



# FAIR HOUSING NEWS

A newsletter about fair housing, community development, & neighborhood quality of life



EQUAL HOUSING  
OPPORTUNITY

## GREETINGS!

Welcome to this edition of *Fair Housing News* produced by the GBCHRB as a public service! To join the mailing list: <mailto:wkladky@gbchrb.org>. You can go to our website <http://www.gbchrb.org> for laws, links, etc. See our TV show on the YouTube Channel - <http://www.youtube.com/user/wkladky1>! Or, check out <http://www.gbchrb.org/2rad9899.htm> for radio shows on topics about Fair Housing!

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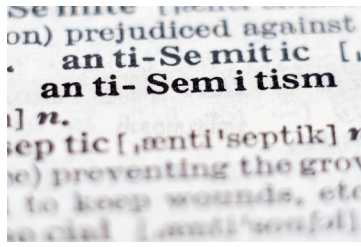
## REGIONAL NEWS

### D.C. Wins Nation's Largest Ever \$10 Million Settlement in Housing Voucher Discrimination Case.

Three real estate firms and several of their executives are required to pay Washington, D.C. a historic \$10 million [settlement](#) and to stop managing property in the city forever for allegedly denying access to rentals or imposing additional, and illegal, requirements on low-income applicants. The settlement is the largest civil penalty in a housing discrimination case in U.S. history, according to D.C. Attorney General Karl A. Racine (D), who announced it at a news conference Thursday. The attorney general's office filed suit against the three real estate firms — DARO Management Services, DARO Realty and Infinity Real Estate — and several of their executives in 2020 for allegedly violating civil rights and consumer-protection laws meant to protect low-income renters who receive government assistance from housing discrimination. The D.C. attorney general's office filed suit against them after finding that DARO illegally posted ads with discriminatory language and charged Section 8 voucher recipients extra fees. D.C. officials documented discriminatory practices at 15 buildings owned or operated by the companies throughout Wards 1, 2 and 3, concentrated in some of the District's most affluent areas. Building managers that separate out applicants receiving government assistance in vouchers and other aid programs violate the city's Human Rights Act, which bans source-of-income discrimination. Over 30,000 Washingtonians rely on some form of government subsidy to supplement the cost of housing. About 11,500 low-income households get aid through the federally backed Housing Choice Voucher Program, commonly known as Section 8 vouchers, which subsidize rent at homes not typically designated as affordable housing. Some 95% of D.C. Section 8 voucher holders are Black, and 79% are headed by women. Read the October 20, 2022 *Washington Post* article.



Office of Human Rights  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



## New Report Documents Sharp Increase Of Anti-Semitism In

**Virginia.** The Virginia state report reveals the scope of anti-Semitism in Virginia and outlines steps to address the problem. In response, Governor Glenn Youngkin announced plans to create the Commission to Combat Anti-Semitism. The panel’s report says there is an alarming national trend of increasing hate toward the Jewish community, including in Virginia. Their report found that, while Virginia's anti-Semitic assaults

have been low since 2018, there has been a spike in harassment and vandalism. In 2021, Virginia had 411 reported anti-Semitic incidents, a 71% increase from 292 in 2020. The report also said many cases involve white supremacist propaganda (e.g., flyers and graffiti), and over 100 localities across the state have had distribution of anti-Semitic flyers this year. **Keneseth Beth Israel** Rabbi Dovid S. Asher said these incidents have become an increasingly common fact of life for the Jewish community, which has forced them to increase security. He said people have been heckled and verbally abused around his Richmond synagogue, one person urinated on their building, and it has been vandalized. The report makes 21 recommendations, including: Adding a formal definition of anti-Semitism into state law; Banning government agencies from contracting with companies with anti-Semitic positions; Increasing police training; Improving data collection on hate crimes; Creating a new reporting system for incidents in K-12 schools and higher education institutions; Expanding K-12 learning on the Holocaust; and Requiring recognition of religious holidays.

Democratic lawmakers in Virginia have repeatedly called for legislation to **fight hate crimes**, including former state attorney general Mark Herring. Some praised Youngkin for calling for this report. Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-Fairfax), who was the first Jewish person and first woman to serve as House Speaker in the Virginia General Assembly, commented that Governor Youngkin needs to do more to condemn anti-Semitism within his own party, such as his appearing with right-wing figures accused of making anti-Semitic statements. "We need to hold our Governor accountable for some of the divisive rhetoric that we have seen," she said. [Read the December 6, 2022 ABC8 article.](#) [Read the Dec. 5, 2022 Washington Post article.](#)



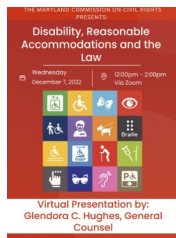
**Opportunity to Comment on Maryland's Regional Transit Governing and Funding Recommendations.** The [Transit Governance and Funding Workgroup](#) of the Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) is seeking comments through Friday, December 23 on a draft set of recommendations for the

future of transit in the Baltimore region. BMC's Board of Directors established the Transit Governance and Funding Workgroup in July, 2022 with the objective of preparing recommendations regarding the management of transit in the Baltimore region. The workgroup has reviewed options detailed in a [2021 Baltimore Regional Transit Governance and Funding Study](#) and is preparing a formal recommendation to the BMC Board of Directors, Maryland General Assembly and Governor. Additionally, the workgroup reviewed funding associated with the Locally Operated Transit Systems (LOTS) program, to increase equity and transparency in the distribution of those funds. The workgroup has convened monthly to discuss and build consensus around its recommendations. These meetings have included opportunities for public comment virtually and in-person. The public now is encouraged to comment on these draft recommendations by December 23. A final report will be released in January. **[See the recs. at publicinput.com/transitworkgroup.](#)**

**Because the City’s Inclusionary Housing Law has created Only 37 Affordable Units in 15 Years, the City Council is Making Changes.** At its November 17th City Council meeting,



Councilors agreed that the city’s existing inclusionary housing ordinance isn’t working. Passed in 2007, the law requires developers of market-rate housing to set aside affordable units for people with lower incomes, but it has led to the creation of only 37 affordable units. Instead, developers have paid into an offset fund or sought waivers. A bill proposed by Councilwoman Odette Ramos and co-sponsored by a majority of the council would eliminate the loopholes allowed by the previous law, and reduce the percentage of affordable units required. Instead of developers building 30+ units to set aside 20% as affordable for residents earning less than the area’s median income, developers receiving a city subsidy to build a 20+ units project would set aside 10% of units as affordable for low-income households (earning 60% of area median income). Developments getting an additional city subsidy would be required to add at least 5% more affordable units for residents who are very low or extremely low income. That proposal, which also would require plans to market affordable units to residents who have historically been excluded, would have to be approved by the city’s Inclusionary Housing Board. City officials have recommended applying the legislation to only core areas such as around the harbor and other select neighborhoods. [Read the November 18, 2022 Baltimore Sun article.](#)



**Maryland Commission on Civil Rights to Present Webinar on December 7<sup>th</sup> about Disability, Reasonable Accommodations, and the Law.** The workshop includes an in-depth review of applicable disability-related laws and reasonable accommodations in the workplace. We will discuss relevant statistics, current trends as well as appropriate etiquette, language and behavior when interacting with persons with disabilities. This engaging workshop is packed full of helpful info and is open to the public! It is ideal for employers, managers, supervisors, human resource and employee relations staff in

the private, non-profit and public sectors. This workshop will be presented by Glendora Hughes, Maryland Commission on Civil Rights General Counsel. [Click here to register.](#) For reasonable accommodation requests contact Renee Hickman at: [renee.hickman@maryland.gov](mailto:renee.hickman@maryland.gov) no later than one week prior to the event.

### New Civil Rights Leadership Program Session Beginning in March.

The [Maryland Commission on Civil Rights](#) Leadership Program (CRLP) is a free four-day academy designed to provide training and insight to emerging leaders in EEO, Civil Rights, and Fair Housing. Program participants will interact with experienced Civil Rights leaders, scholars, and practitioners in order to learn more about career paths and opportunities in the fields. The program will be held virtually on March 2-5, 2023. Topics covered will be, but not limited to: Training on Maryland's Anti-Discrimination Laws and MCCR Enforcement, Legal Overview/Investigative Practices, and Civil Rights Career Forum. A link to the Program is located [here](#). For more information, click [here](#).



## NATIONAL NEWS

**National Fair Housing Trends Report Finds Record Number of Housing Discrimination Complaints.** The [National Fair Housing Alliance](#) (NFHA)'s newly released Fair Housing Trends Report documents the highest number of housing discrimination complaints since the data has been collected. U.S. cases rose substantially in 2021, though fewer agencies reported complaint data; this indicates that agencies investigating housing discrimination cases need more resources to tackle these critical problems. For the report, click [here](#). Although seven fewer agencies reported housing discrimination data to NFHA in 2021 than in 2020, there were 2,504 more housing discrimination complaints filed by consumers. This unprecedented number of 31,216 complaints was an 8.7% increase from 2020 when 28,712 fair housing complaints were filed. The

Report details that complaints of discrimination based on disability is over half of those filed (53.7%); followed by race, with 5,922 (19.0% of all complaints compared to 16.8% in 2020). Third highest were those based on sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity, with 2,309 complaints (7.4%). Familial status, with 2,261 complaints (7.2%) was fourth, and national origin, with 1,774 reported complaints (5.7%), was fifth, followed by Color with 734 (2.4%), and religion's 382 (1.2%). Rental discrimination complaints were the highest in 2021 with 25,501 filed with non-profit and governmental agencies. This is because rental transactions are the most frequent housing transaction, and discrimination are easier to identify than other types of transactions, such as lending, insurance, or real estate sales. Real estate sales complaints were 4.5% of all housing discrimination cases reported with 1,408, an increase of 660 complaints from 2020 when 747 sales complaints were reported. [Read the November 30, 2022 NFHA release.](#)



**Maryland U.S. Attorney Erik L. Barron Establishes New Civil Rights Section.** The U.S. Attorney for the District of Maryland, Erik L. Barron, has established a new [Civil Rights and Special Victims Section](#). The new section will continue Major Crimes' focus on cases involving vulnerable victims and federal criminal civil rights enforcement, including child exploitation, human trafficking, and identity theft. The new section will also enforce various federal civil rights laws to protect the constitutional rights of Marylanders and affirm equal opportunity for all, regardless of one's race, ethnicity, sex, color, disability, religion, national origin, or sexual orientation. The section's civil rights work will focus on prosecuting hate crimes, reducing discrimination in housing, preventing voter suppression, prohibiting discriminatory employment practices by state and local government employers, ensuring equal opportunity for those with disabilities, and investigating denials of equal protection to students by public schools and institutions of higher learning. [Read the October 7, 2022 U.S. Attorney release.](#)

**New Groundbreaking Research Confirms Discriminatory Bias in Appraisals.** The research study was based on the Uniform Appraisal Dataset (UAD), released in October by the Federal Housing Finance Agency and is the most comprehensive set of market appraisals. Their research examined over 32 million appraisals submitted to Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac during 2013-2021. Findings confirmed that appraisal inequalities result from common practices giving a higher value to homes in predominantly White neighborhoods than in comparable homes in similar communities of color. Discretionary appraisal practices have produced unfair and biased valuations and directly contributed to the racial wealth gap. Specifically, the research found: (1) Homes in White neighborhoods are appraised at double the value of comparable homes in communities of color in neighborhoods with the same socioeconomic status and amenities. Homes in mainly White neighborhoods are appraised at \$371,000 over those in communities of color. (2) Racial inequality in appraised values has increased 75% in the 2010s. Homes in predominantly White neighborhoods in 2013 were appraised at \$213,000 above comparable homes in communities of color. By 2021, this gap had increased to \$370,000. In two years, the average home in predominantly White neighborhoods increased in value \$136,000, over twice the rise a comparable house in a community of color had (\$60,000).



Racial inequality is growing fastest in the hottest housing markets. In just two years, racial inequality in appraised values increased by \$91,000 (43%) in metropolitan areas experiencing the largest home price inflation. This increase in inequality is nearly three times greater than the increase in racial inequality in housing markets. The difference between White neighborhoods and communities of color is particularly wide for American Indian, Alaska Native, Southeast Asian, and Pacific Islander

communities. In 2021, homes in predominantly White neighborhoods were appraised over three times the value of comparable homes in like American Indian and Alaska Native neighborhoods in the same metro. Homes in predominantly White neighborhoods were appraised three times higher than comparable homes in similar Southeast Asian and Pacific Islander communities. [Read the October 24, 2022 FHFA release.](#)



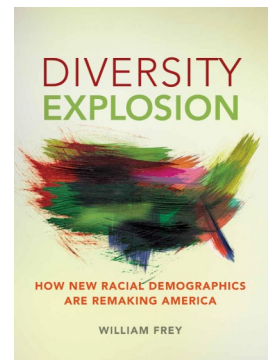
### **New Study Finds Low-Income Hispanic Residential Segregation Not Helped by Voucher Program Since the 1960s in Urban Areas.**

This study's findings indicate that the Housing Choice Voucher program, which tries to decrease the concentration of poverty through the provision of expanded housing options, will not reach its goals if the specific factors pushing Hispanic and African-

American low-income households into much poorer neighborhoods than White households are overcome. It was found that residential mobility patterns for the Hispanic population interact with existing patterns of segregation by both race/ethnicity and income to reproduce and deepen segregation, especially for low-income Hispanic households. The study - "Residential Mobility and Hispanic Segregation: Spatial Assimilation and the Concentration of Poverty, 1960–2014 by Yana Kucheva of the City College of New York - has just been published in HUD's CityScape journal (Volume 23, No. 2) dated 2021 and entitled "The Hispanic Housing Experience in the United States." [Download the Report.](#)

### **For the First Time in Modern American History, Over 50% of Whites Live in Mixed-Race Neighborhoods.**

In Maryland, 57% did in 2020 compared to 35% in 1990. The State ranked 37<sup>th</sup> in the percentage gain during 1990-2020. Nationally in 1990, 78% of white people lived in predominantly white neighborhoods, where at least 4 of every 5 people were also white. In the 2020 Census, that declined to 44%. Large pockets of segregation remain, but as America's white population decreases for the first time and Hispanic, Asian, Black and Native American populations propel the nation's growth, diverse neighborhoods have expanded from urban cores into suburbs. Across the 9,700 neighborhoods that became mixed in 2020, white population decreased by nearly 300,000. The Hispanic population grew by 1.5 million, the largest part of a 4.3 million increase of non-whites in those neighborhoods. William H. Frey, author of the book *Diversity Explosion: How New Racial Demographics are Remaking America* (Brookings Institution Press, 2014) attributes this trend to significantly increased immigration from Latin America and Asia during the 1990s, as more Latinos and Asian Americans began to disperse to the suburbs and beyond. This dispersion accelerated in the 2000s while more Black Americans lived in suburbs than cities starting in the 2000s. [Read the November 4, 2022 Washington Post article.](#)



### **People with Disabilities Living in the U.S. Face Urgent Barriers to Housing.**

A recently-released Urban Institute study of the 2021 Current Population Survey data has found that only 16% of people with disabilities receive any kind of housing assistance although some 84% are eligible. This group faces unique barriers related to housing affordability, accessibility, and receiving supportive services. About 12% of U.S. residents over 15 have a disability, or 39 million people in 32 million households.



They also tend to have lower incomes (22% have “extremely low” incomes) and are less likely to be working (23% were employed in 2021) than the nondisabled population. The median income for households with at least one

disabled member was \$42,736 or less than 60% of that for households without a disabled member (\$75,000). Over 27% live alone compared with only 10% of the nondisabled. Solely 16% of the disabled with low incomes actually received housing assistance through either public housing or rental assistance (2021). A total of 84% (almost 18 million people) were eligible for housing assistance but did not receive it. 32% of disabled people with low incomes received SNAP benefits (2021) and 37% received Medicaid - compared with the nondisabled's 22% percent and 26% respectively. In 2020, 19% of those who were homeless (110,528) were chronically homeless. In 2020, 53% percent of people living in institutions (2,061,048), such as group homes or prisons, had a disability. The study recommended that “to reduce barriers to accessible, affordable, and inclusive housing for people with disabilities, federal, state, and local governments should consider policies that increase housing assistance and housing; prioritize making housing affordable for disabled people with extremely low incomes; and ensure that more housing is designed to be accessible and inclusive.” [Read the October 21, 2022 Urban Institute report.](#)

**View the “Redlining: Mapping Inequality in Dayton and Springfield” Show on PBS.** The one-hour program features national and local stories of numerous families impacted by redlining, an illegal discriminatory practice that embedded racial segregation and inequality into the development of American cities and suburbs. It also makes some surprising discoveries about the roots of redlining that trace back to our region, and some larger-than-life personalities who have been all but forgotten. Redlining created a wealth gap that continues to negatively impact our communities and the people who live there today. The lasting effects of discriminatory lending policies against non-white Americans. For videos of a panel discussion, interviews about the show’s participants, what is redlining, and more, go to [this PBS website page](#). If you cannot get PBS Channel 32 to see the show, you can view it in its entirety at [this PBS link](#). There are Screening Toolkits, Discussion Guides for Teachers, and Lesson Plans on “Mapping Inequality, Redlining in New Deal America” and “How Does Where You Live Influence How You Live?” on [this ThinkTV website](#). Various resources – on “Building an Equitable City, Undesign the Red Line Exhibit, and others – are on the ThinkTV page.



## EDUCATION BRIEF: PREDATORY LOANS

Predatory lending imposes unfair or abusive loan terms on borrowers, including triple-digit interest rates and narrow time deadlines for repayment. Meanwhile, a "fair" loan guarantees [the same lending opportunities to all consumers, including low-cost loans for those with good credit scores](#), according to federal guidelines. A predatory lender also may persuade a borrower to accept unfair terms through deceptive, coercive, exploitative, or unscrupulous actions, according to [Orlando-based debt.org](#), which lists advice from financial experts. One example is lenders who target borrowers with credit problems or who have recently lost their jobs. [Predatory lending practices](#) also can include fraudulent, deceptive, and unfair tactics lenders use to fool consumers into loans they can't afford, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office of Eastern Pennsylvania, which cites high mortgage costs as contributing to borrowers who cannot keep their homes in good repair. Other examples of predatory loans are balloon payments, excessive points and fees, packing (additional things without your knowledge), and big mortgage broker payments. [Read the USA Today November 3, 2022 article.](#)

**Paying too much on your loan? Get help!** [Read the “Eight Signs of Predatory Lending”](#) to see if you are a victim. To learn more and protect yourself, read some good [predatory lending tips](#) from the Maryland Attorney General.

**Recent Study by the [Center for Responsible Lending](#) Finds Predatory Loans More Problematic for People of Color and Those with Low Incomes.** The North Carolina-based nonprofit research organization that works to end predatory lending released the study [Unsafe Harbor: The Persistent Harms of High-Cost](#)



[Installment Loans](#) in September, 2022 that examined the "persistent harms of high-cost installment loans," a form of predatory lending that includes "rent-a-bank" loans. In defense, high-cost lenders argue they are providing cash to credit-risky borrowers with [low credit scores](#) who cannot obtain loans from traditional banks. Specific findings were: (1) Unfavorable high-cost installment loan terms led most loans to be refinanced at least once, with severe consequences for those who missed or made late payments on their loan; (2) The burden of repaying high-cost loans often caused borrowers to miss payments of other bills, leading to additional debt or a larger financial deficit that worsened, rather than alleviated, preexisting financial challenges; (3) Borrowers believed circumstances led them to believe they had no other option for meeting short-term financial needs, though they fully understood that these loans diminished their credit scores and delayed purchasing a home or car, investing in a business, or saving for retirement. This publication is the first of a planned series of published research that will study "the harms of high-cost installment loans and the steps policymakers and regulators can take to protect consumers from these harms."



## HUD & DOJ ENFORCEMENT

**HUD Resolves Disability Discrimination Problems with Atlanta Housing Authority (AHA).** The Agreement resolves findings that the AHA acknowledged that it needed to improve monitoring and oversight for reasonable accommodations requests from tenants who resided at properties that fell under AHA's oversight. [Read the Agreement](#). The compliance findings were that the AHA inadequately monitored its subrecipient housing

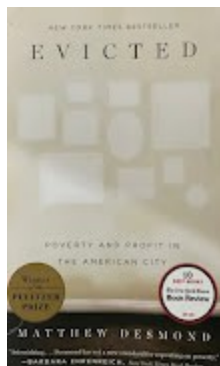
providers, who failed to process and delayed reasonable accommodation requests, as well as insufficient record keeping of such requests as required under HUD regulations. FHEO's systemic compliance review included over 400 interviews of tenants, staff interviews, interrogatories of property managers, and the review of hundreds of policy and procedure documents. The Letter of Findings identified numerous issues and specifically identified 15 victims of discrimination based on disability. The Agreement includes a \$2 million victims fund that will pay compensation to the victims and those who have a right to have their accommodation denial reviewed. The VCA also requires extensive changes to the AHA's monitoring and oversight of its subrecipient housing partners, such as increased training, monthly audits of reasonable accommodation logs, an updated website and grievance policies, and other provisions to ensure that persons with disabilities can request and receive reasonable accommodations. [Read the November 22, 2022 HUD release](#).

**U.S. Department of Justice (USDOJ) Makes Agreement with University of California, Berkeley to Make Online Content Accessible to People with Disabilities.** The consent decree resolves allegations that the University

of California, Berkeley (UC Berkeley) violated Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) because much of UC Berkeley's free online content is inaccessible to individuals with hearing, vision, and manual disabilities. The proposed consent decree was filed together with a complaint setting forth the allegations of discrimination. UC Berkeley makes conferences, lectures, sporting events, graduation ceremonies and other university events available to the public on its websites; on other online platforms, including its YouTube and Apple Podcasts channels; and makes courses available on its UC BerkeleyX platform. Much of this online content lacks captions and transcripts for individuals



who are deaf and alternative text describing visual images for individuals who are blind. It is also formatted in a way that does not allow individuals with disabilities to access the content using screen readers or other assistive technology. UC Berkeley will make all future and the vast majority of its existing online content accessible to people with disabilities, as well as revise its policies, train relevant personnel, designate a web accessibility coordinator, conduct accessibility testing of its online content and hire an independent auditor to evaluate the accessibility of its content. [Read the November 21, 2022 USDOJ release.](#)



## CALENDAR

**Evicted Author To Present 3 Free Virtual Listening Sessions On Poverty During January 9-18.** You can register for one of the three sessions by clicking on the following links. January 9th, 10-11 a.m. ET, in conversation with Prof. Reuben Miller, University of Chicago, 2022 MacArthur Fellow, author of *Halfway Home*. Register [HERE](#). January 12th, 1-2 p.m. ET, in conversation with Rasheedah Phillips, Director of Housing, PolicyLink. Register [here](#). January 18th, 8-9 p.m. ET, in conversation with Diane Yentel, President and CEO of the National Low Income Housing Coalition. Register [here](#). Space for each is limited, so be sure to register ahead. <https://matthewdesmondbooks.com/>, December 7, 2022.

## FAIR HOUSING RESOURCES

[Bazon Center for Mental Health Law](#) Has Developed New Resources for "Housing First" Advocates. The new [resources](#) - posted on the National Low Income Housing

Coalition's website – are designed to help policymakers and others understand the benefits of the Housing First model, and include a well-received fact sheet explaining how [Housing First Supports People with Mental Health Conditions](#). Under the "Housing First" model, stable, affordable, and accessible housing is provided to people experiencing homelessness quickly and without prerequisites, and voluntary supportive services are offered to help improve housing stability and well-being. "Housing First" is an effective practice that has been shown to be effective at ending homelessness, including for people with mental disabilities. A recent post on the Center's blog included resources to help explain the voting rights of people with disabilities and how to protect them. Read the [post here](#).



**Interested In Fair Housing? Community Development? Insurance? Foreclosure Prevention? Check Out the [GBCHRB's YouTube Channel!](#)** You can watch interviews about insurance, discrimination, affordable housing, Fair Housing laws, disability issues, mortgage lending, and related issues. Our radio shows: <http://www.gbchrb.org/2rad9899.htm>.

**The GBCHRB Distributes Free Fair Housing Brochures, Posters, and Guides.** We have Fair Housing information, brochures, guides, & posters in English, Spanish, Korean, Russian, and for people with disabilities, as well as brochures and guides about housing and insurance. 443.347.3701 / <mailto:wkladky@gbchrb.org>.



**What Do You Think of This Newsletter?** Is it good? Bad? How can we improve it? What issues should we cover more? Less? Any good ideas? Tips? Good jokes?! Positive or negative, we want to hear from you! Send comments to <mailto:wkladky@gbchrb.org>.





## REST IN PEACE

**Lois Curtis, Artist and Advocate for Disability Rights, Dies at 55.** Curtis was the lead plaintiff in a landmark 1999 U.S. Supreme Court decision that gave people with disabilities the right to seek care services in their own homes and communities instead of living in institutions. By her late 20s she had lived over half her life in state institutions. Isolated and angry, she chain smoked to pass the time and prayed to God at night, asking to be rescued from the Georgia Regional Hospital in Atlanta. The Supreme Court ruling gave people with disabilities the right to receive care and support services in their own homes and communities, not just in state institutions. The case, called [Olmstead v. L.C.](#), empowered the disability rights movement because it set a legal framework for people with disabilities to secure the right to live, work, and study in their own communities. Some called it the movement’s Brown v. Board of Education. [Read the Supreme Court’s majority opinion.](#)

Additional court cases extended the legal reach of the decision, applying it to not just to psychiatric hospitals but to nursing homes and other institutions receiving state and federal funding. Advocates used the decision to fight for people with disabilities’ right to learn in the same classroom as other students and to work in the same workplace as other employees. Most state disability services were then provided in institutions, but now “the vast majority of services” is now “provided to people in their own homes and in their own communities.” Through her legal advocacy and appearances at disability rights conferences, Curtis became an admired nationally recognized figure. [Read the Nov. 8, 2022 Washington Post obituary.](#)

**The Reverend Charles Sherrod, Civil Rights Activist with SNCC, 85.** He helped spearhead the Albany Movement, a campaign to desegregate an entire Georgia community. He was the first field secretary of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, the leading student group of the 1960s civil rights movement. Rev. Sherrod collaborated with organizers including Ella Baker and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who joined him for 8 months in Albany as part of a campaign to end racial segregation. While Rev.



King then left Albany believing that they had not achieved any of its major goals, Rev. Sherrod stayed and fought for desegregation and voter registration leading the Southwest Georgia Project for Community Education. Sherrod was one of the first to practice the “jail-no bail” policy, a common tactic of the Movement. In 1961, when ten students were arrested in Rock Hill, South Carolina for a sit-in, Sherrod and three others went to Rock Hill, held a sit-in, and also were arrested. They refused bail, serving a thirty-day sentence to underline the law’s injustice.

He later served as one of Albany’s first Black city commissioners, and co-founded a farm collective called New Communities, often described as the country’s largest Black-owned farm and first community land trust. “Sherrod is an exemplar of those people who didn’t leave the movement,” said Clayborne Carson, a historian of the civil rights movement, in a 2010 interview with the news website *Salon*. “They stayed, and they’re still fighting, to this day.” [Read the October 13, 2022 Washington Post obituary.](#) [Read the Center for Community Land Trust Innovation obituary.](#)

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