Detroit Catholic Pastoral Alliance are actively engaged in matters of justice and human rights in order to foster equity and freedom for all. Some concerns or/issues are immediate, while others are long-term. Some examples of CAC activities are:

- sponsoring forums on candidates and proposals or petitions during election cycles
- participating in the People’s Water Board and Poor People’s Campaign
- attending protests and marches for racial, economic, environmental justice
- opposing union violations and human trafficking
- supporting the Friends for Returning Citizens (FORC) mission to advocate for criminal justice reform and provide assistance for returning citizens.

Our meetings are monthly from September through June on the third Monday from 5:00pm-6:00pm at the DCPA office. All are welcome to join and be an active part of social justice change. Call the DCPA office at 313-922-1432 for more information.



OUR UPCOMING ELECTION

Your vote matters

Our city general election is Tuesday, November 2, 2021. You may think your vote doesn’t matter, but your vote along with the votes of enough likeminded others in your district may make the difference in the selection of a candidate or the outcome of a proposal. Low voter turnout means that important local issues and candidates are determined by a limited group of voters, which makes your vote even more important. Don’t let others make decisions for you. Vote and help others to vote.

VOTER SUPPRESSION

Voter suppression is a strategy used to make it harder for certain populations to vote. Fortunately, none of the efforts being persued in Michigan will effect the Novermber 2, 2021 election, based on our meeting with Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson. But the effort to restrict the vote continues and we will address it as it occurs.

The Detroit Branch NAACP has issued a Press Statement on Sept. 28, 2021 titled “Secure Michigan Vote...A Trick or Treat!”. Please read the entire statement on www.detroitnaacp.org. According to the NAACP, Voters must **decline to sign a petition that basically restricts Michiganders right to vote.**

FORC – FRIENDS OF RETURNING CITIZENS

We are currently engaged in two important activities in our center. First, we are offering a part-time job for an office manager. A description and requirements are available online if a person is interested. Second, we are organizing our clothes area as quickly as possible so that clients may make use of these items. If anyone would like to interview for the office manager job or is willing to volunteer a few hours once a week to assist us in the clothes area, please call DCPA office at 313-922-1432. Leave your name, how you can be reached, and what you are interested in doing. Because of covid we are unable to have our Open House as yet. But it is still a priority in our future planning, so watch for this news in the CAC Newsletter. We are most grateful for DCPA’s faithful support.



We have some big news! The wait is over.

We now have an official bill in the Michigan Senate: **SB649**.

The office of Michigan Justice Advocacy (MJA) announced that Senator Jeff Irwin has submitted a bill to the Michigan State legislature, along with co-sponsors Polehanki, Wojno, Chang, Santana and Geiss. The bill advocates for major change to the way Michigan handles crime and punishment, especially for those in the custody of the MDOC who are serving excessively long and unproductive sentences. Please start by researching these bills if you are able. You can read the full language here – [SB649 Language](#). Contact your state lawmakers by sending a letter of support for this bill and ask that it gets a hearing in committee. We want our lawmakers to talk about this topic, so make it a point to ask them to do so! Finally, go to MJA website and complete a form that can be sent directly to your legislators. Share this link with family and friends: mijustice.org/sign. MJA Pres. SB649 when passed would restore “Good Time” earned that would reduce the terms of an inmates sentence. We also supporting a “Second Look” at lengthy and lifelong sentences.

THE POOR PEOPLES CAMPAIGN

The Michigan chapter of the Poor Peoples Campaign is having a virtual open house, October 10, 2021, 2:30pm. RSVP in advance for this meeting at <https://actionnetwork.org/events/2021-mi-ppc-open-house>. This is our opportunity to learn more about this organization and how we can be of service.



SAVE THE DATE! Once our Virtual Election Forum’s program is complete, you will receive an email with a date and time. Know it will be offered before Election Day!