

2021-2024

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THE INTERSECTION OF RACISM AND POVERTY

Welcome to the inaugural Impact Report for the Miami Coalition to Advance Racial Equity (MCARE). In this report, we proudly share the progress and achievements MCARE has made over our first three years. As Miami-Dade County's only advocacy organization dedicated to defending the civil and human rights of people experiencing homelessness (PEH), MCARE's mission is to dismantle the structural racism and inequitable systems that perpetuate poverty and homelessness in our community.

Our focus on racial equity within the homeless population reflects our commitment to confronting the harsh realities of poverty, especially as it intersects with race. Our unhoused neighbors are the most visible faces of the systemic failures in housing, healthcare, and economic justice—systems that treat basic needs as commodities, available only to those who can afford them, rather than as fundamental rights. Our nation's affordable housing crisis disproportionately impacts Black people, who are overrepresented in the homeless population across the nation. The data underscore an inescapable truth: homelessness is a racial justice issue.

For me, this cause is also deeply personal. I have experienced homelessness firsthand on the streets of Miami following a traumatic series of events. That period, though one of the most challenging of my life, opened my eyes to the resilience of those forced to endure life without a home. This experience fuels my resolve to advocate for solutions that honor the dignity of every individual, regardless of their circumstances.

Our accomplishments to date would not have been possible without our invaluable partners. Two of our partners deserve special recognition. The National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH) provided essential support at our inception and ongoing resources for our campaigns. As the NCH South Region Field, MCARE collaborates with grassroots activists throughout the southern United States to oppose the criminalization of homelessness. We are also deeply grateful to the students and faculty of the University of Miami Law School Human Rights Clinic, whose dedication and advocacy enrich MCARE's work in meaningful ways.

Despite our progress, significant challenges lie ahead. Florida's recent anti-camping ban criminalizes poverty statewide, and Miami Beach's relentless campaign to arrest and displace homeless individuals continues to threaten the rights and dignity of our most vulnerable residents. These policies underscore the urgent need to change a narrative that blames people for their poverty, rather than addressing the systemic injustices that lead to homelessness.

We invite you to join us in challenging these harmful narratives and advocating for the human rights of our unhoused neighbors. Achieving justice for Black Americans and all marginalized communities is central to our vision for a more equitable and compassionate society.

Together, let's continue this essential work.

In solidarity,
David Peery
Executive Director, MCARE



**DAVID
PEERY**

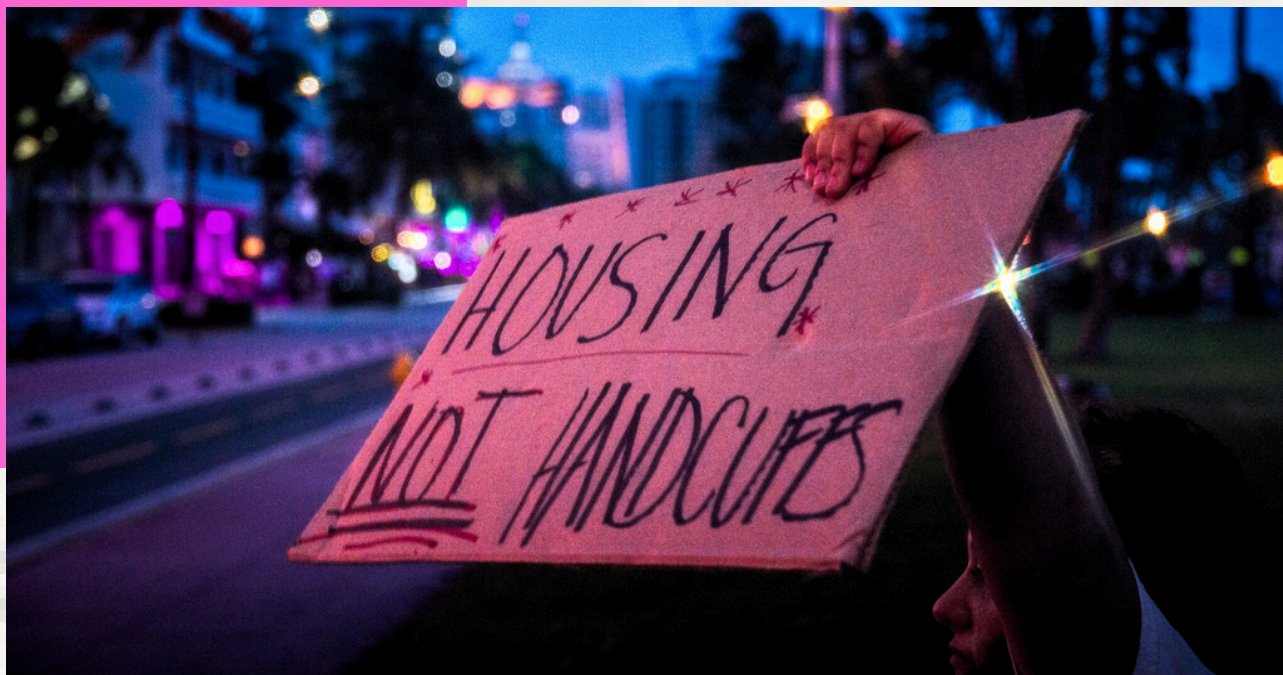
Executive Director,
MCARE



MCARE OVERVIEW

MCARE was founded in 2021 in response to Miami’s escalating affordable housing crisis and the City’s punitive measures against people experiencing homelessness. In Miami-Dade County, where 60% of the homeless population is Black despite Black people making up less than 18% of the overall population, it’s clear that homelessness policies are often rooted in racial inequities.

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, MCARE is a multiracial coalition dedicated to advancing social justice across Miami-Dade County. We approach public policy through a racial equity lens, recognizing that every policy either advances equity or perpetuates disparities. Our Board of Directors includes student leaders, human rights attorneys, healthcare professionals, and social justice advocates, reflecting Miami’s diversity and commitment to racial justice. MCARE also proudly serves as the South Region Field Office for the National Coalition for the Homeless, collaborating with partners across the region to address and dismantle policies that criminalize poverty.



SUMMARY

In our first three years, MCARE's advocacy centered on opposing local policies that criminalize homelessness in Miami. These policies include Miami's restrictions on food sharing, homeless encampment sweeps, efforts to deport people experiencing homelessness to an uninhabited island in Biscayne Bay, and the mass arrests and deportation of people experiencing homelessness in the City of Miami Beach.

* BUILDING LOCAL POWER

We are building a network of grassroots organizations and activists to address critical gaps in advocacy for people experiencing homelessness. By fostering collaboration across diverse groups, this network aims to amplify community voices, share resources, and strengthen efforts to push for policies that prioritize affordable housing, equitable healthcare, and the protection of civil rights.

* SHAPING PUBLIC POLICY

Through MCARE's public pressure campaigns, we shaped proposals from the City of Miami, preventing harmful policies from taking effect.

* MEDIA ADVOCACY

MCARE, along with our Board Members and Executive Director David Peery, is routinely quoted in local and national media outlets spotlighting effective, humane solutions to homelessness and challenging the dominant, dehumanizing narrative that unfairly blames individuals experiencing poverty.

* HUMAN RIGHTS

We engaged with the United Nations Human Rights Committee, in Geneva, Switzerland, to provide critical updates on the United States' lack of compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), a key human rights treaty ratified by the U.S. in 1992.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR FIRST THREE YEARS:

- "Housekeys Not Handcuffs" rallies at Miami City Hall to oppose the city's anti-camping ordinance.
- Campaign to defeat the proposal to exile people experiencing homelessness to Virginia Key Island.
- "Feeding People Is Not a Crime" campaign to repeal restrictions on serving food to groups of people experiencing homelessness in Miami.
- Presentation on the criminalization of homelessness to the United Nations Human Rights Committee in Geneva, Switzerland.
- "Homeless Solidarity Sleepover" at Lummus Park in Miami Beach.
- Presentation on the national rise of homelessness criminalization policies to leaders of 18 federal agencies at the White House in Washington, DC.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The MCARE Board of Directors serves as the governing body of the Miami Coalition to Advance Racial Equity (MCARE), providing strategic oversight and leadership to guide our mission. Comprised of dedicated community leaders, advocates, and professionals, the board ensures that MCARE's initiatives align with our vision of equity and justice. Their collective expertise and commitment drive our efforts to create sustainable change, address systemic inequities, and empower our communities.



Cortés Marià Lewis
Chair



Adrian Madriz
Vice Chair



Jordan Brooks, MD, JD, MPH
Treasurer



Matthew Marr, PhD
Secretary



Stephen Schnably, JD



Jeffrey Agron, JD

STAFF



David Peery, JD
Founder and Executive Director



Soribel Genao, PhD
Special Strategic Advisor



Kat Duesterhaus
Communications Director

COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD



Tamar Ezer
Vice Chair



Soribel Genao, PhD
Chair



Camilo Mejia



Aliyah Esquivel



José Santiago



Armando Garcia



Sam Chesser



Princess Harper



Ariana Hernandez-Reguant, PhD



Audrey Aradanas

The MCARE Community Advisory Board is composed of subject matter experts and grassroots advocates.

It serves as a vital link between the community and MCARE, offering a platform for diverse voices—including social justice leaders and individuals with lived experience of homelessness—to advance racial equity.

The CAB advises MCARE on policies and practices aimed at dismantling racial inequalities, while also educating and engaging the community on key issues of racial justice.

FUTURE OUTLOOK

MCARE Chair Cortés Marià Lewis

As MCARE celebrates its third year, the organization is poised to expand its impact significantly in the fight for racial justice and equity across Miami-Dade County. Building on our initial successes of its first three years—ranging from influential advocacy campaigns to the establishment of key partnerships—MCARE aims to deepen its focus on housing justice to advance racial equity throughout Miami Dade County.

One of the primary areas of focus in the coming years will be opposing the criminalization of homelessness, as Miami continues to enact punitive measures instead of community driven solutions. MCARE plans to amplify its advocacy for Housing First solutions and push for policies that decriminalize homelessness, particularly in Miami and Miami Beach, where the organization has already played a vital role in spotlighting these issues.

MCARE's Community Advisory Board, formed in 2024, will play a critical role in shaping the coalition's future work. By integrating the lived experiences and expertise of local community members into policy recommendations and grassroots efforts, MCARE will ensure that its initiatives remain community-led and responsive to evolving needs. Regular annual strategic meetings will help refine the organization's priorities, allowing MCARE to stay agile in its responses to emerging challenges.



By fostering a broad coalition of allies—including activists, community leaders, and policymakers—MCARE aims to create a Miami where racial equity is not an aspiration but a reality. The annual Miami Racial Equity Awards Luncheon, now a cornerstone event, will continue to highlight and uplift local champions of justice, with future honorees serving as catalysts for progress.

In short, MCARE's future will be defined by continued innovation, community collaboration, and unwavering commitment to dismantling systemic racism in all its forms. As the coalition moves forward, its work will remain grounded in the belief that racial equity is not only possible but essential for the well-being and prosperity of all Miamians.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

MCARE Treasurer Jordan Brooks, MD, JD, MPH

MCARE, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, experienced significant financial growth and stability in 2024, marking a milestone year for our young organization. Our partnership with the National Coalition for the Homeless, operating their South Region Field Office, provided a steady foundation for our operations. This ongoing contract has ensured a reliable revenue stream, enabling us to expand our reach and deepen our impact.

In addition, MCARE received over \$80,000 in unsolicited donations and grants this year. This generous outpouring of support from donors and partners not only demonstrates confidence in our mission but also allowed us to double our total revenues compared to 2023. These funds empowered us to make critical investments, including hiring dedicated staff to further our work.

As we look ahead, MCARE anticipates continued growth fueled by expanding partnerships and an increasing base of supporters. With our strengthened financial position, we are well-equipped to advance our mission and broaden our impact, bringing us closer to a future where homelessness is addressed with dignity and systemic change.

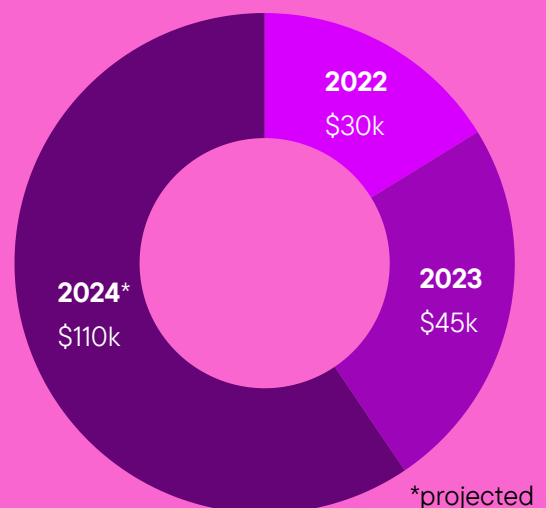
We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has supported us, making 2024 a transformative year for MCARE. Together, we are building a brighter tomorrow.



INCOME

The growing impact of our organization is reflected in our growing income. We are honored to be supported by individual partners, donors, grants, and other funding sources.

Thank you for contributing to our mission of advancing racial equity in Miami.



COALITION PARTNERS

NATIONAL COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI LAW SCHOOL HUMAN RIGHTS CLINIC

CATALYST MIAMI

DADE COUNTY STREET RESPONSE

FLORIDA JUSTICE INSTITUTE

MIAMI CLIMATE ALLIANCE

NATIONAL HOMELESSNESS LAW CENTER

SELF HELP CREDIT UNION

SMASH MIAMI

ACLU HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM

BANS OFF MIAMI

BUDDY SYSTEM MIAMI

CLEO INSTITUTE

COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT ALLIANCE OF FLORIDA

ENGAGE MIAMI

FAMILY ACTION NETWORK MOVEMENT

FLORIDA CLINICIANS FOR CLIMATE ACTION

FLORIDA NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN

IHELP

MIAMI HOMES FOR ALL

MIAMI WORKERS CENTER

NAACP MIAMI

NATIONAL HOMELESSNESS LAW CENTER

PEOPLE PODIUM

TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM (MIAMI BEACH)

WECOUNT!

WOMEN'S MARCH FLORIDA

YAYA POR VIDA

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

National Coalition for the Homeless
University of Miami Law School Human Rights Clinic

"Through the unwavering partnership of the National Coalition for the Homeless and the University of Miami Human Rights Clinic, we've made a tangible impact in our fight for justice and dignity for all. Your commitment inspires us every day. Thank you for standing with us and strengthening our mission."

– David Peery, Executive Director, MCARE



OUR CAMPAIGNS



CITY OF MIAMI: ANTI-CAMPING ORDINANCE



OCTOBER 2021

Miami City Commissioners proposed an anti-camping ordinance that bans homeless encampments and authorizes police to arrest violators.

The measure authorized police to arrest people living on the streets if they've been offered and refuse a shelter bed. It defines an "encampment" as a tent or any temporary living structure, people using camping stoves, grills or cooking fires and/or the "unauthorized accumulation of personal property," of up to three cubic feet. Police are directed to issue a written warning and give violators two hours to gather their things.

But activists and homeless people pointed out getting a shelter bed is not easy — the phone number the city lists is often out of service or has never-ending hold lines, when many homeless people don't have access to a telephone. People experiencing homelessness also shared that shelters frequently strip the homeless of dignity and self respect, can be dangerous and feel like prison.

OUR ADVOCACY

Although it technically passed in late October 2021, enforcement was suspended. After considerable debate and protest we secured an amendment requiring a designated safe area for people experiencing homelessness before the law could be enforced. As no such designated area exists, the law can not be enforced.

68

Activists joined our coalition.

>100

Activists gave public testimony.

CITY OF MIAMI: ENCAMPMENT SWEEPS

OPPOSING & DOCUMENTING SWEEPS

Sweeps Documented:

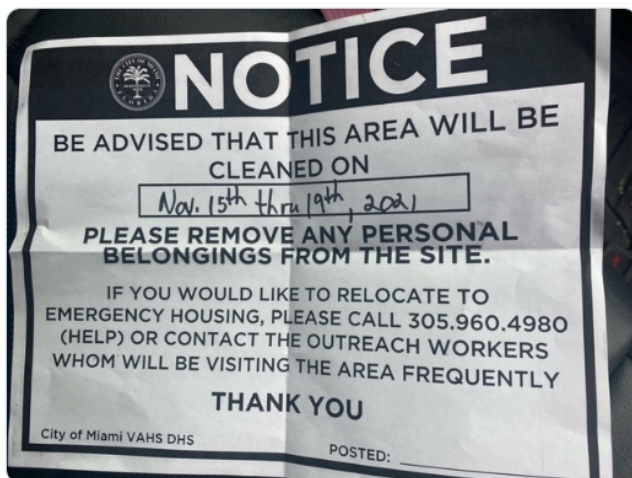
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David Peery
@dvpeery

ALERT: Miami City workers are handing out this alarming notice of a week-long sweep of encampments starting Mon, Nov 15 in the downtown Miami "Lot 16" Wharf Area at SW 2nd Street between Miami Avenue and the Miami River.

We ask local activists to pls monitor!



9:15 AM · Nov 13, 2021



34 Reply Copy link

* NOV 2021: People living on the streets on SW 2nd Street, between Miami Avenue and the Miami River received a notice from the city warning of street cleaning within the next week. The notice, from the Department of Homeless Services was posted around city parking lots underneath the I-95 overpass, directs people to remove personal items from the area so it can be “cleaned.” When MCARE arrived to monitor the operation, the City suspended its “cleanup.”

* JUNE 2022: Legal Services of Greater Miami, Southern Legal Counsel, and the ACLU of Florida filed a lawsuit alleging that the city violated the constitutional rights of the plaintiffs — Cooper-Levy, Phillip Silverin, Sherman Rivers, and Joseph Simmons — by indiscriminately tossing out their belongings. The City of Miami settled the lawsuit with a \$300,000 payment to the plaintiffs.

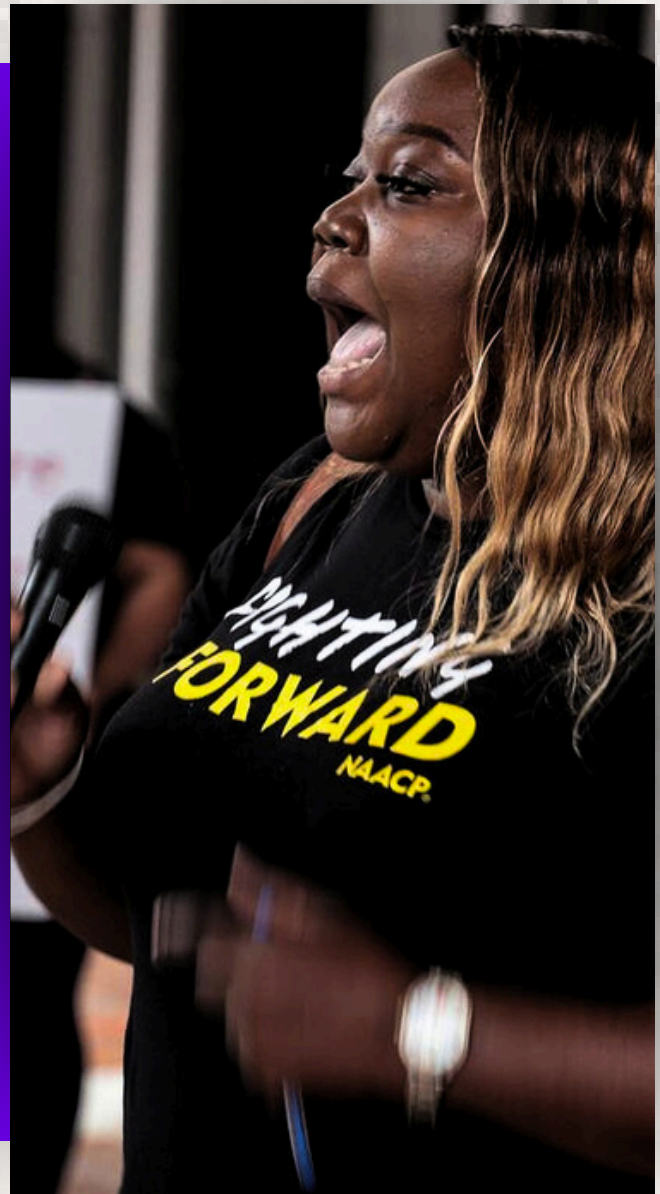
RENT IS TOO DAMN HIGH

MARCH 2022

A national ranking of rental costs from apartment-listing company Redfin found the greater Miami area, which includes Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach, had the fifth highest rent increases in the country, up 31%, in 2022.

MCARE and our partner the Struggle for Miami's Affordable and Sustainable Housing (SMASH) organized two "Rent is Too Damn High" rallies at the Government Center in Downtown Miami to coincide with Miami-Dade commissioners passing a ordinance requiring 60-day notice for rent increases over 5%.

Miami Dade County Mayor, Daniella Levine-Cava, joined the event and declared that the current path of soaring rents was not sustainable. "I'm with you 100%," she told participants. "The rent is too damn high. We're grateful for you stepping up and being the voice of the community for this crisis that cannot continue."



PEOPLE'S TRIBUNAL

APRIL 2022

In April 2022, MCARE held a Peoples Tribunal in partnership with the University of Miami Law School Human Rights Clinic to critique and pass judgment on Miami's Large Group Feeding Ordinance that chokes off vital food service to Miami's homeless.

Judges found the City of Miami guilty of cruelly using hunger as a weapon against the poor.





VIRGINIA KEY BEACH

SEPTEMBER 2022

In July 2021, Miami City Commissioner Joe Carollo proposed creating a “transition zone” for people experiencing homelessness, featuring 50 to 100 tiny homes on Virginia Key—a remote barrier island that historically served as a Black beach during the Jim Crow era. MCARE, along with other racial equity and Housing First advocates, condemned the plan, arguing that isolating Miami’s homeless population—60% of whom are Black—on a historically Black beach outside the city would reintroduce segregation to Miami.

The City Commission preliminarily approved the plan in July, with Carollo, Chairwoman Christine King, and Commissioner Alex de la Portilla voting in favor. The city also evicted the Virginia Key Outdoor Center, a popular kayak rental company, citing unpaid rent and code violations.

In response, MCARE and its coalition partners circulated an online petition that garnered over 18,000 signatures and widespread media attention. MCARE led rallies outside Miami City Hall at the following commission meeting.

Due to intense public backlash, the commission eventually decided to “postpone” the plan.

18k

petition signatures



WIN!

the measure was postponed



LOCAL POWER TOUR

JUNE 2023

PRESS CONFERENCE

Miami was a stop on the National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH) Building Local Power Tour.

MCARE joined NCH for a press conference held at City Hall to call out local leaders for their failure to address the housing crisis or provide trauma informed compassionate responses to homelessness.





FEEDING PEOPLE IS NOT A CRIME

JUNE 2023



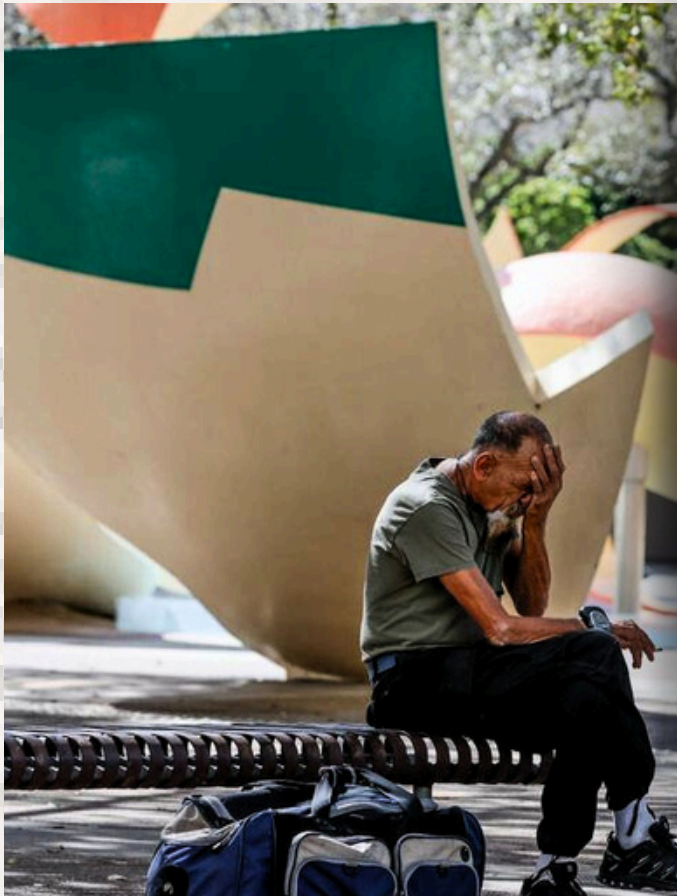
MCARE's "Feeding People is Not a Crime" campaign aims to repeal Miami's unjust and racially discriminatory Large Group Feeding Ordinance, which restricts the distribution of life-sustaining food to our unhoused neighbors. This ordinance perpetuates a system that criminalizes compassion, while the government continues to neglect its responsibility to provide for those in need.

In a powerful act of civil disobedience, MCARE, NCH, and coalition advocates have distributed food to people experiencing homelessness in downtown Miami, directly challenging this cruel law. Despite law enforcement officers being present and aware of the legal violation, they refused to enforce the ordinance. This highlights the selective enforcement used to intimidate and punish those who fill the gap left by the government's failure to care for its most vulnerable citizens. The campaign seeks to expose these inequities and demand a humane solution that prioritizes dignity and basic human rights for all.

DISBAND THE HEAT:

IT HAS A HARMFUL IMPACT ON MIAMI'S HOMELESS POPULATION | MIAMI HERALD OPINION PIECE

SEPTEMBER 2023



3,657

Population of people experiencing homelessness in Miami



+151%

Predicted increase in overdose deaths, if sweeps continue at their current pace



+11%

Predicted drop in life expectancy



+50%

Predicted rise in hospitalizations



-38%

Predicted decrease in medication for opiate use disorder

BY DAVID PEERY AND SABRINA HENNECKE

SEPTEMBER 07, 2023

Executive Director David Peery and MCARE Director Dr. Sabrina Hennecke authored an opinion piece for the Miami Herald on the Miami Police Department's "Homeless Empowerment Assistance Team," also known as the police HEAT unit.

"Armed with deadly force, this unit leads a team of city street cleaners who conduct daily sweeps of homeless encampments in Miami. These sweeps routinely displace the homeless, confiscate their belongings and scatter them without regard for a person's dignity or humanity. Recent groundbreaking research published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) confirms the negative consequences of these sweeps. According to the study, these actions lead to increased hospitalizations, drug overdoses and early deaths among the homeless population. We come to this issue as a physician and as a lawyer and homeless advocate, bringing two decades of combined experience. The JAMA study supports what we've witnessed: Homeless encampment sweeps, led locally by the Miami Police HEAT unit, have dire health implications for those forced to sleep on the city's streets. **These sweeps constitute a form of violence against the homeless.**"

UNITED NATIONS

OCTOBER 2023

While Miami Beach commissioners were passing an ordinance authorizing police to arrest people sleeping outside if they refuse to go to a shelter, MCARE's Executive Director David Peery was in Geneva, Switzerland, arguing that such laws are human rights violations.

Representatives from the U.S. State Department periodically meet with the United Nations Human Rights Committee to give updates on our country's compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), a treaty the U.S. ratified in 1992.

At the meeting that week in Geneva, Peery and other advocates contended that laws criminalizing homelessness violate terms of the treaty.

A report by the National Homelessness Law Center and the University of Miami School of Law Human Rights Clinic contends that laws targeting the homeless, including bans on camping and loitering, violate rights to life, liberty and "to be free from torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment" outlined in the treaty.

The report cites Miami Beach's ordinance, which passed in October 2023, plus the city's 2017 hiring of a special prosecutor for "nuisance" crimes. It also cites the City of Miami's ordinance to crack down on group feedings and its ban camping on public property.

Peery told Axios: "Because Miami Beach prohibits shelters to operate within its city boundaries, this ordinance will result in the human rights abuses of mass deportations or arrests of the city's homeless population for the 'crime' of being poor."



CITY OF MIAMI BEACH

JULY 2024

On July 29th, 2024, MCARE led a demonstration at Miami Beach City Hall to protest the city's harmful new policy to deport or arrest people experiencing homelessness under the guise of providing "help." The demonstration called attention to the city's criminalization of homelessness, which exacerbates the issue rather than addressing its root causes.

The rally emphasized that housing is the most cost-effective and sustainable solution to homelessness, as opposed to arresting individuals who refuse to be displaced to shelters in other cities. The policy disproportionately targets vulnerable individuals, with around 60% of Miami's homeless population being Black, further highlighting the racial injustice at play.

Participants held signs and chanted, "Housing, not handcuffs," and "Arresting people IS the crime," sending a clear message to the media and city officials: Miami Beach must stop criminalizing poverty and instead invest in solutions that provide real support to those in need.


Coverage from local news media outlets included important talking points that challenged the City's harmful narrative and policy.

STOP ARRESTING THE HOMELESS

PROTEST AT THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH'S PRESS CONFERENCE

**MON
JULY 29
3:00P**


**MIAMI BEACH
CITY HALL
1700
CONVENTION
CENTER DR.**



The City of Miami Beach will hold a press conference to announce a new push to deport or arrest all homeless people in the city in August. They are doing this under the guise of "helping" the homeless.

Join us to protest this cruel and ineffective policy and demand the city stop arresting people for being poor.

WE STAND TOGETHER





Kat Grimmett, Kat Duesterhaus and David Peery protest during a press conference about Operation Heat Relief on Monday, July 29, 2024 at Miami Beach City Hall. Alexia Fodere for *The Miami Herald*

HOMELESS SOLIDARITY SLEEPOVER

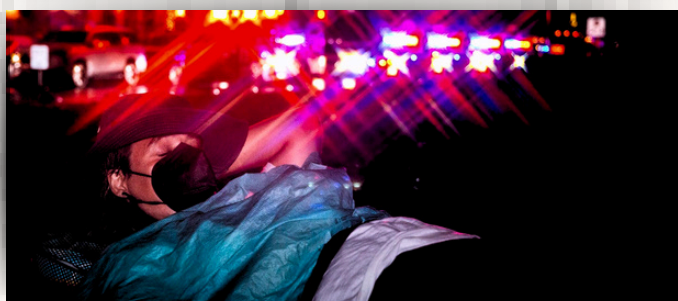
AUGUST 2024

Nearly half of all arrests made in Miami Beach in 2024 have been of people experiencing homelessness.

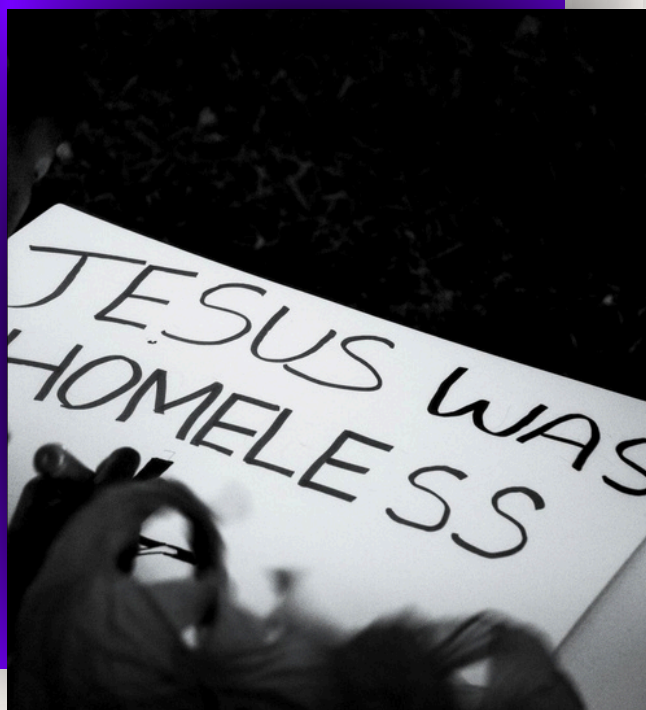
On August 3rd, 2024 MCARE organized a homeless solidarity sleepover to demand the City end this cruel and ineffective policy. The event was supported by coalition partners and featured a candlelight vigil in honor of those who have passed away in housing crisis.

A single violation of the City's anti-public-sleeping law can cost tax payers more than \$17k. According to Apartments.com, \$17k could cover the price of studio in the City for a whole year.

The demonstration was covered by multiple local news media outlets.



Sleepover held in South Beach park to protest 'cruel' treatment of homeless people



U.S. WHITE HOUSE

ADVOCATING FOR FEDERAL ACTION ON THE CRIMINALIZATION OF HOMELESSNESS

SEPTEMBER 2024



BREAKING NEWS

MCARE Executive Director David Peery Is Meeting With Biden-Harris Administration Officials to Urge Federal Action on Criminalization of Homelessness in Florida

Housing

Health

In September 2024, MCARE's Executive Director, David Peery, met with senior officials of the Biden-Harris administration as part of a delegation led by the American Civil Liberties Union Civil Society. Peery, along with Siya Hegde, Esq. of the National Homelessness Law Center, urged the federal government to take decisive action against the rising criminalization of homelessness, particularly highlighting Florida's HB 1365—a law making it illegal for unhoused individuals to sleep on public property, set to take effect October 1, 2024.

Peery's advocacy was rooted in a call for federal intervention to stop laws like HB 1365, which disproportionately affect Black and brown communities. MCARE's position was clear: these laws represent human rights violations, deepen racial disparities, and reinforce cycles of mass incarceration. Peery also drew attention to the United Nations Human Rights Committee's recent findings that criticized the United States for failing to address such human rights abuses.

MCARE's work, alongside the National Homelessness Law Center, continues to emphasize that solutions to homelessness lie in housing and supportive services—not punishment. Their efforts align with MCARE's broader mission to dismantle systemic racism, with a focus on affordable housing and healthcare as fundamental human rights.

RACIAL EQUITY AWARDS



The MCARE Racial Equity Awards honor individuals and organizations driving transformative change in Miami's fight for racial justice. Each year, the awards spotlight grassroots activists, policymakers, and young leaders who exemplify commitment to equity, inclusion, and social justice. The event serves as a platform to celebrate these change-makers, inspire community action, and uplift marginalized voices. The event also utilizes local minority-owned venues and businesses for catering and event logistics, reinforcing MCARE's commitment to community investment.

The 2023 Racial Equity Awards were held at the SMASH House in Liberty City. It featured a keynote speech by Zelalem Adefris, CEO of Catalyst Miami, on grassroots empowerment and systemic injustice. We also played a special tribute to the late Liberty City activist Danny Agnew, whose legacy of community empowerment inspired attendees.

2023 Government Service Hero: Senator Shevrin "Shev" Jones, for defending African-American studies.
2023 Community Activist Hero: Valencia Gunder, for her advocacy for vulnerable populations.
2023 Young Activist Hero: Jonathan Gartrelle, for his fight against systemic inequities.

The 2024 Racial Equity Awards were held at the Liberty City Community Center. It featured a keynote speech by Michael Langley of the Florida Justice Institute, who delivered an inspiring address on the intersection of justice and equity. We also played a special tribute to the late Ti Ayiti activist and founding MCARE board member Michael Clarkson, for his tireless work advocating for systemic change and equity.

2024 Government Service Hero: Representative Ashley Gantt, for her advocacy in the legislature.
2024 Community Activist Hero: Dr. Armen Henderson, for providing healthcare to marginalized groups and being a leading voice against the criminalization of poverty.
2024 Young Activist Heroes: Giovanni Moise and Saviaun Bramwell-Grant, for their work with the People Podium amplifying community voices.

MEDIA COVERAGE

MARCH 3, 2021 ✱ MIAMI NEW TIMES

"The city intends to double down on civil liberties violations by installing creepy surveillance video cameras to monitor the homeless. But there's nothing in the plan to increase shelter capacity or fund affordable housing. This is a big deal, with major public policy implications for all of Miami-Dade County," said Peery

OCTOBER 21, 2021 ✱ MIAMI HERALD

"Commissioner Carollo is distracting attention away from a very serious problem that we have with homelessness in our city ... It feels intended to make fun of activists," he said, adding that the resolution was taking away from having a "substantive discussion" about solutions to end homelessness.

NOVEMBER 19, 2021 ✱ MED PAGE TODAY

Peery illustrated with examples from Miami how criminalizing homelessness can have a significant impact on health. "We have documented instances of a woman going into convulsions on the street because her medication had been thrown away by city workers just hours earlier, and ... of individuals who are disabled, who have had their own walkers and wheelchairs ... thrown away," he said.

NOVEMBER 22, 2021 ✱ MIAMI HERALD

"The anxiety is thick in the air," Peery said. "These are not just cleanups. In the past, they've been violent actions that traumatize people. And we don't know what's going on now and how it's gonna be implemented."

DECEMBER 9, 2021 ✱ PRISM

"The problem is that there are more people out on the streets than there are resources available to meet their needs," says David Peery, the founder of Miami Coalition to Advance Racial Equality. "Shelters do not end homelessness, they don't provide a path. Shelters are not permanent housing."

FEBRUARY 4, 2022 ✱ CBS MIAMI

"To me, it's no surprise that you'll see somebody out there who is exerting violence on the homeless given that the city has created an environment of dehumanization of the homeless," said Peery who blames the City of Miami for the increase in crime against the population.

FEBRUARY 8, 2022 ✱ THE MIAMI TIMES

"The violence that people experiencing homelessness are exposed to on a regular basis is horrific and tragic," said David Peery, a homeless rights advocate leading the Miami Coalition to Advance Racial Equity. "[These incidents] are just an extreme example of the dangers people who are unhoused faced."

AUGUST 10, 2022 ✱ PRISM

According to Peery, the decision already reeks of racism, but, in Miami where 57% of the houseless population is Black, all policies regarding houselessness are going to have racial equity implications. For the approximately 40-60% of the population that works, commuting several miles without a car and using unreliable public transportation will become difficult if not impossible.

AUGUST 30, 2022 ✱ THE MIAMI TIMES

Peery and Annie Lord, executive director of Miami Homes For All, told The Miami Times that the Homeless Trust's offer to partner with the city on buying existing multifamily buildings is a step in the right direction. "We would support that," Peery said. "It's a productive way to go rather than wasting resources banishing homeless people to an isolated island. That is absolutely insane."

SEPTEMBER 23, 2022 ✱ PRISM

"The postponement is illusory, and it's not real; it's a political tactic to let the opposition die down because there's been overwhelming public opposition to this," said Peery. "It's simply a tactic to wait and then ram it through in the dead of night like the Miami City Commission usually does with unpopular issues like this."

JULY 11, 2023 ✱ ABC NEWS TAMPA

It's a short statement from Mayor Suarez that has sprung outrage and confusion, "Now instead of 6 thousand homeless, we have 608, and I am not finished yet."

"He's really not been at the forefront or the mid-front or the back front. He's taken a rather passive role," states David Peery, the founder and executive director of Miami Coalition to Advance Racial Equity.

SEPTEMBER 11, 2023 ✳️ **AXIOS NEWS**

"It is not a crime to be poor and unable to afford a home," David Peery, chair of the Miami Coalition to Advance Racial Equity (MCARE), said in an emailed action alert opposing the ordinance. He said homeless people would effectively be "deported" to Miami, where shelter beds are located. "Given that Miami's homeless population is 60 percent Black, this ordinance will create a new Jim Crow," he said.

SEPTEMBER 12, 2023 ✳️ **AXIOS NEWS**

MCARE's executive director David Peery tells Axios that the city's current policies — relying largely on temporary shelters and employing a police unit that sweeps homeless camps and disposes of people's tents and belongings — aren't working. "[The police unit] has cost us nearly \$1 million," since last year, he said, adding that homelessness increased 23% in that time, according to an estimate from the Homeless Trust.

OCTOBER 19, 2023 ✳️ **AXIOS NEWS**

David Peery, executive director of the Miami Coalition to Advance Racial Equity, tells Axios that he brought up Miami's new law in public remarks to the UN committee. "Because Miami Beach prohibits shelters to operate within its city boundaries, this ordinance will result in the human rights abuses of mass deportations or arrests of the city's homeless population for the 'crime' of being poor," he says.

FEBRUARY 22, 2024 ✳️ **PRISM**

"It's an incredibly discriminatory, racist, elitist, and repressive bill that looks to dehumanize the poor, the Black, and the homeless and designate people as undesirable and take them out of the cities where they can't afford these increasingly unaffordable, escalating skyrocketing rents and put them into camps outside of cities," said David Peery, a formerly houseless advocate and the founder of Miami Coalition to Advance Racial Equity. "This has been a longstanding goal of certain really fascist repressive people throughout the years."

MARCH 29, 2024 ✳️ **MIAMI HERALD**

"The only service that truly affects homelessness are homes," Peery said. "If somebody refuses shelter, it in no way says they want to be on the streets. It simply says that, because shelters present so many problems for them, they'd rather take their chances on the streets."

APRIL 21, 2024 ✳️ **USA TODAY**

Peery, who is Black, briefly ended up behind bars after a Miami landlord evicted him when he got laid off during the Great Recession in 2008. He was homeless for the next 10 years. "Aside from the fact that it takes you away from where you're at and scatters you, the hit to your psyche just sends you into a fog," Peery said, adding, "there's a huge racial equity component to this."

AUGUST 3, 2024 ✳️ **MIAMI HERALD**

Peery called the anti-camping ordinance "racist" and said it is reminiscent of Miami Beach's history as a "sundown town." A sundown town refers to a place where Black people were historically required to leave before nightfall or risk being arrested or threats of violence. He said policies like the anti-camping ordinance make the city "hostile to Black people and people of color."

AUGUST 6, 2024 ✳️ **MIAMI HERALD**

"It's horrible, and it won't work," Peery said of the city's public sleeping ban. Peery's organization, the Miami Coalition to Advance Racial Equity, hosted Monday's protest. In Miami Beach, unhoused individuals make up 40% of arrests, despite making up less than one percent of the city's population, Peery said. Arresting people for sleeping in public diverts police resources that could be used to address more serious crimes, he added.

AUGUST 15, 2024 ✳️ **PRISM**

"What the city of Miami Beach is doing is, quite frankly, a violation of human rights," said Peery, accusing the city of systematically removing homeless residents and either arresting them or relocating them to varying neighborhoods as far as Richmond Heights, 30 miles south of Miami Beach. "It's creating a humanitarian crisis."

SEPTEMBER 17, 2024 ✳️ **WLRN**

"It's simply making it illegal now to be homeless. And you're not homeless because of anything you did, you're homeless because we live in the most expensive housing market in the nation and because the minimum wage is nowhere near enough to afford a living space," said Peery. "But even worse is that it has provisions in it that allow private citizens to sue cities to compel them to go after the homeless."

MENTIONS IN 20+ ARTICLES



MIAMI NEW TIMES * MARCH 3, 2021

"The city intends to double down on civil liberties violations by installing creepy surveillance video cameras to monitor the homeless. But there's nothing in the plan to increase shelter capacity or fund affordable housing. This is a big deal, with major public policy implications for all of Miami-Dade County," said Peery



AXIOS NEWS * SEPTEMBER 11, 2023

"It is not a crime to be poor and unable to afford a home," David Peery, chair of the Miami Coalition to Advance Racial Equity (MCARE), said in an emailed action alert opposing the ordinance. He said homeless people would effectively be "deported" to Miami, where shelter beds are located. "Given that Miami's homeless population is 60 percent Black, this ordinance will create a new Jim Crow," he said.



MIAMI HERALD * AUGUST 6, 2024

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CONTACT US

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FEEDING PEOPLE IS NOT A CRIME

FOOD
INCENTIVISES
LIFE,
NOT
HOMELESSNESS

HOMELESSNESS
RESULTS FROM
THE
GOVERNMENT
FAILING ITS
PEOPLE

STOP
MIAMI'S
WAR
AGAINST
THE POOR

Join MCARE'S campaign to
repeal the cruel and
immoral Large Group
Feeding ordinance.

VISIT US WWW.MIAMIRACIALEQUITY.ORG/



MCARE MIXER

APRIL 14 @ 6-10PM
1611 NW 65TH ST
MIAMI, FL 33147

Join the Miami Coalition to Advance Racial Equity for the
launch of the Friends Advancing Racial Equity (FIRE) Network!
Join other young advocates fighting for racial justice in Miami!
Light refreshments & drinks will be provided.
RSVP at: bit.ly/mcaremixer

NATIONAL COALITION TO
HOMELESS MCARE @miamiraciaequity
www.miamiraciaequity.org

TONIGHT! HOMELESS SOLIDARITY SLEEPOVER IN MIAMI BEACH

7pm Aug 3 to 7am Aug 4
Lummas Park - 11th and Ocean Drive
Stop the criminalization of homelessness.
Everyone deserves a home!
register at bit.ly/augsteeperover



STOP THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH'S CRIMINALIZATION OF HOMELESSNESS

Criminalization of homelessness is an expensive way
to make homelessness worse.



The City of Miami
Beach can not and will
not arrest its way out
of homelessness.



Homelessness is a
housing issue, a health
issue and a human
rights issue. It is not a
criminal justice issue.



Tell Miami Beach City
Commissioners to
drop the misguided
proposal to arrest
people for the "crime"
of being poor.



Wednesday
September 13, 2023
8:30 AM
Miami Beach Convention Center
1901 Convention Center Drive
Second Floor
Meeting rooms 222-225



You Don't Need a Home to Vote!

Community Anti- Racism Engagement

- FOOD SHARING
- VOTER EDUCATION
- VOTER REGISTRATION

SAT, SEPT 10 NOON-2PM



Meet at Municipal Parking Lot 15
200 SW 1st St, Miami, FL 33130



9am October 28th Housing Justice Rally Protest the Criminalization of Homelessness

Meet in front of Miami City Hall
~3500 Pan American Drive~

OPPOSING the anti-camping ordinance

Call To Action: Raise Your Voice
Give A 2 Min. Public Comment
For More Information Go To: Linktr.ee/MCARE

COMMUNITY DINNER

Hosted by Miami Coalition to
Advance Racial Equity (MCARE)

November
10 2022

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
Theodore Gibson Park
350 NW 13th St, Miami,
FL 33136

LOCAL POWER TOUR



JUNE 5TH - JUNE 9TH 2023



MCARE



NATIONAL COALITION
HOMELESS

Weeklong intensive advocacy to stop Miami's criminalization of homelessness and
promote the Housing First concept

Meetings with policy-makers, advocates and homeless service providers to
collaborate on productive solutions to end homelessness

MIAMI RENT TOO DAMN HIGH RALLY

AT COUNTY COMMISSION
MEETING
TUES, MAY 3RD AT 9AM

THE FIGHT CONTINUES! TAKE ACTION NOW!

Come to the County
Commission Meeting and
make your voice heard!



STEPHEN P CLARK GOVERNMENT CENTER
111 NW 1ST ST, MIAMI, FL 33132
BIT.LY/RENTTOODAMNHIGHMIAMI



SAY NO TO THE NEW JIM CROW

Protest the racist plan to deport Miami's
60% Black homeless population to the
island of Miami-Dade's historic
segregated beach.

@MIAMIRACIALEQUITY



SEPT 13
9-11AM
MIAMI
CITY HALL

New Date!