

THE CAPITAL NEWS

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The Untold Stories

Vincent Orange, the Best Candidate for DC Council-at-Large

Banneker Communities Launch and Open Office in Ward 8



Pictured: Vincent Orange 2020 DC Council At Large Candidate



Pictured: Omar Karim, President, Banneker Ventures

By: BJ Thompson

The District of Columbia is desperately in need of a reboot. That is the District must jump start its economy, get its residents back to work, our children back to learning and replenish the rainy-day fund to prevent the return of the Federal Control Board to run the City. Your vote in the upcoming election is extremely important for sending a person to serve on the Council of the District of Columbia who understands and is committed to representing DC residents first.

continued on P3

By: Tinesha Washington

Earlier this year, Banneker Communities, a real estate development company that specializes in developing affordable and workforce housing, launched and opened its first ever offices in Ward 8. Omar A. Karim, Banneker's President, indicated that a primary mission of the company is to help meet the District's goals of building and preserving 25,000 units of affordable housing.

When we asked Mr. Karim why he opted to locate his business in Ana-

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Community News



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Community News



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THE CAPITAL NEWS

THE UNTOLD STORIES

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Starts Where It Matters Most – At the Local Level

By: Veda Rasheed

In these times, the most significant thing we have is our voice. Your voice is powerful; your voice speaks directly of you and your thoughts. That is why now more than ever we must speak up on what matters most to us. At times, somewhere along our paths, we have been silent on issues that do not directly impact us, when we should have used our voices. However, silence can be viewed as support or, at least, tacit consent. I am reminded of Dr. King's Letter from the Birmingham Jail, where he calls fellow members of the clergy and moderates to task for criticism and inaction that supports oppression by failing to challenge it. As I sit back and watch current events unfold, in what we describe as modern American times, I am in true disbelief. Never, in my lifetime did I believe we would bear witness to what my grandmother, who was born in 1910's, vividly described to me of racial injustices and inequality she endured. One's voice can be heard, and one still can make a difference, but it has to start where it matters most: at the local level.

Too many ignore off-year elections, and only exercise their right to vote every four years consistent with the Presidential election. But the policies and performance of local and state governments can exacerbate or improve inequality. They matter. The DC Council, our law making or legislative branch, is responsible for enacting laws impacting the everyday lives of over 700,000 residents and over a million more visitors and workers. Every day, the DC Council takes care of amenities and infrastructure, such as transportation and public safety—the people who are elected in local elections have more impact and influence over citizens' everyday lives than one may conceive. These people are accountable for almost everything the City is responsible for and largely control taxes and welfare.

The government that controls the structures close to home is the most important, as is the competence of the people running it and



Pictured: Veda Rasheed -Columnist

working in it, who deal with issues that affect our everyday lives. The way in which Wilson Building handles the countless everyday challenges of public life may seem boring. However, it is only boring until: your uncollected garbage draws rats and rodents; you go into labor and lack access to a quality healthcare facility; the wheel of your car is bent in an unfilled pothole; your neighborhood lacks access to healthy food that is not moldy; or failure to remediate lead in your older neighborhood permanently diminishes the intellectual capacities of the children who live there; or any other number of issues affecting us.

November 3rd in the upcoming local election we have the following seats open: Delegate to the U.S. House of Representative of the District of Columbia; U.S. Senator; U.S. Representative; two At-Large Councilmembers; Wards 2, 4, 7, and 8 Council Members; At-Large State Board Of Education ("SBOE"); Wards 2, 4, 7, and 8 SBOE; and Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners. There is a presidential election with dire potential consequences, but our local elections are just as important. As citizens, we must require those we elect to focus on their commitment to equitable delivery of essential public services as well as quality of life issues, which are equally important and more likely to affect poorer residents more directly. ■

Orange Best for DC Council At Large from pg. 1

The CAPITAL NEWS has carefully examined the twenty-four candidates running for the At-Large Council seat, and our endorsement goes to VINCENT ORANGE based on his experience, education, achievements for everyday people, and unparalleled ability to once again bring the City out of financial ruins, this time due to COVID-19. In addition, Mr. Orange remains a stalwart for school reform, a very strong voice for small businesses and the circulation of “DC tax dollars in DC”, and throughout our communities.

Now more than ever, mature experienced leadership, sound judgment and institutional knowledge is needed to assist the severely damaged DC economy back to life to reclaim and generate jobs, revenue for the DC treasury, funding for government programs, and the general welfare and safety of DC residents. Mr. Orange played a major role in bringing the City out of a \$518 million deficit to a rainy-day fund of \$1.6 Billion, from junk bond status to triple A bond status, and from a control board to no board.

We believe Mr. Orange is the best equipped to rejoin the DC Council and immediately assist in restoring financial stability for the City. Based on his background, education, leadership experience in both the private and public sectors, Mr. Orange is able to chair the Council’s Finance and Revenue Committee on day one of the new legislative period which will commence on January 2, 2021.

A careful and truthful review of Mr. Orange’s impact on the DC Council and the City reveals credit for jump starting economic development in the District with the development of a 25-arce car impoundment lot - Home Depot, Giant, Carolina Kitchen etc. and the legislated framework for Union Market, jump starting school modernization in the District with opening McKinley Technology High School, and jump starting recreation centers development throughout the District with Turkey Thicket, Brentwood and North Michigan Park recreation centers.

Mr. Orange’s humble beginnings in life keep him grounded and fighting for everyday peo-



Pictured: Vincent Orange 2020 DC Council At Large Candidate

ple. He authored legislation that passed establishing the \$15 per hour minimum wage, double the tipped wage minimum wage, secured 5 days of sick leave pay for tipped wage workers, passed wage theft legislation, established the only paid holiday in the history of DC which is “DC Emancipation Day” and through legislation mandates that our children receive books and core materials by the second week of each new school year.

We share Mr. Orange’s concern regarding the DC Council getting involved in national agendas that do not serve the residents of the District well. Mr. Orange speaks of the DC Universal Paid Leave (UPL) program which is not serving DC residents well. The UPL is a program where the DC businesses must pay through taxation \$160 million for paid leave benefits for 322,000 nonresidents who live primarily in Maryland and Virginia while excluding 94,000 DC taxpaying working residents from the same benefits. He speaks of the \$154 million proposal to give everyone a metro card yet will not provide our children with laptops and access to the internet to engage in

distance learning or free tuition for DC residents at the University of the District of Columbia or mobile shower buses with hygiene products for the homeless.

The CAPITAL NEWS also admires the fact that Mr. Orange is a Fair Elections candidate who is committed to stop the “pay to play” syndrome in DC. As a Fair Elections candidate, he only accepts campaign contributions from individuals and the maximum contribution accepted is \$100.00. Contributions from DC residents are match by the DC government five times or matched \$5 for every \$1 raised. Over 400 DC residents have contributed to Vincent Orange 2020, and making Vincent Orange the DC resident’s candidate.

Mr. Orange has been married for 37 years to Gwendolyn Evans-Orange who is a special education teacher. The couple has three children and a granddaughter, and they are all Washingtonians.

The CAPITAL NEWS endorses Vincent Orange for DC Council At-Large. ■

Are LSATs and PTOs Obsolete?

By: **Sherice A. Muhammad**
Special to **The Capital News**

One may beg the question, considering candidates who are campaigning for seats on the School Board of Education (“SBOE”) having little to no mention of local school advisory teams (“LSAT”) or Parent Teacher Organization (“PTO”) in their platforms, strategies or talking points. While SBOE candidates speak of his or her individual approaches to school policy reform, the obvious missed opportunity to include both entities may be indication of a bigger problem. The first would be, the mistake of overlooking LSATs and PTOs and the other is, a complete disconnect from both entities, on the part of the candidate.

Local School Advisory Team is a group of elected and appointed members that exists for every District of Columbia Public School. The team consists of parents, teachers, non-instructional school staff, a community member, and in some cases students, to advise the principal on matters that promote high expectations and high achievement for all students. In addition, the Parent Teacher Organization (or Parent Teacher Association), are independent organizations which serves to support, promote, fund raise and collaborate with other entities to ensure the success of the school, faculty, staff and stu-

dents. Some PTOs are 501 (c) (3) non-profit organizations to enable fiduciary functions to further support the students at the school. Herein lies an untapped group of stakeholders who are already mobilized and working toward the success for their students and schools in providing a quality education for its students. If this is so, and it certainly is, how is this group systemically overlooked in the discussion of school policy reform?

LSATs are tasked with monthly meetings to review the Comprehensive School Plans (CSP), its execution and outcomes. The overall operation of the school, class instruction, challenges that arise, and formulation of solutions to those challenges are also in the LSATs’ purview. As a result of COVID, LSATs are challenged, even more, to stay tuned to the Executive Office and local government agencies to maintain awareness of new and expanded COVID response apparatus, policies, and regulations. The digital divide throughout the school system in the District of Columbia is nothing new. It has only been exacerbated and further emphasized, resulting from COVID. As city government scrambles to address this digital divide, the effects on the city budget remains to be seen. Back in March, Mayor Bowser, a week after her projected time of release, sent her budget proposal to the DC Council where the deficit was nearly \$1 billion. As COVID

response increases throughout the city, the effects of how the city operates will have to be redressed not only by city government, but its stakeholders. History has shown in the District of Columbia, that the first line of cuts to remedy budget shortfalls have often been—the education budget.

LSATs and PTOs are on the frontlines to accurately assert the needs of the schools and to advocate for the necessary resources that would ensure its success. PTOs are often designed to take on aggressive fundraising efforts to fill shortfalls in budgets, particularly in schools west of the Anacostia River. Advocacy and fundraising are two chief functions of PTOs. Surely, the stakeholders of the schools would be the starting point of engagement for those who aspire to occupy a seat on the school board of education. More importantly, LSATs and PTOs are critical voices and data sources for the SBOE to consider, and factor into its deliberations on school policy to be effective. Or are they?

As Election Day approaches, how is it that the discussion of school reform has not readily included LSATs and PTOs throughout the District of Columbia? School reform is in the mouths of many, the pragmatic strategies to achieve it, are scarce. Those on the battlefield of quality public education understands how it is achieved. Lip service may fool a few, but it will not render tangible deliverables. ■



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Why are there no Families of Color on the State Board of Education?

By: BJ Thompson

Why are there no African American parents, caregivers, or families of color on the State Board of Education? That's a good question--with only one parent on the Board with a school-aged child; many have not fully considered nor interrogated this question. Now that election time is in full swing, there are many eyes on who will serve as the next State Board of Education Representative for Ward 8.

Ms. LaJoy Johnson-Law, Mother, Special Education Advocate, Parent Leader, and Ward 8 Resident ask this very same question. "I am a single mother in Ward 8 with a child that has diverse health and educational needs, and when I look at the State Board of Education, I do not see anyone that represents myself or my daughter. I do not even hear about special education as often because that perspective is not represented on the State Board---that must change." Johnson-Law is a candidate for the Ward 8 State Board of Education Seat---the only parent of a school-age child running in the Ward 8 State Board of Education race.

Johnson-Law brings nearly a decade of education policy, advocacy, and coalition-building experience through her personal and professional work. She serves as a member of the Ward 8 Education Council, Co-Chair of Issues and Legislative Affairs for the Ward 8 Democrats, and a representative on Parents Amplifying Voices in Education (PAVE). Johnson-Law also serves as the parent support specialist with Advocates for Justice and Education (AJE). The mission of Advocates for Justice and Education (AJE) is to educate parents, youth, and the community about the laws governing public education, specifically for children with special needs.

In light of COVID-19, there is a new opportunity to be innovative and reimagine our education system's structure-- a system that initially did not have Black and Brown children's



Pictured: LaJoy Johnson-Law, Ward 8 State Board of Education candidate.

success in mind. There is a new opportunity to include families as valuable stakeholders and policymakers for their children. According to Johnson-Law, currently, families do not feel included in the decision-making process for their children. She says, "the education system will not see a desirable change if families are not considered important stakeholders. The absence of a collaborative plan for the education ecosystem that centers deep partnerships with families, teachers, and government agencies on behalf of our students tells about who we believe is worthy of attention and care."

Johnson-Law hopes to create a special education resource center housed in the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) to support educators and families in providing the highest level of rigor and support for all students. She also wants to prioritize the use of de-escalation and restorative justice practices to fight the epidemic of youth violence in Ward 8 and to ensure that efforts to make her community safer do not increase the

school-to-prison pipeline. Finally, if elected, Johnson-law hopes to expand and strengthen OSSE's parent engagement standards in response to the unique challenges (and opportunities) created by distance learning during the 2020-21 school year.

The solution is a simple--- dedicated community, school, family collaboration, and partnership. Through the renewal of ESSA and COVID-19, the education system has an opportunity to usher in a new era of the parent partnership. Let's close with this call to action from the only parent running to serve Ward 8 families: "The problem is bigger than egos and attitudes, the solution is more involvement and cooperation and ensuring families are represented and included on a board that makes decisions for many children."

LaJoy possesses exceptional qualifications to become a member of the State Board of Education and for those reasons, The Capital Newspaper endorses her candidacy. ■

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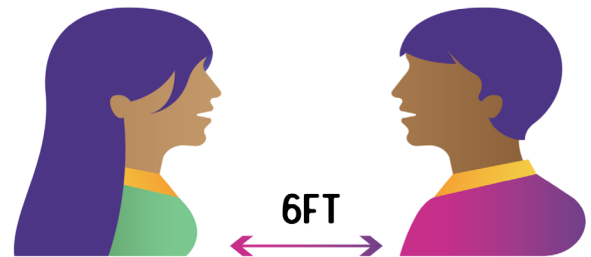
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Most plastic will never be recycled – and the manufacturers couldn't care less

By: Arwa Mahdawi

Special to The Capital News

Oil and gas companies make far more money churning out new plastic than reusing old. Meanwhile, the public gets the blame.

Plastic recycling is a scam. You diligently sort your rubbish, you dutifully wash your plastic containers, then everything gets tossed in a landfill or thrown in the ocean anyway. OK, maybe not everything – but the vast majority of it. According to one analysis, only 9% of all plastic ever made has likely been recycled. Here's the kicker: the companies making all that plastic have spent millions on advertising campaigns lecturing us about recycling while knowing full well that most plastic will never be recycled.

A new investigation by National Public Radio (NPR) and the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) reports that the large oil and gas companies that manufacture plastics have known for decades that recycling plastic was unlikely to ever happen on a broad scale because of the high costs involved. "They were not interested in putting any real money or effort into recycling because they wanted to sell virgin material," Larry Thomas, former president of one of the plastic industry's most powerful trade groups, told NPR. There is a lot more money to be made in selling new plastic than reusing the old stuff. But, in order to keep selling new plastic, the industry had to clean up its wasteful image. "If the public thinks that recycling is working, then they are not going to be as concerned about the environment," Thomas noted. And so, a huge amount of resources was diverted into intricate "sustainability theatre".

Multinationals misleading people for profit? Hold the front page! While the plastics industry's greenwashing will come as no surprise to anyone, the extent of the deception alleged in NPR's investigation is truly shocking. (I should state for the record that an industry representative interviewed by NPR



Pictured: Is recycling plastic a waste of our time? Photograph: Witthaya Prasongsin/Getty Images /iStockphoto

contested the idea that the public was intentionally misled, although he does "understand the skepticism".)

The subterfuge around recycling plastic is also an important reminder of just how cynically and successfully big companies have shifted the burden of combating the climate crisis on to individuals. This might be best encapsulated in a famous ad campaign that aired in the US during the 1970s with the slogan "People Start Pollution. People can stop it." The campaign was created by a non-profit group called Keep America Beautiful, which happened to be heavily funded by beverage and packaging companies with a vested interest in convincing people that they were the ones to blame for a polluted planet, not capitalism.

Perhaps one of the most effective bits of propaganda that big business has come up with to shift the burden of combating the climate crisis on to individuals is the idea of the "carbon footprint."

BP popularized the term in the early noughties, in what has been called one of the most "successful, deceptive PR campaigns maybe ever". While oil companies were telling us to fret about our carbon usage, they were doing whatever the hell they liked: 20 fossil fuel

companies can be directly linked to more than one-third of all greenhouse gas emissions, an analysis by leading climate researchers found last year. Chevron, Exxon, BP and Shell are behind more than 10% of the world's climate emissions since 1965 – but we have been successfully convinced that people start pollution and people can stop it. That if we just fly less and recycle more the planet will be OK. To some degree that is right: there must be a level of personal responsibility when it comes to the climate emergency. We all have to do our part. But individual action is a tiny drop in a heavily polluted ocean; we need systemic change to make a real difference. And, more than anything, we need to change what we value. What frustrates me most about BP's "carbon footprint" propaganda is how clever it is. There is so much human ingenuity in the world, but it is all directed towards the wrong things. ■



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Community Connections Pivoted While many Small Businesses and Organizations Suffer



By: Tinesha Washington

As local small businesses and organizations continued to suffer financial hardships due to COVID, Carmichael Community Connections (“CCC”) pivoted and decided to host a Black Business Pop Up Shop in a COVID safe environment to provide a platform for business owners to sell their goods and services. CCC is a Ward 7 based; Black woman owned business focused on improving the financial stability of small Black owned businesses and non-profit organizations. Owned and operated by Toya S. Carmichael, CCC has been providing services to clients since April, 2017 and as a registered LLC in the District since October, 2019. Ms. Carmichael began the business by providing grant writing services to emerging small businesses and non-profits on a grant by grant basis. CCC works to increase the financial health of DC’s small Black owned businesses and non-profit organizations by assisting them in three ways: 1) Grant/Contract Procurement; 2) Curated Customer Experiences; and 3) Community Engagement/Exposure. In 2019, CCC expanded its services to include the DC Black Business Crawl, creating an additional revenue stream for small businesses.

While CCC planned to host quarterly DC Black Business Crawls in 2020, Mother Nature had other plans and the world began experiencing the Coronavirus pandemic. However that did not stop CCC, they have continued

with the DC Black Business Pop Up Shop & Concert Series seeking to provide a COVID safe environment that provides a market place for DC based small businesses to sell their unique goods and services, performing artists an opportunity to display their musical talents, and allows individuals to enjoy each other while supporting and celebrating local talent and businesses. The concert series features a mix of genres including Go-Go, Jazz, and Hip-Hop as performed by DC Strings Workshop.

To ensure the events do not violate any on-going COVID regulations, the selected venue is always outdoors and guests are required to RSVP for a one-hour time slot to enjoy the event. Only a limited number of tickets are available for each timeslot to ensure not to exceed the 50-person capacity limit for social gatherings. Guests receive free refreshments,



have one hour to shop and even enjoy live musical performances during their time slot. All participants and guests are required to wear a mask unless performing.

Make sure you make time for the next DC Black Business Pop Up Shop, which is scheduled for October 17, 2020 from 12-5pm. This will be a special Libra Birthday Bash to celebrate Toya Carmichael’s birthday. Every year Ms. Carmichael hosts an annual spades tournament to support local nonprofit organizations but this time, she will use the Pop Up as her birthday and philanthropic event for the year.



If you are interested you can contact CCC at carmichaelcommunityconnections@gmail.com, or (202) 677- 5294 with any questions or concerns. For highlights of previous events please follow CCC on Instagram handle [carmichaelcommunityconnections](https://www.instagram.com/carmichaelcommunityconnections)



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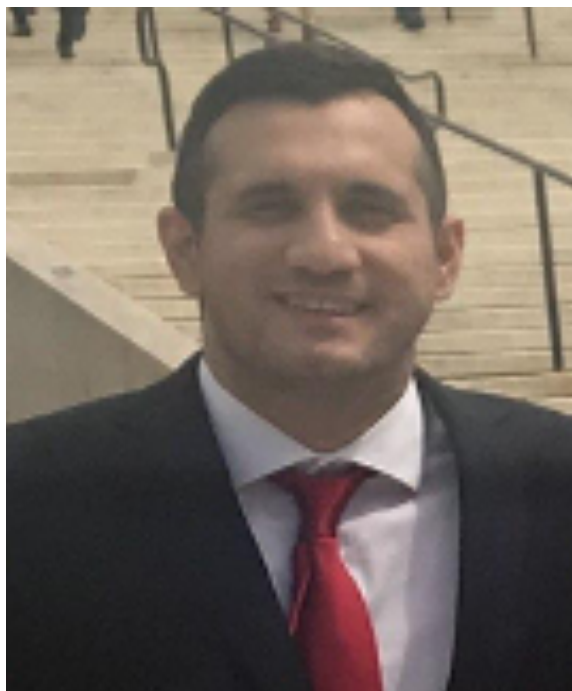
Welcoming a New Team Member

By: Phinis Jones

Our property development team is pleased to welcome a new member, Farhad Barati. Mr. Barati holds a Masters' of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) and a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Azad University of Zanjan in Iran. In his new position, assistant project manager with Capitol Services Management, Inc. (CSMI) and District Development Group, LLC (DDG) he will be instrumental in assisting with estimating, project design review and coordination, scheduling, progress billing, quality control, proposal preparation, and preparing progress reports, for residential and commercial projects.

Mr. Barati gained experience as an Assistant Project Manager in his home country of Iran, with Socookar Construction Company and participated in every aspect of the construction process. Socookar Construction clients have included multiple department buildings for the Institute for Advanced Studies in Basic Sciences; and many other commercial and residential buildings including, but not limited to, The Embassy of the Republic of Korea and residential buildings, multi-unit housing complexes and landscaping, guest houses, a library, etc.

During his studies for his masters' degree, Mr. Barati worked as a Research Assistant for the National Science Foundation (NSF), Graduate Teaching Assistant and Graduate Research Assistant, at UDC. In these positions, he collected data; utilized Matlab and Python to run and develop probabilistic analysis for risk management; developed a numerical model to conduct the dynamic analyses of earth and levee under flooding loads; performed data analysis to develop an energy sustainability model; assisted with research on Developing Urban Sustainability Model for Metropolitan DC through funding from the United States Geological Survey; prepared weekly labs, i.e., consolidation ce-



Pictured: Farhad Barati, new Assistant Project Manager. CSMI and DDG.

ment standards, concrete standards, California Bearing Ratio, Asphalt based on ASTM; and co-facilitated teaching of Advanced Geotechnical Engineering and labs, Applied GIS for Civil Engineering, Mechanics Solids and Risk and Resilience.

Mr. Barati's experience, education, and passion for engineering will enable him to make significant contributions to DDG and he welcomes the opportunity to contribute to upcoming projects with his experience and expertise.



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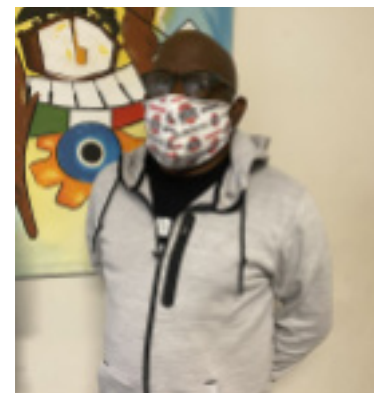
WORD ON THE STREET

Do you think the Supreme Court justice vacancy should be filled before the November 3, 2020 election?



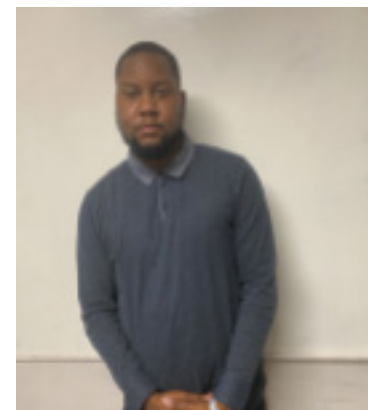
"I would say no because it's a lifetime appointment and the next president should appoint the Supreme Court justice."

Dominique Rice – Ward 8 Washington, DC



"I don't think so because the Republicans were the first to say wait until after the election when Judge Merrick Garland was nominated. So, I think that would be best to wait."

Troy Shockley – Ward 8 Washington, DC



"I would have to say no. I think in order to have the best results, the justice should be appointed after the election. There are less than two (2) months before the next election."

Leon Valentine – Washington, DC



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Banneker Communities opens in Ward 8 from pg. 1

costia, he said that “I had been speaking with colleagues for years about coming to Ward 8 and when we began working on the redevelopment of the former Clara Muhammad School property on Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, SE last year, so many residents and members of community organizations began encouraging us to open an office in the Ward. So, when we decided to launch Banneker Communities, we could think of no better place to do it than Anacostia. Our goal is to be an example for others in the Ward, provide opportunities for residents and other minority-owned businesses in the Ward and help long-term residents understand how they can keep their properties and create long-term wealth for their families. Mr. Karim is undoubtedly directing resources and experience toward transforming urban neighborhoods throughout the District. His belief is that accessibility to affordable housing and fresh food can change lives. His business ventures have been centered around this one core belief.

“Having a large minority developer with deep local experience, particularly in affordable housing and government contracting, headquarter in Ward 8 brings an explosion of opportunity. For young boys and girls to be exposed to the real estate industry beyond the typical “laborer” position offered by community benefit agreements to job-seekers who can walk in for an interview to the population of renters who are looking for quality affordable housing options, having Omar and his team on MLK is a win-win-win,” said Monica T. Ray, Executive Director of Congress Heights Community Training and Development Corporation.

Investing in people is what Mr. Karim does very well and what Banneker Communities will do in the Ward. Consider Ridwaan Robinson, a Ward 8 resident, in his junior year at Marymount University and intern with Banneker. Despite the challenges that COVID-19 had on the economy, Mr. Karim wanted to keep his promise to the community by bringing Mr. Robinson back as a real estate development intern. Not only was he appreciative of the opportunity, he also said the internship “changed my life”.

Banneker will continue to offer annual Summer internships to qualifying college students who are majoring in construction, engineering, finance or architecture. Those from underserved neighborhoods in the District will get preference in hiring. While many companies choose to follow certain hiring strategies, Banneker is committed to providing minority students with life-changing opportunities. Mr. Robinson said, “a lot of the young population in my community don’t get the chance to experience internships—especially at a company like Banneker.”

Although Banneker just launched earlier this year, it has not wasted time working to solve the affordable housing problem in the District and meeting the District’s goal of developing or preserving 25,000 housing units by 2025. It, along with an affiliate, developed a thesis to reduce many of the costs that are included in a typical project and submitted this thesis for funding with Enterprise Communities. It is also working with another affiliate to raise an equity fund to invest in properties to preserve existing affordable housing or develop new affordable housing. associated is already working on a number of affordable housing projects in the District.

Tori Williams, a real estate development manager with Banneker Communities and its affiliate Banneker Ventures, is leading the development of Banneker’s 81-unit affordable and retail project on Martin Luther, King, Jr., which the company aptly named The Clara on Martin Luther King in honor of Clara Muhammad, whom a school was named after and operated at the site for several decades up until a few years ago. Ms. Williams indicated that “this project is a partnership with Medina Life CDC, a DC-based non-profit, that will revitalize ½ of a city block and invest more than \$40 million in Anacostia.” Ms. Williams indicated that “the partnership hired Radwan the award-winning and DC-based architectural firm, DP+Partners (another Black-owned firm) to design The Clara.” She further indicated that “Banneker is partnering with Hamel Builders, an industry leader in constructing quality affordable housing projects” to build the project. The Clara, which is scheduled to start construction in 2021 will “not only bring



Photo: The Clara on Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue

new affordable apartments to the community, but neighborhood serving retail including a sit-down restaurant, fitness center, rooftop garden, and demonstration kitchen that will host classes to support our programming initiative of healthy eating and living.”

Local Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner, Holly Muhammad (8A01) welcomes Banneker Communities coming to Ward 8. She expressed that “Banneker has demonstrated its commitment to engagement, giving back and uplifting our community.” She further added that “as a Black male-owned business, they will be a positive force and model for the young Black men in our community. Banneker has also shown a commitment in guiding aspiring entrepreneurs, so their presence is critical to the growth of small businesses in Ward 8”.

In addition to The Clara, Banneker is also preserving 34 units of affordable housing in Columbia Heights and 18 units of affordable housing in upper Northwest.

At a crucial time when affordable housing is needed more than ever in the District, it is refreshing to see companies such as Banneker Communities stepping up to create and preserve affordable housing.

Phinis Jones, who owns a Ward-8 based development and construction company, also welcomed Banneker to the Ward. Mr. Jones indicated that he had been encouraging Mr. Karim to move their offices to the Ward for several years and was ecstatic when he learned that Banneker had opened in the Ward. Mr. Jones indicated that “Banneker Communities is a win for East of the Anacostia River and especially Ward 8.”

REAL ESTATE NEWS

WFH? What about WFB? Work from Barbados

Barbados is a small island in the Caribbean with well-developed infrastructure and a stable political and economic system. It has some of the most beautiful beaches in the world, not to mention the epic diving, shopping, delicious local cuisine, and all the fun and flavor of island life.

But there's one more important, and brand-new, reason to love Barbados. You can now get a 12-month visa to work there remotely.

“Even as the pandemic continues to rage, the government of Barbados, a country in the eastern Caribbean, is sending a very different message: Come here, not just for a holiday, but for up to a year. Bring your laptop,” said the Washington Post.

Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley introduced the 12-month Welcome Stamp “to allow visitors the option to work remotely from Barbados for a year at a time,” according to Barbados Government Information Service. The program is designed to attract remote workers earning more than \$50,000 a year in an effort to boost the country's tourist-dependent economy.

The program has, unsurprisingly, sparked global interest. A tropical island is, after all, SLIGHTLY more inviting than your hastily-thrown-together home office, even to those who know little about Barbados.

Though the coronavirus has disrupted many aspects of our work lives, it may end up accelerating some trends--like working remotely. Gallup polling of Americans conducted this spring found that 62 percent worked remotely at some point by April, an increase from 31 percent in mid-March.

That big spike might seem temporary, but according to that same poll, in 2015, 3.9 million U.S. workers were working remotely. Today that number is at 4.7 million, or 3.4% of the population. Remote work is trending up, and



[Credit:Getty Images]

as more workers get accustomed to the flexibility, it may end up being a trend that sticks around.

Pet Doors - From Simple to Smart

Does your four-legged friend need a little more freedom? Pet doors offer animals independence and allow their owners more flexibility in their day-to-day schedules. Whether you're more of a traditionalist, or you're inclined to adopt the latest and greatest tech, there's something for you (and your furry friends).

Classic flap

We've all seen this one, a small opening with a flap that allows a pet access in and out of the house. These types of pet doors are popular due to their versatility. They can be installed in a door or cut into the side of a home. They can be positioned to access your home's interior or just the garage or patio. These can even be installed in screen doors or glass panels. If security is a concern, these can often be outfitted with a sliding insert that will keep out intruders of both the critter and human variety.

Patio/panel type

This is a good option if you live in a rental or are just weary of cutting a hole in a door or the side of your home. This option is basically a panel that fits within the track of a sliding door and has a pet door flap built-in. If you're on a tight budget, renting, or the very thought of a drill makes you sweat – this one is for you.

Smart doors

Electronic or magnetic pet doors come with sensor tags that attach to your pets' collar, allowing automatic entry or exit when they get close to the door. Only a pet with a sensor tag can enter or exit through them. Some electronic pet doors can be programmed to open during certain times of the day if your furry friend is the schedule-keeping type. There are even doors that connect to your smartphone, so you'll be notified when Milo or Otis step out. If you can afford it, a smart door is an excellent option that mitigates many of the most common concerns with pet doors – including security, pet safety, and energy efficiency.



Rosalind Jimason

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Rosa Parks: US civil rights legend's house



The house is on display in Naples as part of an exhibition called Almost Home - The Rosa Parks House Project [Credit: AP Photo/Getty Images]

THE ONE-TIME HOME OF US CIVIL RIGHTS LEGEND ROSA PARKS HAS GONE ON DISPLAY INSIDE THE ROYAL PALACE OF NAPLES.

In 1955 Parks refused to give up her seat on a racially segregated bus in Alabama - a key moment in the US civil rights moment.

She received death threats and moved north to Detroit, where she briefly lived in the white clapboard house with relatives.

After a legal dispute in the US, the house is now on display in Italy.

The US Congress has referred to Parks as “the first lady of civil rights”.

On 1 December 1955 in Montgomery, Alabama she refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white passenger and was arrested for civil disobedience.

The incident led to a year-long bus boycott in the city. In November 1956, a federal court ruled that bus segregation was unconstitutional, and Parks was immortalized as a key

figure in the fight against institutionalized racism.

Her house will be on free display at the Royal Palace in Naples until 6 January 2021

Detroit city authorities planned to demolish the two-story building after the financial crisis in 2008. But Parks' niece Rhea McCauley bought it from Detroit officials for \$500 and donated it to US artist Ryan Mendoza.

Mr. Mendoza tried to have the city save the building but in 2016 took it apart and moved it to Berlin for display at his studio.

In 2018, Brown University in Rhode Island said it would display the house as part of a civil rights exhibition. But it then dropped out because of a legal dispute with her family.

Mr. Mendoza later contacted the Morra Greco Foundation where he previously worked. The body agreed to show the house at the Royal Palace in Naples, with the backing of the regional government in Campania.

The display is part of an exhibition called Almost Home - The Rosa Parks House Project.



Pictured: Rosa Parks has been referred to as the “first lady of civil rights” [Credit: AP Photo/Getty]

A repeating soundtrack titled 8:46 plays alongside the displayed house, in reference to the length of time a white police officer allegedly knelt on the neck of black man George Floyd in May.

His killing sparked international protests and condemnation of police brutality and racism in the US.

Derek Chauvin, the former officer accused of killing Floyd, appeared in court last week.



[Credit: AP Photo/Getty Images]



LIBRA

(September 23 to October 22)

Happy Birthday! What a way to start your charming, diplomatic, artistic new year, center stage with a lot to communicate. Extra opportunities and luck come your way this month. You have an extra boost of energy to move you forward until the middle of November. After the 15th you'll intensely reexamine your values – materially, intellectually and spiritually. After the 22nd, finances and personal values need to be addressed. Are they serving your needs or are you serving theirs? An inspirational romance or project could begin after the 24th. Joint finances, taxes, or intense personal issues could be illuminated on the 27th. By months' end, you enhance your appearance or completely change it.



SCORPIO

(October 23 to November 21)

Irritability is heightened. Engage in some form of mental and physical exercise to ease the tension. You have a guardian angel on your shoulder this is the month to pursue goals and dreams, participate in group activities, or spend more time with friends. After the 15th, you'll share what's been on your mind the last month. Unclear issues concerning the home front or family could arise after the 24th. The 27th brings enlightenment in some partnership/relationship. You might discover a secret admirer by month's end!



SAGITTARIUS

(November 22 to December 21)

Pursue your goals and dreams in life, take the lead role to participate in group activities and causes and to spend time with friends and make new ones. After the 15th, meditation would serve you well and help you connect to your higher spiritual self and beliefs. After the 22nd, you begin your yearly period of getting in touch with your subconscious mind. The 27th could bring revelations regarding daily work or health concerns. Months' end brings new romantic interests one of who might be a friend.



CAPRICORN

(December 22 to January 19)

Your career and/or public image is receiving a lot of universal energy. Additional opportunities are coming– take advantage! Authority figures are watching. Rewards could be great! On the 13th is an opportune time to plant seeds for a new project to enhance your career and/or public image. After the 15th, you'll be expressing your ideas and opinions, in a direct and penetrating manner, in group activities and with friends. Your sense of values may take on a heightened spiritual tone after the 24th. Illumination is given regarding some creative or romantic endeavor on the 27th.

October Horoscopes

Source: www.yearly-horoscope.org/



AQUARIUS

(January 20 to February 18)

Energy is activating that involves higher education and philosophical ideas. Time to pursue a new course of study, take a journey to foreign lands, or simply interact with foreign people to expand your universal vision and help nurture your inborn need to create social change. You may find yourself craving intense emotional encounters that will stir your deepest passions. You'll be thinking and communicating intensely about career matters or your public image. You may find yourself more compassionate towards others after the 24th when issues on the home front may arise.



PISCES

(February 19 to March 20)

Continue to pursue outwardly your inborn intuitive spiritual desire to move humanity forward. What a time to come out of "hibernation". You may seem a little withdrawn by others. This is the month to investigate anything that needs an answer. Partnerships/relationships go smoothly! Issues can be settled amicably. You'll crave close intimate encounters and ways to intensely transform your vision of life and the universe. After the 24th, you begin to question and reevaluate what your life means in spiritual terms. Enlightenment occurs on the 27th regarding your everyday environment.



ARIES

(March 21 to April 19)

You'll certainly be fulfilling your need to be independent; Conversations, debates and finding a mentor all figure in. The work scene is pleasant. Watch the tendency to overindulge in food and drink. A partnership/relationship may turn romantic. After the 22nd, you may experience "death" and then rebirth of some personal aspect. Be sure you are associating with like-minded others! The 27th brings awareness to address your finances and/or current set of values.



TAURUS

(April 20 to May 20)

Your ability to be resourceful and productive is tested as your workload has probably doubled. Keep on the lookout for advancement. Health should be excellent! Romantic and creative pursuits get a loving boost. After the 13th begin new projects that either enhance your work environment or improve your health. Intense and probing communications in partnership/ relationships. where you could decide your present calling is not adequate. The 27th brings illumination to some personal issue.



GEMINI

(May 21 to June 20)

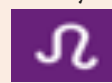
You'll find yourself in the mood to play. Your inner cruise director is working overtime to choose between romance, creativity or pleasurable pursuits. You'll be busy enhancing the appearance of your home or perhaps entertaining guests. After the 15th, you'll be paying more attention to detail. Communications increase with employers and employees. New health regimens will be considered. Your interests may be stimulated to connect with higher consciousness and spiritual truths.



CANCER

(June 21 to July 22)

HOME becomes your strategic command center! Visitors, lively debates, renovations and expansion are all part of the scenario. Precise communications give way to family disputes beginning to be settled. The 13th is a good time to begin a project involving family or strengthening your security and/or foundation. After the 24th, you'll be drawn to exploring that brings enlightenment to personal goals/dreams and/or to some group activity or cause you are involved in.



LEO

(July 23 to August 22)

Future plans are becoming larger and more expansive. Examining your personal values give way to discovering the amount of love in your world. Which one of you will receive a special "proposal"? Thoughts turn toward the home front, family, and the strength of your personal security and foundation. Look more realistically at partnerships/relationships. Some may take on higher spiritual quality. The 27th brings awareness to issues concerning career or projecting the public image you desire.



VIRGO

(August 23 to September 22)

You'll discover ways to function using your inborn talent to meticulously analyze your finances and make money managing sudden unexpected expenses. Guard against overspending. Start a project to increase your net worth. Pursue communications in your everyday environment in a more powerful and cathartic manner. The 27th illuminates the need to take a break from your daily life on some level.

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Religious Corner

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(202) 889-3296

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Sunday Worship 8:00am & 11:00am
Sunday School 9:15am
www.acamec.org

Brighter Day Ministries
Rev. Tommy Murray, Pastor
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Multi-Location Church
Visit our website: @
www.brighterdaydc.org
A.P. Shaw Campus
2525 12th Place, SE,
Washington, DC 20020
11am Sunday Worship
Congress Heights Campus
421 Alabama Avenue, SE,
Washington, DC 20032
8:30am Sunday Worship
Office: 202/889-3660 • Fax: 202/678-5213
Email: churchoffice@bdmdc.org

Campbell A.M.E. Church
2568 Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave. SE, WDC 20032
(202) 678-2263
Sunday Worship 8:00am & 11:00am
Sunday School 9:30am
Prayer Service Wednesdays 6:30pm
Bible Study Wednesday 12noon
Bible Study Thursday 7:00pm

Christ Ministries
30 Atlantic Street, SE WDC 20032
Services: 11 am and 3pm

Covenant Baptist United Church of Christ
Dr. Dennis and Christine Wiley, Co-Pastors
3845 South Capitol St. SW WDC 20032
(202) 562-5576
“Ministries for the Mind, Body and Spirit”
Sunday Worship 10:00am
Wednesday Bible Study 12noon & 6:30pm
www.covenantbaptistucc.org

East Washington Heights Baptist Church
Rev. Kip Bernard Banks, Sr., Pastor
2220 Branch Ave. SE WDC 20020
(202) 582-4811- Office
(202) 58202400- Fax
Sunday Worship 11:10am
Sunday School 9:30am
Devotional Service 10:45 am
Bible Study Wednesday 6:30pm
Children’s Church 2nd & 4th Sunday 11:00am
www.ewhbc.org ewhbc@aol.com

Emmanuel Baptist Church
Christopher L. Nichols, Pastor
2409 Ainger Pl., SE WDC 20020
(202) 678-0884-Office • (202) 678-0885- Fax
“Moving Faith Forward”
Sunday Worship 8:00am & 10:45am
Family Bible Study Tuesdays 7:00pm
Prayer Service Tuesday 6:00pm
www.emmanuelbaptistchurchdc.org

Greater Mt. Calvary Baptist Church
Archbishop Alfred D. Owens, Pastor
Evangelist Susie Owens, Co-Pastor
610 Rhode Island Ave. NE WDC 20002
(202) 529-4547
“It doesn’t matter how you feel,
God is still worthy to be praised”
Sunday Worship 8:00am & 10:45am
Super Sunday Service 3rd Sundays of month 6:00pm
Wednesday Night Prayer 6:30pm
Wednesday Bible Study 7:30pm
www.gmchc.org/

Israel Baptist
Rev. Dr. Morris L. Shearin, Pastor
1251 Saratoga Ave. NE WDC 20018
(202) 269-0288
“We Enter to Worship, We Depart to Serve”
Sunday Worship 10:45am • Sunday School 9:15am
Senior Bible Class Tuesday 10:30am
Wednesday Prayer Noon & 6:30pm
Bible Study Wednesday 7:00pm
Holy Communion First Sunday 10:45am
<http://www.israelbaptistchurch.org/>

Johnson Memorial Baptist Church
Rev. Henry A. Gaston, Pastor
800 Ridge Rd. SE WDC 20019
(202) 581-1873
Sunday Worship 7:45a. & 11:15am
Church School 9:30am
Bible Study Wednesday 8:00pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday 7:00pm

Kingdom Care Senior Village
Place of Worship:
Greater Fellowship/Gospel Baptist Church
814 Alabama Ave SE
Washington, DC 20032
Phone: 202-561-5594

Macedonia Baptist Church
Rev. Garfield Burton, Pastor
2625 Stanton Rd. SE WDC 20032 • (202) 678-8486
“A Church With a Living Hope in the Midst of Dying World”
Sunday Worship 10:00am
Sunday School 9:00am
Prayer & Bible Study Wednesday 7:00pm & 7:30pm
Saturday Sacrificial Prayer 7:00am
www.macedoniadc.org/

Matthews Memorial Baptist Church
Dr. C. Matthew Hudson Jr., Pastor
2616 MLK Ave. SE WDC 20020
(202) 889-3709 Office
(202) 678-3304 Fax
“Empowered to love and Challenged to Lead a
Multitude of Souls to Christ”
Sunday Worship 7:30am & 10:45am
Church School 9:30am
Prayer, Praise & Bible Study Wednesday 7:00pm
Bible Study Saturday 11:00am
Holy Communion 1st Sunday 10:45am

New Life Ministries DC
Reverend Ernest D. Lyles, Sr.
2405 MLK Jr. Ave SE WDC 20020
Sunday Worship 10:00am
<https://newlifeministriesdc.org/>
“A small church with a mega heart”
Phone: 202-304-2005
Email: joinus@nlmdc.org

Pennsylvania Ave. Baptist
Rev. Dr. Kendrick E. Curry
3000 Pennsylvania Ave. SE WDC 20020
(202) 581-1500
“Committed to the Cause of Christ”
Sunday Worship 10:45am • Sunday School 9:30am
Adult Bible Study Mondays 7:00pm
Young Adult Bible Study Tuesdays 7:00pm
Bible Study Wednesday 6:30pm
<http://www.pabc-dc.org/>

St. John C.M.E. Church
Reverend John A. Dillard III
2801 Stanton Rd. SE, Washington DC 20020
(202) 678-7788
Sunday Worship 11:00am
Sunday School 9:00am
<http://www.stjohncmecdc.org/>

St. Matthews Baptist Church
Rev. Dr. Maxwell M. Washington, Pastor
1105 New Jersey Ave. SE WDC 20003
(202) 488-7298
“Striving to be more like Jesus with
an emphasis on ‘Prayer’”
Sunday Worship 9:05am • Sunday School 8:00am
Bible Study Tuesday 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Tuesday 7:00pm
Hold Communion 3rd Sunday Morning
www.stmatthewsbaptist.com
stmatthewbaptist@msn.com

Union Temple
Pastor Anika Wilson Brown
1225 W St SE, WDC, 20020 • (202) 678-8822
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Thursday Night Worship: 7:30pm
www.uniontemple.com

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7000 Blair Rd. NW

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324 Kennedy St. NW

Kwik Stop
4801 Georgia Ave NW

Midnight Deli
4701 Georgia Ave NW

Petworth Action Committee @
Raymond Recreation Center
3725 10th Street NW

Petworth Library
4200 Kansas Ave, NW

Starlight Foods
5425 5th Street NW

Senbeb Natural Foods
6234 3rd Street NW

Shell Gas Station/ 7 Eleven
4000 Georgia Ave, NW

Takoma Park DC Library
416 Cedar Street NW

Yes! Organic Market
4100 Georgia Ave, NW

WARD 5

5th St. Laundromat
415A Rhode Island Ave. NE

A Cut Above the Top Barbershop
2377 Rhode Island Ave. NE

American Quality Home Care Services Inc
2312 Rhode Island Ave, NE

Barbershop
3506 12th St NE

Department of Human Services
920-A Rhode Island Ave. NE

Department of Veteran Affairs
1500 Franklin St. NE

Fish King
403 Rhode Island Ave NE

Good Old Reliable Liquor Store
1513 Rhode Island Ave NE

Israel Baptist Church
1251 Saratoga Ave. NE

Jet Set Hair
3530 12th St. NE

Lucky 7 Liquor
2317 Rhode Island Ave. NE

M&S Barber Services
2900 12th NE

Murry's & Paul's
3515 12th St NE

Neighborhood Market
1611 Rhode Island Ave. NE

Newton Food Mart
3600 12th St. NE

Salon Shear Madness
2014 Rhode Island Ave NE

Sammy Carryout
2801 Franklin St NE

Woodbridge Public Library
1800 Rhode Island NE

WARD 7

Anacostia Library
1800 Good Hope Rd. SE

Benning Road Library
3935 Benning Rd. SE

Capitol View Neighborhood Library
5001 Central Ave SE

Deanwood Recreation Center
1350 49th St. NE

Ft. Davis Community Center
1400 41st St. SE

Francis A. Gregory Public Library
3660 Alabama Ave SE

Hillcrest Community Center
3100 Denver St. SE

Hillcrest Recreation Center
3200 Camden St SE

New 7 Market
1406 Good Hope Rd. SE

Safeway

2845 Alabama Ave. SE

Washington Seniors Wellness
3001 Alabama Ave SE

WARD 8

Allen Chapel AME Church
2498 Alabama Ave. SE

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1556 Alabama Ave. SE

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1901 Mississippi Ave. SE

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2102 MLK Jr. Ave. SE

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421 Alabama Ave. SE
Brighter Day Ministries A.P. Shaw Campus
2525 12th Pl. SE

Busboys & Poets
2004 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE

CSAM's America's Islamic Heritage Museum
and Cultural Center
2315 MLK Jr. Ave. SE

Cedar Tree Academy
701 Howard Rd. SE

Community College Preparatory Academy
2405 MLK Jr. Ave. SE

DHS Congress Heights Service Center
Dept. of Human Services Child Care
4001 South Capitol St. SW

Excel Pharmacy
3923-A S Capitol St SW

Excel Care Pharmacy @United Medical Center
1310 Southern Ave SE

Fort Carroll Market
3705 MLK Jr. Ave. SE

Good Wash Laundromat
1603 Good Hope Rd. SE

Hope Village
2844 Langston Pl SE

IHOP
1523 Alabama Ave. SE

Industrial Bank

1800 Good Hope Rd. SE
1800 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE

Kingdom Care Senior Village
814 Alabama Ave SE

Marion Barry's Ward 8 Office
2100 MLK Jr. Ave. SE

My 3 Sons Barbershop
3125 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE

Opportunities Industrialization Center
3016 MLK Jr. Ave. SE
3707 MLK Jr. Ave. SE

Park Southern Apartments
800 Southern Ave. SE

Parklands-Turner Neighborhood Library
1547 Alabama Ave SE

P.R. Harris School
4600 Livingstone Rd. SE

UPO/Peetey Greene Community Center
2907 MLK Jr. Ave. SE

R.I.S.E. Demonstration Center
2730 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE

The Roundtree Residences
2515 Alabama Ave. SE

Secrets of Nature
5923 South Capitol St. SW

St. Elizabeth's Hospital
1100 Alabama Ave. SE

Southeast Tennis and Learning Center
701 Mississippi Ave. SE

SunTrust Bank
1340 Good Hope Rd. SE

Secrets of Nature Health Food Centers
3923-B South Capitol St SW

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