

LSPC Newsletter, Summer 2019

Celebrating Legislative Victories and Our First Year in Oakland!

Message from the Executive Director



Dorsey Nunn

We recently celebrated the one-year anniversary of the Freedom & Movement Center the same way we did when we moved here to Oakland—with a Community Block Party.

The weather was beautiful, the music moving, the food tasty and plentiful, and many kids rode home on new bikes donated by [Turning Wheels for Kids](#). It was a wonderful day to spend quality time breaking bread with neighbors and to build community—a great event to kick off the *next* 40 years of LSPC's history.

As current Executive Director and longtime LSPC staff member, I have the privilege of both enjoying the events in the moment as well as recognizing the process and progress over time. For example, our co-sponsored Assembly Constitutional Amendment (ACA 6) to restore voting rights for Californians on parole, just passed out of the Assembly and is now proceeding through the Senate.

This amendment is the latest step on the long march to restore our civil rights. It was only a few years ago, in 2014, that we were suing then-Secretary of State Bowen from barring people on post-release community supervision and mandatory supervision from voting. And in 2015 new Secretary of State Padilla dropped the appeal, effectively restoring voting rights to 60,000 formerly incarcerated people.

In fact, one of the first victories All of Us or None won soon after forming in 2003 was getting then-Secretary of State Shelley to clarify that people in county jail for a felony and people on state probation had the right to vote.

We work towards the day when no one ever loses their right to vote, incarcerated or free.

I also get to see our leaders develop over time. When Paul, one of our 2019 Policy Fellows, recently gave a presentation on how bills become laws, some watching might have just seen an effective lecture. I saw another young Black man becoming an empowered activist. I've seen Aminah develop from a 2018 Policy Fellow to an AOUON Senior Organizer and the Family Unity Project Coordinator. Another 2019 Policy Fellow, London, successfully

organized the Block Party—even though she was still locked up in prison during the last one. We've grown by creating space for new leaders to emerge.

We hope our presence and involvement in our North Oakland neighborhood continues to create opportunity for all. Seeing new youth leaders organize and kids ride bikes in the streets is a good sign we're building real community together.

Community Block Party!

On Saturday, August 31, LSPC celebrated our one-year anniversary of moving to Oakland with a Community Block Party at the Freedom & Movement Center!

A day of amazing people, food, fun, and music! We feel so fortunate to be part of a wonderful community and to be able to give back and build positive relationships.

Strong and healthy communities create the real public safety, as well as a fulfilling place to live and work.

Thanks again for all the fun and fabulous conversations together. Special thanks to 2019 Elder Freeman Policy Fellow London Croudy for organizing such a great community event.

See you around the neighborhood!



Honoring our neighborhood elders!





Legislative Update: On to the Governor's Desk!

As we near the end of the 2019 Legislative cycle, we are excited that **several of our co-sponsored bills have made it through the Legislature and await the Governor's signature.** These bills represent

work from many LSPC staff members, All of Us or None organizers, community members, and all of our coalition partners.

Those bills are:

[AB 942 \(Weber\)](#) – CalFresh Meals Program.

This bill would extend the ability to use food stamps for hot meals at supermarkets. Passed out of Assembly 72-0 in May, 2019. Passed out of the Senate 78-0 on September 10, 2019. Now awaiting the Governor's signature. **Call Governor Newsom 916.445.2841 and ask him to sign AB 942!**



[AB 1282 \(Kalra\)](#) – No private ICE. This bill would prohibit ICE from using private contractors to detain and transfer people from prisons following the completion of their sentences. The bill passed the Assembly 59-15 in May. Amended and passed the Senate 29-10 on September 5. Assembly voted 61-16 concurrence to Senate amendments September 9. Now awaiting the Governor's signature. **Call Governor Newsom 916.445.2841 and ask him to sign AB 1282!**

[ACA 6 \(McCarty\)](#) – Restore voting rights to Californians on parole.

High drama on the Assembly Floor! After almost an hour of impassioned speeches by the co-authors and supporters of the bill, as well as opposition who attempted some "Willie Horton"-style fearmongering, the vote tallied 52-14 in favor. But we needed 54!

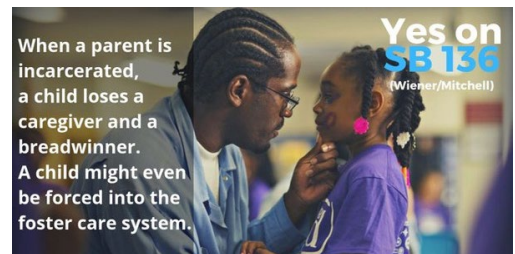
The vote was put on call, meaning we had until the end of the day to get those two votes. The Free the Vote CA Coalition identified two Assemblymembers to target, and we started full-court press to get them to vote Aye. At the Capitol, Katie, Taqwaa, Ali, and Dorsey called all their people, while at the office we rocked the call out over our social media networks. An hour and a half later, the voting resumed and we watched the call board as it crept up to 53 ayes, then 54! AW YEAH!



ACA 6 now has to repeat the process in the Senate, moving through the committees and to another Floor Vote. **Contact your CA Senator and tell them you support ACA 6 and want to restore voting rights for 50,000 Californians on parole!**

[SB 136 \(Wiener\)](#) – Ending Ineffective 1-Year Sentencing Enhancements. By the skin of its teeth, the bill passed the

Senate Floor vote 21-11 in May. Amended and just barely passed the Assembly Floor Vote 41-37 on September 11, 2019. The bill eliminates the 1-year mandatory sentencing enhancement for priors except for "sexually violent offense" priors.



SB 144 (Mitchell) – Eliminate Imposition & Collection of Most Court Fees. This bill has become a 2-year bill, as we wait for courts and counties to share with us how eliminating the court fees would fiscally impact them. They have yet to respond, probably because there is no fiscal impact since they often spend more trying to collect from low-income Californians than they bring in. We look forward to continuing the fight to eliminate oppressive court fees again in January!

SB 310 (Skinner) – Jury Service. The bill, which would restore the right of jury service to people with felony convictions, was amended to exclude people currently on parole or on the sex offenders registry. Received a 47-26 vote on the Assembly Floor on September 9, and then a Senate concurrence vote of 29-10 on September 11. **Call Governor Newsom 916.445.2841 and ask him to sign SB 310!**

Other legislation of interest includes:

AB 32 (Bonta) – Ban CA Private Prison Contracts. Prohibits new or renewal contracts between CDCR and private prison companies, including ICE detention centers. As many current contracts are on 1-year "bridge" contracts, the bill effectively ends private prisons and ICE detention prisons in CA after 2020. People currently incarcerated in ICE detention prisons will probably be transferred to county jails with ICE contracts, until those contracts are also banned.

AB 45 (Stone) – Prison Co-Pays. Ends the co-pays people incarcerated in prison must pay to access medical treatment. Currently people incarcerated in CDCR prisons must pay a \$5 co-pay to access medical treatment.

AB 484 (Jones-Sawyer) – Eliminate Mandatory Confinement during Probation. This bill would, for certain drug convictions, give judges granting probation the discretion to impose the current 180-day confinement condition mandatory with current convictions.

AB 1076 (Ting) – Automatic Relief. Will automatically seal arrest/conviction records for certain low-level offenses after diversion program.

[ACR 91 \(Jones-Sawyer\)](#) – **Second Chances Month. This measure designates June 2019 as Second Chances Month in California, highlighting existing services and events to support reentry from incarceration.**

[SB 42 \(Skinner\)](#) – **Getting Home Safe Act. Requires sheriffs to release people from county jails between 8 A.M. and 5 P.M. or at sundown (whichever is later), as well as track the time and number of people released. Will end the practice of releasing people at midnight with no public transportation available.**

[SB 394 \(Skinner\)](#) – **Diversion for Primary Caregivers of Minor Children. Creates a pretrial diversion program for defendants who are primary caregivers of a child under 18 years of age, as specified, and who are charged with a misdemeanor or a nonserious, nonviolent felony.**

[SB 575 \(Bradford\)](#) – **Cal Grants for Students Incarcerated in Prison. Will allow students currently incarcerated to be eligible to receive a Cal Grant award.**

Thank all of you for your tireless efforts and support for all of our legislation. Stay tuned for updates on our website as well. For more information, contact Policy Fellow Katie Dixon: katie@prisonerswithchildren.org

Clean Slate Clinics

About 45 people received assistance obtaining their RAP sheets at a free Live Scan event in Riverside, CA on September 9, 2019. The event is the first of a two-part clinic to help people petition the courts to reduce, resentencing, or expunge past convictions to remove barriers to employment, housing, and education.

RCC TM in collaboration with:

CRIMINAL RECORD EXPUNGEMENT CLINIC

Free and Open to the Public

Live Scan Clinic

Live scan (fingerprinted) event to get your Department of Justice Rap Sheet.

**Saturday, September 7th, 2019
10am-2pm**

Empire Law Inc.
4280 Latham St. Suite D, Riverside, CA 92501
Livescans will take place at the Empire Law Office.

Free parking
Register on the Eventbrite bit.ly/transitioningmindsclinic
or via email to: RCCtransitioningMindsClub@gmail.com

QR Code To Register

Expungement Clinic

You may be eligible to have felonies convictions removed from your legal record. This can make it easier to get a job or housing. Volunteer attorneys provide these services free of charge.

**Saturday, September 28th, 2019
9am-5pm**

Riverside City College
4800 Magnolia Ave, Riverside, CA 92506
Lovekin building Room L4 (located in the lower part of the campus by the tennis courts).

Free parking provided in Lot G & F
we will have free childcare on the 28th from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Requirements:
Copy of Criminal Record - you can attend our free live scan session on Sept. 7 to get your rap sheet. According with us. If you miss the live scan date, you can walk in on Sept. 28th but must bring your own court records for the case(s) if you wish to seal or expunge. Priority will be given to registered applicants first. Space is limited and on a first-come, first-served basis.
For more information please contact rcctransitioningmindsclub@gmail.com

Information available from Homeboy Industries, Debt Recovery, and learn more about bail, the bar and other resources.

Snacks & Refreshments Provided

Riverside Community College District is committed to providing access and reasonable accommodation to all district programs and activities. Access is available for persons with disabilities upon request by contacting the district's grant/writing or the office of Diversity, Equity and Compliance at (951) 222-8039 no less than 3 days before the event. Requests received after the date will be honored whenever possible.



LSPC partnered with Transitioning Minds at Riverside City College, All of Us or None Riverside, and Starting Over, Inc. to plan this free Live Scan event. Volunteers from Underground Scholars Riverside and Empire Law Office also assisted. For this free Live Scan event, Empire Law Office hosted us for free and at the last minute, as there were some unexpected issues with the original site. Empire Law also provided the Live Scans for our clients.



The second part of the clinic, where people can receive individualized legal assistance on their RAP sheets, will be on Sept 28 at Riverside City College. For Part II we are again partnering with the above organizations, as well as Homeboy Industries, Debt Collective, Inland Empire Latino Lawyers Association, and Underground Scholars.

For more information about Clean Slate clinics, contact Staff Attorney Judy Jun at judyj@prisonerswithchildren.org

AOUON Community Engagement

While All of Us or None participates in many community events around the Bay Area throughout the year, things are really moving during summer! We're honored and excited to engage our community and provide necessary information and outreach to people who want to restore all our rights.

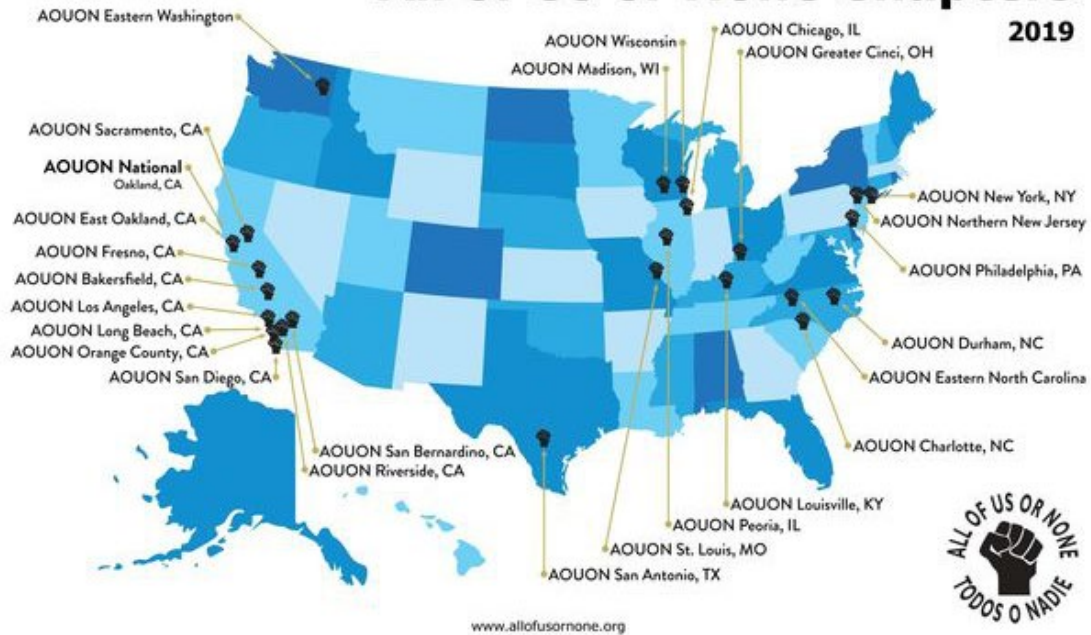


Clockwise from left: First Friday in Oakland, I Love My Family Day in Richmond, AOUON General Meeting in Oakland (top two), 2019 Democratic Summer Summit in San Francisco.

AOUON National

All of Us or None Chapters

2019



We have grown to 26 chapters!

Don't see an AOUON chapter near you? Contact AOUON National Organizer [Oscar Flores](mailto:oscar@prisonerswithchildren.org) to start one: oscar@prisonerswithchildren.org / 415.625.7048

AOUON Chapter Spotlight: AOUON Northern New Jersey

Founded just a few months ago, AOUON Northern NJ dove into community engagement headfirst. In response to the drinking water crisis created by old lead pipes, AOUON NNJ organized the collection and delivery of bottled water to the 3,000 people incarcerated in Northern State Prison in Trenton, NJ.



AOUON Northern NJ Organizer Tia Ryans (center) speaks to media after prison officials refused donated bottle water.

Their [first attempt to deliver the donated cases of water was rejected by prison authorities](#), who stated that the people incarcerated were not subject to contaminated water, and that AOUON NNJ didn't go through "proper channels" to deliver the water. Grassroots organizing, local media coverage, and persistence created change: DOC authorities revised their positions, telling people inside that they "may be exposed" to lead, and later had incarcerated people pick up a second delivery dropped off at the prison.



For more information about the AOUON Northern New Jersey chapter, contact Tia Ryan: AOUON.NJ@gmail.com

Welcome, Ken!

LSPC is excited and honored to welcome Ken Oliver as our new AOUON Organizer! In his own words:

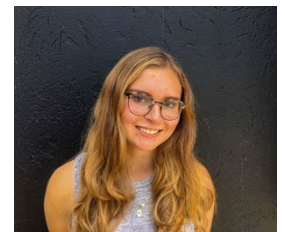
I'm from Los Angeles, CA. I did 23.5 years of a Life sentence, 8.5 of which was done in solitary confinement. Without the groundbreaking work of LSPC, I would still be serving a life sentence in indefinite solitary confinement. My interest is and always has been fighting for the underdog and against all forms of oppression. Within that framework I am also passionate about our peoples' ability to experience self-determination so we can more effectively self-determine our own futures.



I'm here at Legal Services for Prisoners with Children/All of Us or None to be on the front line with a revolutionary organization in the fight against mass incarceration, the criminalization of color, and the system of basic civil rights being denied to individuals who've suffered felony convictions.

Thank You Summer Interns & Hello Fall Interns!

We say thank you and good fortune to our Summer Interns, Angeles, Cal, and Taylor (in photos, left to right).



In addition to replying to hundreds of letters from people currently incarcerated, they also assisted in organizing events and travelling to Sacramento to advocate directly to legislators. We wouldn't have been able to do all we do with you!

LSPC is excited to welcome our Fall Interns: Ahliyah, Aiyana, and Valerie!



Ahliyah and Aiyana are both current undergraduates at U.C. Berkeley, and Valerie is working on her Masters in Social Work from Boston College.

Interning at LSPC presents a unique experience, as interns are immediately involved with assisting specific projects (like Family Unity and All of Us or None), campaigns (Ban the Box, Prison Visiting), and events (Quest for Democracy) as well as responding to the many letters we receive every week from people incarcerated all over the country.

[Click here for more information about LSPC's Intern Program.](#)

JUSTICE JOURNAL

LSPC's annual [Justice Journal is now published and available for download.](#)

Covering the period from summer to summer, this year's *Justice Journal* includes articles from most LSPC and All of Us or None organizers, illuminating the connection between our litigation, legislative, and programming work and our mission to end mass incarceration and fully restore our civil and human rights.

You can read [an online version of the Justice Journal here on our website](#)

2019 JUSTICE JOURNAL

The Freedom & Movement Center
Creates Hope and Community

BY DORSEY NUNN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

AFTER WE purchased our new building in Oakland, Willard "Ali" Birtz was one of the first people to start working on site to turn it into The Freedom & Movement Center.

HE WAS released from jail the night before.

WHEN I picked him up from jail after midnight, Ali had nothing except a car he had kept in my driveway for the past 18 months. The mobile car-detailing business he had developed into the number-one reviewed service on Yelp had lurched to a halt, and any money he had went to his inexplicably and exponentially-increased bail, court fees, and for the privilege of paying for his own electronic monitor.

THE PRESUMPTION of innocence comes at a crippling cost.

"I WAS set up to fail," said Ali. Or perhaps he was set up to slide right back into incarceration.

FORTUNATELY, LSPC could offer Ali a job. Even better, a job where his dedication, experience, and hard work would shine—creating a landing space for people experiencing reentry just like him.

BUT EVEN with full-time employment, Ali was living in his car. And most of his paycheck was going straight to the bail bondsman, the courts, and to the private corporation that owns his ankle monitor. In less than a year, Ali has paid \$20,000 toward fees and \$8,490 to the electronic shackle on his ankle. There's a name for when all your resources and labor go directly to support your own incarceration while others profit. Slavery didn't end with the Emancipation Proclamation.

THE FREEDOM & Movement Center has already lived up to its name: Ali has not only remained free and out of jail, but he's moved into housing and towards living a stable life—all despite the criminal justice system sucking his blood nearly dry every month. He's an effective organizer, eloquent legislative advocate, and invaluable expert on the nuts and bolts of the machinery of injustice. I feel very fortunate that we have the infrastructure to support people when they need it most, by people who have lived the struggle themselves. I'm proud we have the ability to support freedom for people who become true assets to our communities.

IN VITE you to come down to The Freedom & Movement Center and join us in building better community, one person at a time.

60004 Organizer Willard "Ali" Birtz stands on the Capitol steps during the 2019 Quest for Democracy Advocacy Day in Sacramento, CA.

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(as well as previous editions). Donors will be receiving printed copies this week. If you'd like us to mail a copy to someone currently incarcerated, please contact Ivana Gonzalez at: ivana@prisonerswithchildren.org.

Calendar

The Friday Forum

When: Every Friday at noon

Where: [AOUON Facebook Live](#)

Join us Fridays at noon for All of Us or None's live Friday Forum!

Friday Forums are [livestreamed on AOUON's Facebook page here](#), and feature policy and legislative updates, upcoming events, and discussions about current social justice topics. Feel free to send in questions in the comments section and we'll try to address them right then and there!



Past editions of the Friday Forum are also available on the [AOUON Facebook video page](#).

See you Friday!

AOUON National – Oakland Meeting

When: 6:30 P.M. - October 17, 2019 (3rd Thursday of every month)

Where: The Freedom & Movement Center, 4400 Market Street, Oakland, CA 94608

All people and family members directly impacted by the criminal justice system are invited to join [All of Us or None](#) at our monthly meeting the 3rd Thursday of each month in Oakland, CA. We discuss local and state legislation, plan community events, and strategize how to advocate for our community in our own voices.

For more information contact Policy Fellow Katie Dixon:
katie@prisonerswithchildren.org



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