



Monthly News & Updates

August 2024
Issue LXXIII(73)



Director's Note

Dear Residents, Neighbors, and Friends:

The beginning of the academic year is a time of renewal and potential, where students engage in learning, develop new skills, and build meaningful relationships with their peers and teachers. As students across the District prepare for **the new school year**, I am very proud to highlight our **Youth Bullying Prevention Program**. This program is a cornerstone of our commitment to fostering a supportive and respectful school community.

Bullying—whether physical, verbal, or online—can profoundly affect a student's well-being and academic performance. Our program is dedicated to combating bullying through a combination of education, support, and prevention strategies. We work closely with the District schools, parents, and students to provide training and resources that promote empathy, respect, and understanding. Recent initiatives, including the launch of the Youth Human Rights Ambassador Program, exemplify our proactive approach to engage with students and empower them to become leaders in our community. For more information and additional resources, please contact Program Manager Ernest Shepard at ernest.shepard@dc.gov.

August is also **National Black Business Month**, a powerful reminder of the resilience, creativity, and impact of Black-owned businesses on our economy and culture. Black entrepreneurs have historically faced, and continue to confront, significant challenges, including systemic barriers to capital, resources, and opportunities. Despite these obstacles, their perseverance and innovation have led to thriving businesses that enrich our communities and drive economic growth.

As an office committed to promoting equal opportunities and inclusion, we recognize that cultivating a diverse economic landscape benefits not only individual entrepreneurs but also strengthens our entire community. Throughout this month, and beyond, I encourage everyone to support Black-owned businesses in your area by making a purchase, spreading the word, or engaging with these businesses on social media. Also, please check out this **resource page** from our friends at the Department of Small and Local Business Development to learn more about the economic impact of Black-owned businesses in the U.S., with a special focus on the District. Discover valuable resources designed to support Black entrepreneurs and learn how your support can help these businesses thrive, not just survive.

As we embark on this new school year and celebrate the achievements of Black entrepreneurs, let us all recommit to fostering a safe and more equitable environment where everyone can grow and succeed!

In Solidarity,
Kenneth Saunders
Acting Director



Trait of the Month



HOMELESS STATUS

Under the D.C. Human Rights Act of 1977, homeless status is defined as " an individual, family, or youth who lacks, lost, or will imminently lose a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, which can include the result of escaping an unsafe environment ."

DID YOU KNOW? According to the **HOMELESSNESS IN METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON Results and Analysis from the Annual Point-in-Time (PIT) Count of Persons Experiencing Homelessness** report from May 2024, there were 549 transition age youths (18-24) experiencing homelessness in the District. This demographic information began being collected in response to growing concerns over youth adults experiencing homelessness. This demographic faces several unique challenges, including finding employment with health benefits.

What's New and Upcoming

DC OFFICE OF HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE HOURS

EXPERIENCED DISCRIMINATION?
LEARN HOW TO FILE A COMPLAINT WITH OHR AND UNDERSTAND THE PROCESS TO ENSURE YOUR RIGHTS ARE PROTECTED!

↘ 24 JULY
1PM - 4PM

MLK JR. LIBRARY
(801 G STREET NW)

↘ 21 AUGUST
10AM - 2PM

SOUTHWEST LIBRARY
(900 WESLEY PI SW)

↘ 10 SEPTEMBER
10AM - 2PM

DEANWOOD LIBRARY
(1350 49ST STREET NE)



WE ARE WASHINGTON
DC GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

OHR Office Hours

Do you have questions about discrimination or want to learn more about the resources available through OHR? Our team will be at different public library branches to provide information, answer your questions, and offer support. Meet us at Southwest Library on Wednesday, August 21, and learn more about your rights!

Next Sessions:

- Wednesday, August 21, 10 AM – Southwest Library
- Tuesday, September 10, 10 AM – Deanwood Library

**Know Your Rights:
The 23 Protected Traits in Washington, DC**

Thursday, August 15th at 12:00 PM
Virtual Training | Register at <https://bit.ly/23PTAugust2024>

Office of Human Rights
District of Columbia

WE ARE WASHINGTON
DC GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

The 23 Protected Traits Training

We invite you to join us for comprehensive training on the District's 23 protected

traits. This training will cover the protections available to residents, employees, and visitors, ensuring everyone is informed of their rights!

- **Date:** Thursday, August 15
- **Time:** 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM
- **RSVP:** Please register [here](#).

OHR In the Community



On July 24, OHR presented to this year's Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) students at the Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs. We provided an overview of our agency, highlighted the 23 protected traits, and shared various resources.

The presentation was delivered in both English and Spanish, and we distributed translated materials to effectively engage with individuals who are non- or limited-English proficient (LEP/NEP).



OHR also participated in a resource fair organized by the DC Housing Authority, where we shared a range of programs and resources with our community members.



During our July Office Hours at the MLK Jr. Library, we engaged with community members, addressing their concerns and questions about discrimination and guiding them through our complaint filing process.



OHR In the Media

"New complaint form to help D.C. LGBTQ seniors facing discrimination"



OHR's new intake form for seniors living with HIV to report discrimination has been featured in an article by the *Washington Blade*, the oldest LGBTQ newspaper in the U.S.

Read the full article [here](#).



DC Office of Human Rights | 202.727.4559 | ohr.dc.gov



[Our Company](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [FAQs](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

DC Office of Human Rights | 441 4th St NW Ste 570N | Washington, DC 20001 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!