The Burn Of Reactive Responses And (Tenant) Up-Risings In The Mission

By Diana Flores

Two years ago, when I began to serve as a counselor/organizer out of our Mission District Tenant Clinic, I dreaded taking on emergency cases that had to do with fire disasters. In the last two years, we have supported close to 150 cases at 11 different sites in accessing and securing resources immediately after a fire disaster.

In fact, a string of fires in recent years have displaced some 194 people and killed three more in the Mission District, according to Mission Local. Our housing clinic has witnessed the impact of these fires that occur in coincidental frequency in highly dense and concentrated areas.

And though we can't say for certain whether these fires were due to greed arson, one thing is clear: tenant requests for safety measures in these buildings were neglected and commonplace.

Neglect doesn't just characterize the period after a fire when city agencies are scrambling to reach historically non-cooperative, absent-minded and often profit-driven landlord.

In fact, a string of fires in recent years have displaced some 194 people and killed three more in the Mission District, according to Mission Local.

Our housing clinic has witnessed the impact of these fires that occur in coincidental frequency in highly dense and concentrated areas.

Thanks to all who spoke at Council meetings, all the individuals, community groups and organizations, all the tenants, supportive landlords, workers, young people — all of Oakland who sent emails, made calls, attended or spoke at Council meetings, supported in so many other ways, got signatures with us early on and those who were and are still with us in spirit.

The Committee to Protect Oakland Renters got this far because of you. The vote was a direct result of a collective effort involving housing and tenants’ rights, faith and the labor community.

Councilmembers would not have voted to pass it if it weren’t for all the relentless pressure from the broad community, all the organizing it took to move

This was a battle of ideas and Oakland has emerged one step closer to decent renter protections.

Thanks to all who spoke at Council meetings, all the individuals, community groups and organizations, all the tenants, supportive landlords, workers, young people — all of Oakland who sent emails, made calls, attended or spoke at Council meetings, supported in so many other ways, got signatures with us early on and those who were and still are with us in spirit.

The Committee to Protect Oakland Renters got this far because of you. The vote was a direct result of a collective effort involving housing and tenants’ rights, faith and the labor community.

Councilmembers would not have voted to pass it if it weren’t for all the relentless pressure from the broad community, all the organizing it took to move

This was a battle of ideas and Oakland has emerged one step closer to decent renter protections.

Thanks to all who spoke at Council meetings, all the individuals, community groups and organizations, all the tenants, supportive landlords, workers, young people — all of Oakland who sent emails, made calls, attended or spoke at Council meetings, supported in so many other ways, got signatures with us early on and those who were and still are with us in spirit.

The Committee to Protect Oakland Renters got this far because of you. The vote was a direct result of a collective effort involving housing and tenants’ rights, faith and the labor community.

Councilmembers would not have voted to pass it if it weren’t for all the relentless pressure from the broad community, all the organizing it took to move

This was a battle of ideas and Oakland has emerged one step closer to decent renter protections.

Thanks to all who spoke at Council meetings, all the individuals, community groups and organizations, all the tenants, supportive landlords, workers, young people — all of Oakland who sent emails, made calls, attended or spoke at Council meetings, supported in so many other ways, got signatures with us early on and those who were and still are with us in spirit.

The Committee to Protect Oakland Renters got this far because of you. The vote was a direct result of a collective effort involving housing and tenants’ rights, faith and the labor community.

Councilmembers would not have voted to pass it if it weren’t for all the relentless pressure from the broad community, all the organizing it took to move

This was a battle of ideas and Oakland has emerged one step closer to decent renter protections.

Thanks to all who spoke at Council meetings, all the individuals, community groups and organizations, all the tenants, supportive landlords, workers, young people — all of Oakland who sent emails, made calls, attended or spoke at Council meetings, supported in so many other ways, got signatures with us early on and those who were and still are with us in spirit.

The Committee to Protect Oakland Renters got this far because of you. The vote was a direct result of a collective effort involving housing and tenants’ rights, faith and the labor community.

Councilmembers would not have voted to pass it if it weren’t for all the relentless pressure from the broad community, all the organizing it took to move

This was a battle of ideas and Oakland has emerged one step closer to decent renter protections.

Thanks to all who spoke at Council meetings, all the individuals, community groups and organizations, all the tenants, supportive landlords, workers, young people — all of Oakland who sent emails, made calls, attended or spoke at Council meetings, supported in so many other ways, got signatures with us early on and those who were and still are with us in spirit.

The Committee to Protect Oakland Renters got this far because of you. The vote was a direct result of a collective effort involving housing and tenants’ rights, faith and the labor community.

Councilmembers would not have voted to pass it if it weren’t for all the relentless pressure from the broad community, all the organizing it took to move
Housing Clinic Victories

Keeping Tenants in their Homes - One Victory at a Time

By Nohelia Ramos

Our clinics on both sides of the bay are filled with tenants coming in for support. We’ve seen many tenants coming in for attempted evictions and harassment by landlords. Often tenants don’t feel like they can ask for repairs and when they come in for help many of their homes have had long-term issues. Many don’t realize that they have protections and they are afraid to approach the landlord. Here are a few inspiring stories we thought we’d share about tenants who know that #WhenWeFightWeWin!

Last winter the Oakland clinic offered tenant rights support to Manuel and Martha Briceno who have lived in their home since 1988. They have raised their children in that triplex and are now helping to raise their grandchildren there.

They came into the clinic with serious harassment issues and we worked together, organizing the case, writing letters and responding to over three notices to cease - including notices about unlawful tenants in their units (their children) and notices to get rid of their dogs, although they had received permission to keep their dogs from the previous owner. They even ended up giving way their dogs.

During the period of time they were meeting with us, the family received a rent increase for more than $1,000 and the landlord told them they did not have rent control. So the family went to a rent board hearing in May — and won. The rent hike was not approved and the Bricenos monthly rent remains the same. They have now began a harassment case against their landlord. Said Martha Briceno: “We felt happy and empowered when we won. We’re feeling right now and are ready to fight whenever comes our way.”

Our clinic has worked with Patricia & Osmar Montalbo on their housing issues since November 2015. They have lived in their home since 2007 and their unit was recently purchased by a new landlord. As is all too common, the new landlord tried to increase their rent by $2,000 — from $2,750 to $4,750.00.

CJJC and the family pushed back against the rent increase (they don’t have rent control) and were also successful in convincing the new landlords to deal with some serious mold issues in their house.

Although the landlord didn’t want to pay the temporary relocation expenses, the tenants held their ground and forced the landlord to issue the relocation money for the three days they had to be out of their unit.

The mold issue is fixed, the tenants are back in their home, and are still holding their ground in trying to postpone the rent increase for as long as possible.

Given the repairs that were requested, the tenants have another six months or so before any rent increase can be issued from the landlord. Said Party, “We are pushing back because everything is so expensive. I am so thankful for Causa Justa and the hard work at the San Francisco clinic.” Since then, the two have become members of the organization.

They were relocated to a smaller apartment and were told by the company that they would be returned when the work was completed. However, the company waited months to begin work in their unit.

Her family spent almost one year waiting for their original apartment to be ready and they were able to return in time for the holiday season last November.

CJJC has been working with Anielka and her family in San Francisco since February 2015. Anielka and her family moved into affordable housing unit in the Bayview. Unfortunately, less than a week after moving into their apartment in November 2014, their apartment flooded and many of their belongings were ruined.

CJJC and the family pushed back against the rent increase (they don’t have rent control) and were also successful in convincing the new landlords to deal with some serious mold issues in their house.

Although the landlord didn’t want to pay the temporary relocation expenses, the tenants held their ground and forced the landlord to issue the relocation money for the three days they had to be out of their unit.

The mold issue is fixed, the tenants are back in their home, and are still holding their ground in trying to postpone the rent increase for as long as possible.

Given the repairs that were requested, the tenants have another six months or so before any rent increase can be issued from the landlord. Said Party, “We are pushing back because everything is so expensive. I am so thankful for Causa Justa and the hard work at the San Francisco clinic.” Since then, the two have become members of the organization.

They were relocated to a smaller apartment and were told by the company that they would be returned when the work was completed. However, the company waited months to begin work in their unit.

Her family spent almost one year waiting for their original apartment to be ready and they were able to return in time for the holiday season last November.

Anielka and her family just received their check in early summer and will be coming by to drop off a donation to the organization!

“I feel relieved and happy because I don’t have to deal with these people, and to find out that there are folks to help out like Leticia (Acey) at Causa Justa! I feel happy to tell people that they are not alone!”
Fight Continues to Save Home of Elder in the Mission

Long-time resident unknowingly signed contract that could lead to loss of her home.

By Saryta Rodriguez

The story of Kathleen Needham must be read as a warning to elders who own land and homes here in San Francisco who are for all intents and purposes sitting on top of goldmines. Needham’s case is an example of the extent some real estate agents will go to obtain homes.

117 Ripley Street has been a staple of San Francisco’s Bernal Heights neighborhood for generations. Nicknamed Thug Mansion, the house was built by Kathleen Needham and her brothers in 1981 and has housed generations of San Franciscan families, community workers, elders, artists, youth, and students.

Three years ago, Needham was approached by real estate agent Shelley Trew of Vanguard Properties, Inc., who relatives say convinced her to sign a document consenting to sell her home.

On July 17, 2013, Needham finally relented to the pressure applied to her by Trew, but was still ultimately confused about the terms of the deal. In the weeks that followed, she made several attempts to reach Trew, only to be consistently told by other employees at Vanguard that Trew was unavailable.

Marvel in the Mission

Community Planning for Ourselves

By Maria Zamudio

In Oct. of 2013, the Mission community was told that a new development would be coming to 16th and Mission. 350 new units of luxury housing, two 10-story towers on 16th St. and a 5-story garage on Capp would throw a shadow over most of Marshall School. Although the developer, named Maximus, insisted that he let the community know his plan through various public meetings, many people including local residents and businesses most impacted knew nothing about it.

COMMUNITY VISION

The Mission community rose up and formed a powerful coalition called Plaza16. Plaza16 coalition has been fighting this development for two years. We’re demanding that the owner turn the land over to the community. We’ve also been planning a community alternative for the site. Since August 2015, we have been bringing Mission residents together to develop the building we want. We’ve had over six community meetings, engaged more than 300 people and have developed the “Marvel in the Mission,” a community alternative to the Monster proposal by Maximus.

We’ve had over six community meetings, engaged more than 300 people and have developed the “Marvel in the Mission,” a community alternative to the Monster proposal by Maximus.

We now have a concrete plan for a 100% affordable, 100% community designed multi-use development project for 16th and Mission. We also have an entire community of leaders that are organized who are fighting for their community and who have seen their vision and struggle become a tangible proposal.

Our next steps are to continue to let our community know about our plan through community meetings and outreach. We’re going to put pressure our city government to invest in affordable housing, especially when it has been designed and planned by the community who most needs it.

If you are interested in supporting the Plaza16 work and in helping to get the “Marvel in the Mission” built, make sure to let the following people know: Mayor Lee at mayoredwinlee@sfgov.org; John Rahaim director of the SF Planning Department at John.Rahaim@sfgov.org and Rodney Fong, president of the SF Planning Commission at planning@rodneyfong.com Why? Because #HousingisAHumanRight!
“Evicted”
A Conversation with Matthew Desmond

This is an excerpt of an on-line national dialogue in May with Matthew Desmond on the national eviction epidemic. Desmond is the author of “Evicted: Poverty And Profit in the American City.” The event was organized by Homes For All and moderated by Dawn Phillips, CJJC Program Director.

Dawn Phillips: Your book does a powerful job describing the relationship between evictions, poverty and race. Can you say more about how you see those connections?

Matthew Desmond: The face of our eviction epidemic are mothers with kids. Low-income African American women, and Latinas — and mothers in particular, are exposed to eviction at an incredibly high rate.

Among Milwaukee renters 1 in 5 Black women report being evicted at some time in their life, compared to 1 in 15 white women. So the way I think about this is that eviction is like the female equivalent of incarceration. Many young poor African American men are being locked up, and many poor African American women are being locked out. There is a story there, about legacies of racial disadvantage, ongoing mechanisms of racial discrimination, poverty, eviction, gender, and mothering.

Evictions are not just in inner cities, they’re found on the coast, they’re found in the middle of the country.

“Entwined”
A Conversation with Matthew Desmond

Dawn Phillips: Talk more about this.

Matthew Desmond: Income, especially for families with moderate means, has basically been flat-lined, but housing costs, from rent to utilities, has risen by enormous proportions. So, between now and 1995 for example, median rent in the country has increased by about 70%. And you’ve had a reluctance of the federal government to bridge the gap. The vast majority of Americans who qualify for any kind of housing assistance don’t receive it.

Baton Rouge, Falcon Heights, Dallas
July 11, 2016

The Black and Palestinian experiences of marginalization and exclusion have many parallels

By Linda Burnham

This is an abridged version of a longer piece which can be read on our website.

“Was he colored?” That’s what my grandmother would say whenever she heard news about a criminal act.

She knew that if the alleged perpetrator were “colored” his criminality would be read not simply as the act of an individual, but as an expression of an ingrained racial tendency.

Somehow being Black meant that the actions of every random thief, rapist or murderer who was also Black redounded to you and your people.

I imagine most Black families had a version of “Was he colored?” And I wouldn’t be surprised if Muslim American families have an equivalent expression today.

Untying the knot of individual culpability and the consequences of racial belonging is nowhere near as straightforward as it might seem.

Honestly, good people, did anybody in their right mind – that is, not troubled or demented – think that the police could continue to pick off Black people at will and on camera without producing a Micah Johnson?

The president’s intent was clear and laudable. He sought to defuse tensions by definitively asserting that the shooter’s action was not associated with a political movement or a particular organization, that his murderous deeds should in no way be linked to African Americans in general. He struggled to shift the focus from “Was he colored?” to “Clearly he was crazy, right?”

But before boxing Micah Johnson up and setting him aside as deranged and demented it’s worth asking a few questions.

March in San Francisco against state violence. Photo by Beat Belser www.beatbelser.ch

SEE EVICTED, PAGE 6
SEE BATON ROUGE, PAGE 6
We Want a Platform that Addresses Real Justice and Human Development

Written by members of the Immigrant Rights Committee Campaign: Norma Pelayo, Faustino Valenzuela, Gloria Esteva, Sonia Cruz, Kitzia Esteva-Martinez

In recent months, immigrant and Black communities have received racist attacks by hate-filled individuals and politicians who are taking advantage of the climate of hatred to advance the agendas of the right.

We see virulent messages and speeches are having an effect both on the U.S. working class in general, and with the immigrants in particular, who are scapegoats.

The demonization of Latino and Muslim immigrants is already causing havoc in our communities.

In California, we’ve seen hate crimes against people presumed to be undocumented. We have also seen the House of Representatives take action with anti-immigrant laws that attempt to put an end to the legacy of inclusiveness and pro-immigrant justice in cities that have declared themselves sanctuaries and have introduced and passed protective legislation for immigrants.

Demonizing immigrants has brought much venom into the national political circus and we must understand as we enter this new moment in history during which the state will not give us anything unless we organize and demand it.

Neither party’s candidates give us a platform that actually reaches the understanding of the crisis under which we live as a working class — nowadays already the majority of the people in the U.S.

We want a platform addressing real justice and human development for the 47 million poor people in the United States — including poor and working class whites who currently believe the racist rhetoric.

The working class across all races must analyze who is stealing and amassing the wealth we produce, leading us towards an economic and environmental chaos.

Whoever wins, as the people we must demand a country where hatred and racism have no place, where prosperity is generated for all, where all races have the same value, no machismo, no sexism, no homophobia, where everyone has access to better education, to an opportunity to get a job and ensure our lives, a country where prisons are no longer needed.

Real solutions are human rights: housing, education, rehabilitation and health care. These are all fundamental rights to human development.

We are also working with Supervisor Campos’ office and Human Services Agency to secure funds towards rental subsidies for displaced tenants. In addition, two new Community Outreach positions will be added to the San Francisco Fire Dept., along with a compassionately staffed concentrated fire investigation unit.

We will be participating in the upcoming efforts to add sprinkler and safety systems in tenant units ensuring these improvements do not result in the displacement or high impact on tenants.

TRAUMA OF DISPLACEMENT

The trauma of surviving these disasters is challenging and temporary displacement is made even more difficult in a city where relocation is a challenge given the scarcity of available and affordable habitable housing.

“We know you through the trauma of a fire, that’s bad enough. But to have to experience the trauma of not knowing what’s going to happen, it’s just not fair,” Tommi Avicolli Mecca, director of the counseling program with the San Francisco Housing Rights Committee told Mission Local.

Although the city has worked towards matching displaced residents with temporary residential units, tenant frustrations increase when these units are not fit for their needs.

If tenants cannot find a suitable unit to live out their temporary displacement, this jeopardizes their ability to apply consistent pressure on the landlord to comply and keep them updated on the right.

Causa Justa is committed to the right of return for long-term tenants and will continue to demand that their permanent displacement and follow closely to make sure that this plan is put in place — and enforced.

Following the deadly fires of early 2015, we participated in the Emergency Interagency Fire Safety Task Force and started identifying spaces in which we can demand a more effective response to fire disasters.

The Ordinance to Amend the Fire/Housing Code additionally requires clear timelines from landlords to ensure the right of return for tenants and improves interagency communication and collaboration, all to prevent fire-related disasters from becoming pathways to permanent displacement of long-term residents.

We are working with Supervisor Campos’ office and Human Services Agency to secure funds towards rental subsidies for displaced tenants. In addition, two new Community Outreach positions will be added to the San Francisco Fire Dept., along with a compassionately staffed concentrated fire investigation unit.

We will be participating in the upcoming efforts to add sprinkler and safety systems in tenant units ensuring these improvements do not result in the displacement or high impact on tenants.

TRAUMA OF DISPLACEMENT

The trauma of surviving these disasters is challenging and temporary displacement is made even more difficult in a city where relocation is a challenge given the scarcity of available and affordable habitable housing.

“We know you through the trauma of a fire, that’s bad enough. But to have to experience the trauma of not knowing what’s going to happen, it’s just not fair,” Tommi Avicolli Mecca, director of the counseling program with the San Francisco Housing Rights Committee told Mission Local.

Although the city has worked towards matching displaced residents with temporary residential units, tenant frustrations increase when these units are not fit for their needs.

If tenants cannot find a suitable unit to live out their temporary displacement, this jeopardizes their ability to apply consistent pressure on the landlord to comply and keep them updated on the right.

Causa Justa is committed to the right of return for long-term tenants and will continue to demand that their permanent displacement and follow closely to make sure that this plan is put in place — and enforced.

Following the deadly fires of early 2015, we participated in the Emergency Interagency Fire Safety Task Force and started identifying spaces in which we can demand a more effective response to fire disasters.

The Ordinance to Amend the Fire/Housing Code additionally requires clear timelines from landlords to ensure the right of return for tenants and improves interagency communication and collaboration, all to prevent fire-related disasters from becoming pathways to permanent displacement of long-term residents.
"The way I think about this is that eviction is like the female equivalent of incarceration. Many young poor African American men are being locked up, and many poor African American women are being locked out."

Under those conditions, evictions have become common, because we’ve reached a point today where the majority of families who are renters that live below the poverty line spend at least half of their income on rent.

DP: Could you say more about this idea of how evictions are actually a form of systemic violence against individuals?

MD: Today, about 70% of white folks are homeowners, but only 40% of Black folks are, and around 40% of Latino folks are. You have a pretty significant discrepancy in terms of who owns their homes today, which tracks along racial divides. So why is that? There’s a historical answer. If you just look at the African American case, one way to tell the story of the last couple hundred years of racial injustice against African Americans is a story of a systematic dispossession of Black folks from the land.

This goes back to slavery, to sharecropping, from the Northern Migration to inner city ghettos, and the kind of lack of access to homeownership, to redlining, and to private mortgages, and to today, where the majority of African American families are renters. In the current affordable housing crisis, one way to understand who’s disproportionately affected by rising rents is to ask who is a renter and who is a homeowner, and what our history tells us about why that’s the case.

DP: We often hear people talking about big systems like the housing crisis, as inevitable processes that “just happen.” Can you talk more about the role that government plays in sustaining the eviction crisis that you’ve described.

MD: One way they’ve contributed in a major way to evictions is by not investing in a serious way in affordable housing. We have a situation where only 1 in 4 families that qualify for any housing assistance receives it, and the waiting list in some of our biggest cities is not counted in years, its counted in decades. That situation would be rather unthinkable when it comes to other kinds of basic necessities. Imagine if we turned away 3 or 4 families that applied for food stamps, say “I’m sorry, there’s not enough to go around, you have to go hungry.” But that’s exactly how we treat families of moderate means searching for affordable shelter today.

We have good evidence that eviction causes you to lose your job... it’s such a consuming, stressful event that it can cause you to make mistakes at work and eventually lose your footing in the labor market.

And then there’s the effect of eviction on your spirits, your mental health... When you add all that up, we have to conclude that eviction is a cause of poverty, not just a condition. It’s making life harder, casting people on a different and more difficult path.

DP: You talked about the ways in which eviction for Black women is analogous with the impact of mass incarceration on Black men in the U.S.

MD: Today, about 70% of white folks are homeowners, but only 40% of Black folks are, and around 40% of Latino folks are. You have a pretty significant discrepancy in terms of who owns their homes today, which tracks along racial divides. So why is that? There’s a historical answer. If you just look at the African American case, one way to tell the story of the last couple hundred years of racial injustice against African Americans is a story of a systematic dispossession of Black folks from the land.

Or for “agonized by the fact that the officers of the Fireline. In 2015, Desmond was awarded a MacArthur “Genius” grant.■

Melonie Griffin fig, go to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INChqPQdx

Desmond is the John L. Loeb Associate Professor of the Social Sciences at Harvard University and co-director of the Justice and Poverty Project. He is the author of the award-winning book, On the Fireline. In 2015, Desmond was awarded a MacArthur “Genius” grant.■

But there is a lot of room for reflection between the cheap polarities of condemn or condone. So here we are, once again, with calls from all quarters for dialogue across the racial divide. But if the long years before the emergence of the various movements for Black lives have taught us anything, it is that if we’re to have any hope for dialogue simply turn their backs and leave the table as soon as the pressure is off. This moment calls for the vigorous defense of our right to continue protested and the intensification and elaboration of multiple movements for Black lives – for the sake of our ancestors and the generations to come. And for the sake of this country that is our home.

Linda Barron is the Research Director of the National Domestic Workers Alliance. She is the co-author of Home Economics: The Invisible and Unregulated Work of Domestic Work. She has led large delegations of women of color to the 2015 UN World Conference on Women in Nairobi, the 1995 UN World Conference on Women in Beijing, China, and the 2001 United Nations World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa.
Reprioritizing Justice

By Kitzia Esteva-Martinez

“This jobs program is an investment in the future of our community.” — Darris Young, Ella Baker Center for Human Rights

Prop 47 was passed in 2014 by a coalition of anti-criminalization progressive organizations across California as a first step to de-criminalize working class people who have been hardly punished by tough-on-crime initiatives.

Prop 47 reclassifies several poverty-linked crimes from felonies to misdemeanors allowing people who were previously branded as felons the ability to access much needed services for their reintegration post-incarceration.

For immigrants, Prop 47 means being able to reclassify their record to access both social services and immigration relief programs like Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, better known as DACA.

For immigrants, Prop 47 means being able to shape policy in Alameda County we must organize and follow the lead of the people impacted by criminalization and gentrification to create initiatives grounded in ending economic marginalization.

SOLUTIONS AND VICTORIES

In Alameda County the recently-merged Justice Reinvestment Coalition (JRC) of over 20 organizations including Ella Baker Center, Bay Area Black Workers Center and Causa Justa, are working on building the leadership of economically marginalized and formerly incarcerated people.

We will envision alternative solutions to the disenfranchisement of communities of color and formerly incarcerated people that lead to crimes of poverty and murder and then we will push our vision forward.

JRC is about empowering and engaging community members to understand Prop 47 and its benefits to formerly incarcerated Black and Immigrant folks.

In fact, after months of community mobilizations led by JRC calling on the Alameda County Board of Supervisors to invest in savings from Prop 47 to generate 1,400 jobs for formerly incarcerated folks and youth in the school-to-prison pipeline, this summer the board voted unanimously in favor of a new Re-Entry Hiring Program, to provide those 1,400 county jobs.

The vote comes after months of community organizing led by JRC demanding more county jobs for people who have been impacted by the criminal justice system.

“For years ago, I left prison after being in side for 17 years. Then, I didn’t feel significant at all. After this win, I am feeling significant,” said Darris Young, a local organizer with the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights. “Most of the people who got out of prison with couldn’t get a job, and have ended up back inside. This jobs program is an investment in the future of our community, and in the people who have been shut out of opportunities for far too long.”

People at the margins know that investing in human development initiatives instead of policing will get us to address the crisis of incarceration and economic marginalization.

As we continue to fight for justice reinvestment and to re-prioritize resources away from imprison and housing development initiatives that generate, housing, education, healthcare access and social welfare for marginalized communities of color, we will continue building the ability for Black and Latino impacted members to be at the forefront of our vision to Reinvest in Justice not imprisonment!

JOIN OUR STRUGGLE FOR HOUSING AND IMMIGRANT JUSTICE!

JOIN BECOME A CJJC VOLUNTEER!

With just a few hours a week or month, you can help us wage effective campaigns and build a movement. Volunteer opportunities include: administrative support, campaign research, mailings, outreach in the neighborhoods, media tracking, grassroots fundraising, Spanish translation and interpretation (native Spanish speakers especially welcome), childcare, event planning, giving rides, helping with our tenant rights and foreclosure prevention clinics and much, much more. We offer a dynamic orientation, ongoing support and training and even political development opportunities like study groups, for our volunteers. Come join the team!

GET INVOLVED!

BECOME A MEMBER OF CJJC!

Do you live in San Francisco or Oakland and want healthier and stronger neighborhoods?

Do you believe that the only way we can get justice is if we come together and fight for it?

Do you believe housing is a human right and that no one is “illegal”?

If you answered yes to any of the above, then it’s time to become a member of Causa Justa: Just Cause!

To join, fill out a membership form at any CJJC office or call our offices to have one mailed to you. To contact us in San Francisco, call (415) 487-9203, for our Oakland office call (510) 763-5877 or email us at info@cjjc.org

Follow us on Twitter at @causajusta1 | Like us on Facebook at facebook.com/causajusta

San Francisco : (415) 487-9203 | Oakland : (510) 763-5877 | info@cjjc.org

A few Causa Justa members and staff at the March on the Mission planning session. Top Row L-R Carmen Campozeano, Sonia Palayo, Bottom Row L-R Sandy Flores, Sonia Cruz, Eduarda Cruz

The regional and state movement of renters is rising up and saying so! We are all getting there, one campaign at a time. Now roll up your sleeves and get ready to motivate, educate and organize!

Check out the Committee to Protect Oakland Renters FB page. Go to www.protectoaklandrenters.org and www.cjjc.org to keep updated on ways you can plug in and where we will put up a Renters Protection Act Toolkit for ways you can get involved. To volunteer contact bedcaj@cjjc.org | (510) 763-5877 ext 637

For a good read check out this article that appeared in the American Prospect. http://prospect.org/article/bay-area-voters-take-rent-control

For updates on most of the campaigns taking place check out www.tenantstogther.org

For national center news go to www.righttothecity.org

#ProtectOaklandRenters

END SALE VIOLENCE ON BLACK BODIES
During their vacation, several of our staff went with Grassroots Global Alliance, of which we are a member, on the #ItTakesRoots #PeoplesCaravan to Cleveland and Philadelphia. They took to the streets in the name of justice with folks from throughout the nation. They continued the call to action for Justice for Berta Cáceres and all the other Honduran activists whose lives have been taken violently because of their organizing to defend Indigenous people, the Earth and women, and their struggle for self-determination. They have a lot to share and we’ll be posting about it on our website at www.cjjc.org. To read more about the caravan and the adventures, go to www.ggjalliance.org #Justice4Berta