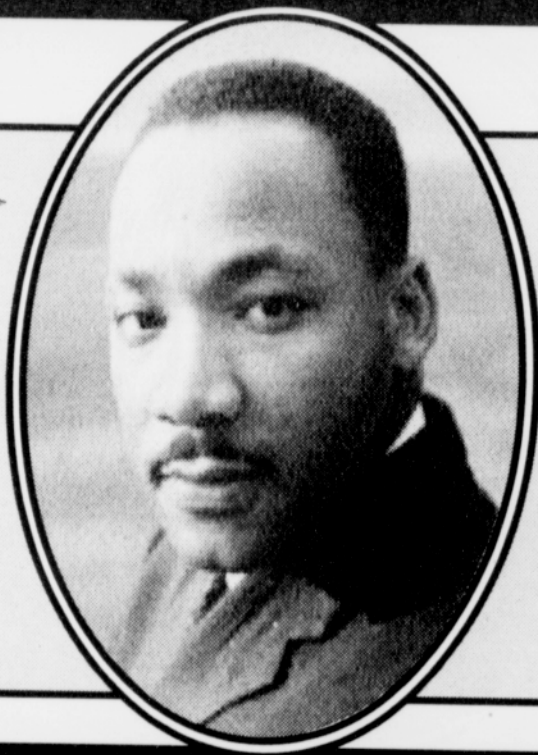


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Housing Protest Planned

Massive rally to honor King

Sixteen Portland organizations will honor Dr. Martin Luther King by taking part in a mass action to end homelessness.

The local housing and civil rights activist plan to converge with more than 1,500 housing advocates in San Francisco for two days of demonstrations and mass actions, Jan. 19 and Jan. 20 demanding change from the Obama administration on affordable housing.

Despite attempts to shut poor people out of the political process, organizers are continuing the plans for the protest, which coincides with the one year anniversary of the historic inauguration of Barack Obama.

The action is planned on this anniversary as a reminder to the administration that it's time to act on the promise of change. In a year of unprecedented profits for the banks that were bailed out by this administration, record unemployment and housing costs have created a new wave of mass homelessness and a growth in programs across the country aimed at penalizing those who are poor and un-housed. The main action on the 20th will be the presentation of a "people's bailout" with set of demands to end homelessness and stop the civil rights abuses

against the poor.

"The federal government's 30-year failure to provide enough affordable housing is appalling and the criminalization of people who are on the streets because of the lack of that housing is totally unacceptable" said Michael Anderson, Executive Director of the Oregon Opportunity Network which has signed on as endorser of the January events.

Organizers of the event are seeking a reversal of the federal funding trends of the last 30 years which have decreased spending on affordable housing, which directly correlates to the emergence of a new and massive episode of homelessness.

Other demands include the enactment of a moratorium on the demolition, conversion or destruction of any publicly funded units until federal law guarantees one for one replacement at existing affordability rates; ensuring adequate funding for operations of public housing to prevent unit loss, high vacancy rates, and substandard living conditions; Stopping police and business improvement zone programs that enforce "nuisance crimes" or "quality of life crimes"; and ensuring that the more than 914,000 homeless children in public schools are able to stay at their "home school" are fully integrated with their housed peers while being provided the support they need to learn and thrive.

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