



BLM GRASSROOTS

2024 ACTION REPORT





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BLM GRASSROOTS

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A MESSAGE FROM

BLM GRASSROOTS

In the midst of rising fascism, abolition is more urgent now than ever. Black Lives Matter Grassroots stands as the tip of the spear, taking on the heavy lift of upending state-sanctioned violence and white-supremacist oppression and building towards a world of Black freedom.

Eleven years strong and Black Lives Matter Grassroots continues to build a synergistic movement with 39 frontline chapters and thousands of organizers around the nation. We are grounded in an abounding spirit and a heart pumped full by the righteous, revolutionary freedom fighters before us. We are powered by the vision and will of the people who make revolutionary love and transformative change real. And, we commit to make manifest a world fit for the inheritance of our children and future generations.

Especially in the sight of pure evil that seeks to overwhelm us with assaults too many, too constant, and too great to measure, we beat back our enemies and never lose sight of the world that we seek to build...a world where we have all of what we need and most of what we want, a world where our talents are

nurtured to be offered to community and to fulfill our own souls.

In many ways, this Action Report is a reminder of our own power. In 2024 we brought in six new chapters, two of them led by the families of those killed by police. We formalized our Justice Families network, strengthening the bond between the families of those stolen by police and white-supremacist violence and organizers. We have been courageous and vocal in our positions, connecting our fight for Black freedom with that of oppressed people around the world - especially in Palestine.

The Report is broken down into seven interlocking areas: 1) Action - Rapid Response and national campaigns, 2) Education - political education and Youth Vanguard support, 3) Communications - our radio program, newly-launched monthly newsletter, and Black media solidarity, 4) Development - our chapter-based work and Hip Hop initiatives, 5) Policy and Advocacy - the policy work moving in honor of #WakieshaWilson and #AndrewJosephIII and how advocacy for non-reformist-reform, 6) Direct Support - our Justice Families and how we "love and protect one another" in tangible ways, and 7)

Abolition - a glimpse into a world without prisons that descend from plantations and police that descend from paddyrollers.

Black Lives Matter Grassroots moves because the people move it. We are not rich. We stand on frontlines, not red carpets. The work is a divine calling and a sacred duty. Even in the midst, we remain grateful...grateful for divine guidance, grateful for the righteous freedom fighters, grateful for purpose, and grateful for the knowingness that when we fight, we win.

May this Action Report inspire, bolster, and deepen your commitment. Plug in to the work by following @blmgrassroots on social media.

In Love and Beautiful Struggle,

Melina

Melina Abdullah, Ph.D.
Co-Founder & Director
Black Lives Matter Grassroots



AREA 1

ACTION

Black Lives Matter Grassroots is a boots-on-the-ground organization that is constantly taking direct action to win Black freedom. Listed below is a summary of the select national campaigns undertaken in 2024.

BLACK WOMEN ARE DIVINE

Inspired by the bright spirit of #BreonnaTaylor, who was murdered by Louisville police in 2020, Black Lives Matter Grassroots initiated Black Women Are Divine as a reclamation of Black women's divinity. It is a reminder that while the world attempts to make Black women into mules, Black women are divine. In 2024, Black Women Are Divine took shape as love and healing festivals in Atlanta (GA), Benton Harbor (MI), Boise (ID), Flint (MI), Long Beach (CA), Los Angeles (CA), Richmond (VA), and Tampa (FL). Breonna's family joined the Los Angeles celebration. The campaign also included a social media component, where "divine Black women" were honored online each day in March.

#BLACKXMAS

#BlackXmas was initiated in 2014 after #JohnCrawford was murdered by police inside a Walmart store in Beavercreek, Ohio. Police were called on this young Black father as he examined store merchandise—an airsoft rifle—in the aisle. We know that white-supremacist capitalism uses police violence to protect its profits. #YvetteHenderson, #DennisToddRogers, #AlbertRamonDorsey, #StevenTaylor, #RedelJones, and #SkyYoung, along with John, are all striking examples. This same white-supremacist capitalism advances hyper-criminalization to feed the prison-industrial complex, utilizes prison slave labor, exploits Black workers, and cheats Black consumers. From "Black Friday" through January 1st (and all year round), Black Lives Matter Grassroots encourages everyone to:

1. Build Black - Invest in Black organizations that benefit the community.
2. Buy Black - Patronize Black-owned businesses that serve as community resources.
3. Bank Black - Move our money away from white-owned corporate banks to Black-owned banks that share our values.

As part of the effort to disrupt white-supremacist capitalism, a mass action is held each year. On December 23, 2024, hundreds mobilized to Trump Golf Course in Rancho Palos Verdes to shut down business as usual and demonstrate the power of the people. We sang "justice carols" and took over space with a flatbed stage, a food truck, music and a message that we will not submit.

#FREEPALESTINE

Black Lives Matter Grassroots is reported to be the first organization to release a statement in solidarity with the people of Palestine, which has by modest estimates now claimed the



BLM Grassroots members canvas outside Walmart in Torrance, California to educate the community about #BlackXmas.

lives of at least 100,000 Palestinians. In 2024, BLM Grassroots supported campus and street actions to demand an end to the genocide. Members of the Youth Vanguard were particularly involved. BLM Grassroots released additional statements in solidarity with students and helped to bolster their work.

JUSTICE FAMILIES

BLM Grassroots officially formed its own Justice Families circle, with Board member and mother of #AndrewJosephIII as lead. Each month families of those killed by police and white-supremacist violence convene virtually to provide support, share updates, build skills, and serve as an organized force of directly-impacted families. Chapters in Atlanta, Houston, Memphis, Milwaukee, New Orleans, and Tampa are founded, led, or co-led by Justice Families.

NATIONAL STOP COP CITY COALITION

BLM Grassroots is a part of the national Stop Cop City Coalition in the fight to end the expansion of militarized police training centers across the country. The effort was initiated by Community Movement Builders, Movement for Black Lives, and local frontline organizers in opposition to the massive “Cop City” planned for the Atlanta area. The Atlanta chapter has been an integral part of the organizing and BLM Grassroots activists and organizers from around the country have been a part of the strategy and frontline work. The effort has since grown to mobilize nationally against the more than 90 cop cities in different stages of planning around the United States. On October 22nd, the National Day Against Police Brutality, #StopCopNation actions were led by BLM Grassroots chapters in Detroit and Los Angeles, along with continued participation in Atlanta.

RAPID RESPONSE TEAM

The Rapid Response team provides boots-on-the-ground, responding to crises, organizing strategically, and engaging local communities in places where there are no BLM Grassroots

chapters. Immediate rapid response to state-sanctioned violence is coupled with community engagement and often seeds chapters, including the formation of the Buffalo, Houston, and New Orleans chapters. In 2024, the team continued to engage in the fight for justice in the names of: #RonaldGreene - an unarmed Black father who was killed by state troopers outside Monroe, Louisiana, #GlennFosterJr - a former New Orleans Saints football player who was killed in custody in Pickens County, Alabama, #StevePerkins - killed by police in his own driveway in Decatur, Alabama, Senior Airman #RogerFortson - killed by sheriffs in Okaloosa County, Florida, and #ErskinJenkins - a sophomore at Texas Tech killed by Lubbock County sheriffs. The team organizes press conferences, community forums, neighborhood canvasses, and works with local organizations to develop capacity, offer court support, structure demands and outline long-term plans. Rapid response also encompasses organizing that is national in scope. In July, 15 BLM Grassroots chapters held vigils in honor of #SonyaMassey, a Black mother who was shot dead by police in her own kitchen, after she suspected a stalker and called police for help.

VOTE & ORGANIZE!

Black Lives Matter Grassroots chapters across the country engaged in Vote & Organize! work, BLM Grassroots knows that our freedom struggle neither begins nor ends at the ballot box. We must organize before we vote and demand accountability after, regardless of who wins the electoral race and what ballot measures pass. In 2024, Vote & Organize! work included canvassing, voter education, hosting townhalls, registering voters, and calling for accountability within halls of power. Chapters in Atlanta, Birmingham, Boise, Charleston, Detroit, Flint, Houston, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Memphis, New Orleans, Pasadena, Port Huron, Tampa, and Torrance prioritized this work.

In Los Angeles, a key victory was the unseating of anti-Black City Councilman Kevin de Leon two years after he was caught on tape with three other Latinx “leaders” demeaning Black folks and conspiring to gerrymander City Council Districts. The BLMLA team and ally organizations camped out in front of his home for 18 straight days, bird-dogged him at events, held community forums, canvassed his district every single week, and ultimately built enough solidarity in the overwhelmingly Latino district to vote him out in November. In Houston, the District Attorney who refused to prosecute the cop who killed #JalenRandle was ousted after a years-long effort spearheaded by Jalen’s family. BLM Phoenix was instrumental in the passage of Proposition 139, enshrining abortion rights into the State Constitution.

Additional victories included work led by the Detroit chapter that resulted in the adoption of the Farmer Husbandry Ordinance by Detroit City Council which expanded farming rights in Detroit to help with food sovereignty. One of our leads in the Birmingham and Alabama chapter served as the lead plaintiff in McClure v. Jefferson County Commission, a federal lawsuit challenging racially gerrymandered county commission districts. The case contends that the 2021 redistricting plan unlawfully packs Black voters into two supermajority-Black districts, diluting their electoral power and is in violation of the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. The trial commenced on January 13, 2025, they currently await the court's decision.



BLM Grassroots initiated Black Women Are Divine as a national call to Black women around the world to reclaim their divinity in the names of #BreonnaTaylor, #SandraBland, #WakieshaWilson and all Black women whose lives were stolen by state-sanctioned violence.

In 2024, BLM Grassroots recognized the following amazing, brilliant, courageous, and talented Black women:

Angela Curry
Angela Davis
Angela Nixon
Barbara Smith
Brittany Cooper
Clarissa Shields
Danielle Holmes
Dominique DiPrima
Dorothy Roberts
Dr. Oni Blackstock
Dr. Uché Blackstock
Elaine Brown
Erika Woods
Iva Voldasse
Jackie Johnson

Kehlani
Lonita Baker
Mama Charity Hicks
Mama Shu
Margaret Prescod
Mathu Joyini
Dr. E Hill De Loney
Nah Dove
Nina Turner
Rev Mother Erica
Ruha Benjamin
Sunni Patterson
Tawanna Petty
Trudy Goodwin

DR. E. HILL DE LONEY

Queen of Flint Juneteenth
1938-2024



BLM GRASSROOTS STATEMENT ON ~~TRUMP~~ ELECTION

Originally published November 6, 2024

As we face the reality of another term for blatant racist and adjudicated rapist, Donald Trump, it is crucial to remember that Black communities have survived and beat back white-supremacy and systemic oppression since we were first stolen from the shores of Africa. While the election result is a setback, it is also a clarion call. We must redouble our commitment to do the vital work of organizing. This means building community, radically imagining and working towards new systems, holding accountable those who claim to represent us, and fighting for and winning our collective freedom together.

For centuries, we have resisted oppression, organized movement, and built collective power. Our fight has never been dependent on who occupies the White House. It is driven by our sacred duty and our deep commitment to justice and the liberation of our people.

Although enraged, we are undaunted by the work that lies ahead. We reject the fascism and white-supremacy embodied by Donald Trump and his future administration and reaffirm our promise to mobilize and confront every policy, practice, and structure that perpetuates racial injustice and state-sanctioned violence. With unwavering resolve, we move forward, clear in our purpose and steadfast in our mission to build a world worthy of us. We are ready to fight in honor of our most righteous Ancestors, for the good of our people, our world, and future generations.

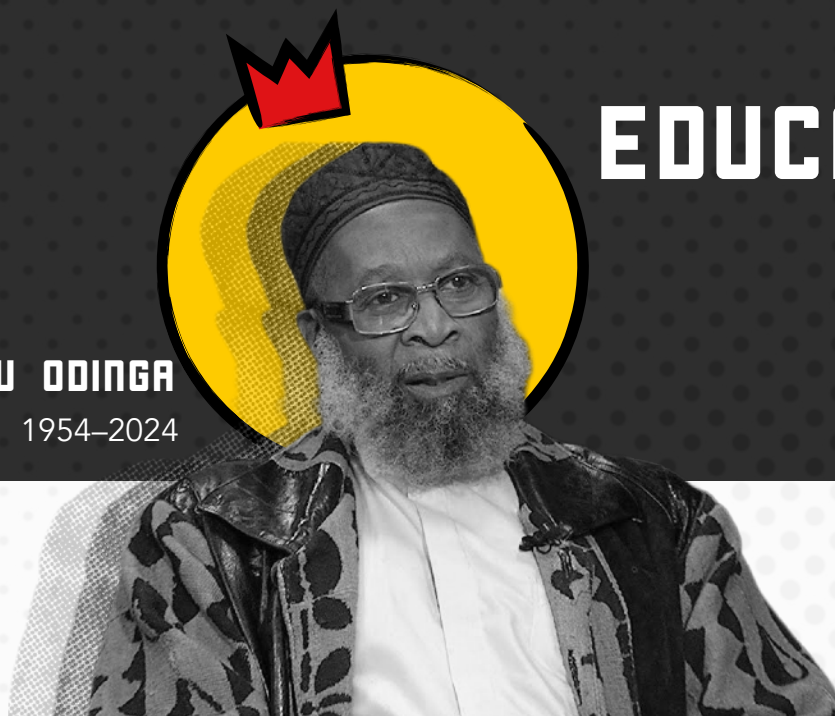
As we shed tears, struggle to regain our footing, and recapture our breath, we also know that the work of Black freedom takes all of us. We must be united in the vision of a future we can, indeed, win – a world where we all have all of what we need and most of what we want. Join the beloved community of Black Lives Matter Grassroots as a vehicle through which we can collectively challenge Donald Trump, MAGA, fascism, and white-supremacy. Follow the work on social media @blmgrassroots, attend an organizing meeting or protest hosted by a local chapter, and donate to strengthen the movement. We will fight and win - together!



EDUCATION

BABA SEKOU ODINGA

1954–2024



Baba Sekou Odinga was a New Afrikan activist and political prisoner for his involvement in the Black Liberation Army. After 33 years inside, he was released in 2014.

STUDY AND STRUGGLE IN #BLACKAUGUST

Black Lives Matter Grassroots commits to the Black August principles: Fast, Study, Train, and Fight for the end to a carceral system that hails from chattel slavery and in honor of the freedom fighters who sacrifice their freedom for ours. 2024 was the first commemoration that we held after the passing of our beloved comrade and Black August visionary Jitu Sadiki. Calling on his powerful Spirit for guidance, we lead a national reading of *Blood In My Eye*, deepened our work to free political prisoners, and honored the lives of the freedom fighters who have served as guides.

January 12, 2024 marked the passing of one of our greatest freedom fighters: Sekou Odinga. Baba Sekou was our mentor, our friend, our guide, our model. As we struggled to find our footing after his passing, Black August marked a moment for us to summon his righteous Spirit and recommit ourselves to "Free 'Em All!"

Black August also serves as a space to uplift this generation's political prisoners whose freedom has been stolen by a state and a system meant to crush Black liberation. We uplifted our three BLM Grassroots Prison Chapters - at Corcoran, Kern, and Lancaster, California State Prisons and continued our work to #FreeJayBurton. We were successful in getting Black mama and freedom fighter, Brittany Martin released early after being unjustly prosecuted, convicted, and sentenced for leading a 2020 #BlackLivesMatter protest in Sumter, South Carolina. Courageous conversations were led by BLMLA's Prince Akili, former prison chapter co-lead, who was released from Lancaster through policy successes, which prioritized the release of those who were locked up as children.

BLACK HISTORY MATTERS

#BLACKHISTORYMATTERS

In February, our annual #BlackHistoryMatters campaign, facilitated by Dr. Charles H. F. Davis III, resumed in partnership with Scholars for Black Lives. This annual campaign aims to develop a broad political understanding of important Black political figures, events, and solidarity movements within the global Black freedom tradition. It also serves as a proclamation and pushback against the radical right's efforts to silence truth and remove Black people, including Black Studies and critical race theory, from education.

Each day in February, BLM Grassroots publishes individually designed graphics educational captions on its social media accounts. Written by movement-aligned scholars, these are more than social media posts; they are mini-political educations that provide succinct insight into the legacies, teachings, and victories of often lesser-known contributors to the struggle for Black liberation.



YOUTH VANGUARD SCHOLARSHIPS

The Black Lives Matter Youth Vanguard Scholarship is in its third year. Awardees were nominated by local Black Lives Matter Grassroots chapters for the Black Lives Matter Youth Vanguard Scholarship to acknowledge their leadership, activism, and ongoing pursuit of knowledge. This year's scholarship recipients include:

Amara Abdullah

Southern University

Amaris Carter

New York University

Amir Greenidge

CSU Dominguez Hills

Ayah Faky

Columbia University

Chloe Jordan

College/University

Deja Joseph

Howard University

Deshaun Davis

Post University

Elijah Gelin

Cerritos Prep School

Jalyn Teague

University of South Alabama

Jerome Richardson (Treadwell)

Temple University

Kahlila Williams

University of California, Los Angeles

Lakell White

CSU Los Angeles

President Morgan-Barnes

Howard University

Shiraz Lawrence

Howard University

Thandiwe Abdullah

Howard University

AREA 3

COMMUNICATIONS

BLM GRASSROOTS LAUNCHES NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

In October, BLM Grassroots launched its national newsletter to provide regular updates to supporters about on-the-ground work at local, state, national, and global levels. Each newsletter highlights national campaigns, offers "reports from the frontlines," spotlights local BLM Grassroots organizers and chapters, gives progress reports on key policy, and profiles those stolen by police and white-supremacist violence. The newsletter also serves as a platform to house the public statements released by BLM Grassroots over the last month and offers space to offer our perspective on current happenings. Readers are also provided with calls to

action and ways to plug into the work. The newsletter currently has an audience of more than 20,000 through direct email and text message and is posted on social media and blmgrassroots.org.

THIS IS NOT A DRILL!

First launched on Facebook in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the state of emergency experienced by Black people in the United States. TINAD is now a two-hour program on KBLA Talk 1580 AM, with a Facebook Live simulcast, airing every Saturday from 8-10am PT. Weekly topics have ranged from understanding surveillance technology's impact on the movement to systemic racism in local, state, and federal policy. Guests have included local and national organizers, youth,



university scholars, clergy, and others committed to the liberation of Black people. The weekly #MoreThanAHashtag segment features conversations and calls to action with families of those killed by police and/or white supremacists. In 2024, the “Youth Vanguard Takeover” was initiated and is hosted on first Saturdays by Amara Abdullah and Shiraz Lawrence, both high school seniors.

PRIORITIZING BLACK MEDIA

The African proverb reminds us that, “Until the lion tells the story, the hunter will always be the hero.” Black journalists have been our lions, from Ida B. Wells to Thandisizwe Chimurenga, Charlotta Bass to Nikol Hannah Jones. Black Lives Matter Grassroots has invested in building relationships with Black journalists and the Black press to ensure they have the information needed to tell the Black Lives Matter story accurately and in a way that advances justice. This includes regular Black press calls, exclusives, and connections to “justice families” to accurately portray current justice issues and our work on the ground.



AREA 4 DEVELOPMENT

CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT AND UPDATES

Our movement family continues to expand as prospective chapters complete our extensive onboarding process to establish themselves in new locations across the nation. Our onboarding process provides chapters with essential tools for building strength and ensuring alignment across our network - including political education, movement orientation, and training. In 2023, Black Lives Matter Grassroots grew to 33 chapters nationally, with an additional six chapters slated for onboarding in 2024.

BLM Alabama

In 2024, BLM Alabama led and supported several key initiatives across the state. This included organizing Black Mama's Bailout efforts in partnership with Faith & Works, freeing incarcerated Black mothers and caregivers and providing post-release support. Through the ReVote Black Church Community Voter Project BLM Alabama built civic engagement ministries in Black churches and hosted voter registration drives, town halls, and community events. They organized and participated in direct actions and protests at multiple Alabama prisons alongside the Free Alabama Movement during their 90-day shutdown to protest inhumane conditions and mass incarceration. Policy advocacy efforts included support for Alabama House Bill 32 to reform the felony murder law, and served as the lead plaintiff in a federal racial gerrymandering case, *McClure v. Jefferson County Commission*, which challenges the dilution of Black voting power in local redistricting. Additionally, they connected reproductive justice to faith-based organizing to deepen community engagement around bodily autonomy and care.

BLM Atlanta, GA

Black Lives Matter Grassroots Atlanta has been organizing to #StopCopCity alongside Community Movement Builders and Movement for Black Lives. The massive Cop City (also known as the Atlanta Public Safety Training Center) is the City's attempt to seize Indigenous land in the Waulanee Forest to build a massive paramilitary and surveillance facility with hundreds of millions of dollars in public funds. BLM Atlanta has advocated in public meetings, engaged in media campaigns, and organized community. The work has developed into a national effort to #StopCopNation and block similar efforts nationwide. The chapter continues to advocate for Black people stolen by police violence, including #AhmaudArbery, #JimmyAtchison, and Deacon #JohnnyHollman. The chapter also worked to hold corporations accountable, including Biolab after a chemical explosion brought massive harm to the Black community as well as to the environment.

BLM Benton Harbor, MI

BLM Benton Harbor has responded to the ongoing water crisis by demanding replacement of lead lines that have made their water unsafe. As an interim solution, they have been supplying and delivering bottled water to the community. They continue to advocate for affordable water in Michigan and other states to the Environmental Protection Agency. Benton Harbor also leads a weekly courtwatch program, seating elders in public courtrooms with BLM Grassroots shirts as a silent reminder that the community is monitoring the proceedings.

BLM Birmingham, AL

BLM Birmingham has worked diligently against racial gerrymandering, an issue that continues to undermine Black political power and organizing efforts. The chapter advocated daily at Alabama State House in opposition to expanding the police immunity bill which prevents officers from being subjected to lawsuits unless clear violation of force. BLM Birmingham worked alongside the youth to build out their chapter's Youth Vanguard.

BLM Boise, ID

BLM Boise supported BABEVOTE and League of Women Voters efforts to mobilize voter registration drives. They trained volunteers in participatory budgeting and drafted abolitionist budget alternatives, including calls for diverting municipal funds from policing toward crisis response systems that don't include surveillance technologies. Work in schools and with youth included calling for eliminating school resource officers from Ada and West Ada School Districts and proposing empowered student-led safety coalitions. Other youth centered efforts work to end racist disciplinary systems. Economic justice efforts include municipal investments in Black economic development while documenting historical property theft and working with murraywilsonfamily.org to spearhead reparations cases at the federal level.

BLM Buffalo, NY

BLM Buffalo's primary work focused on championing the passage of Cariol's Law, which legally protects officers who intervene to prevent police misconduct; advocacy efforts included public speaking, legislative efforts, and community organizing. The chapter also continues to support the family of #EdwardHolmes, the 58 year-old Black man who was shot and killed by Buffalo PD in February 2024. Food sovereignty remains a priority as the chapter continues to support the families of the ten Black shoppers slaughtered by a white-supremacist inside Tops Market in 2022 as they continue to provide resources to a still-devastated community. Work continues with the family of #TylerLewis, a young college student killed on the campus of the University at Buffalo to bring justice in his name and to make the local university safer for Black students.

BLM California

BLM California includes BLM Los Angeles, BLM Long Beach, BLM Torrance, BLM Pasadena, the three prison chapters, and advocates for statewide policies and initiatives. The state formation readied itself for legislative work to advance single-payer healthcare and prepared to introduce Wakiesha's Law—a 24-hour family notification requirement named in honor of #WakieshaWilson, a 36-year-old Black mama who was killed inside an LAPD detention center without her family being properly notified. BLM California is part of a coalition that organized community and staged protests up and down the state when the reparations bills that we advocated for were derailed in the legislature. The formation continues to work towards meaningful reparations policy and to advance initiatives that bring greater justice to Black Californians.

BLM Charleston, SC

BLM Charleston has continued providing direct support to the family of #JamalSutherland, a Black man who was suffering mental illness and ultimately killed by CSO Officers at Al Cannon Detention Center, as they and others have navigated the fight for justice. Efforts for accountability extended to multiple deaths inside the Al Cannon Detention Center and included broader advocacy for change for incarcerated folks with mental illness. Additional efforts for accountability were seen in advocacy for the continued enforcement and review of two independent racial bias audits of the North Charleston and City of Charleston Police Departments. As a founding member of the Peoples' Budget Coalition, BLM Charleston has continued to organize divestment from the carceral state and reinvestment in community. This includes advocacy for the public defunding, dismantling, and redistribution of several plantation/labor camps that continue to garner private/public funding. BLM Charleston has also led grassroots advocacy by coordinating Lowcountry Black Action Assemblies that brought the wider Black community together around solutions to issues. Additional community building can be seen in their mutual aid efforts that includes monthly groceries and back-to-school support. Finally, the chapter has furthered its leadership of a multi-year effort for a Commission on Equity, Inclusion, & Racial Conciliation that included a provision for reparations. However, although the Commission Report was accepted by the Mayor, it was ultimately rejected by the city council.

BLM Detroit, MI

BLM Detroit continued to prioritize mutual aid and food sovereignty by providing fresh produce to 100 Detroiters every month. The Community House was used to offer arts and political education for families and youth. The chapter also spearheaded and supported campaigns to address state-sanctioned violence against community members, including Farmer Lee, a Black farmer and mother who was targeted for criminal prosecution by the City, who alleged that she was a "public nuisance." While Farmer Lee was acquitted of all charges, she is now facing an injunction and seizure of her property, against which the

chapter is continuing to organize support. BLM Detroit hosted a Trunk or Treat as part of their Vote & Organize! campaign and voter registration program with a community-driven local voting candidate questionnaire. The chapter also continued their collaboration with the Detroit Safety Team to provide non-law enforcement alternatives and emergency interventions.

BLM Flint, MI

BLM Flint worked to address local issues within the Flint Public School system where they host the Rites of Passage Program for 28 young men as they develop into adulthood. The program focuses on leadership, civic engagement, cultural awareness, and life skills. BLM Flint organized alongside the family of #RayvonShahid, who was just 17-years-old when he was killed by police for “walking while Black.” The chapter organized on frontlines, supported the family, and demanded that the Michigan State District Attorney prosecute the police who stole the teen’s life. BLM Flint also led Black Women Are Divine and #BlackXmas actions and continues to organize the City’s Juneteenth festival. Their podcast, *Fli-City Blackout*, serves as a vital platform for Black community organizing in Flint.

BLM Florida

In a continued effort for further statewide expansion, the Florida chapter established collective organizing across multiple counties, identified additional survivor family leads in the Panhandle, Jacksonville, Orlando, Tampa, Bradenton/Sarasota, and Fort Lauderdale areas. Court support has been central to the work of the Florida statewide formation as they support the family of Senior Airman #RogerFortson during the criminal prosecution of the sheriff who stole his life in Okaloosa County. As a state hard hit by book bans and other issues related to education justice, the Youth Vanguard advocated for Black Studies and participated in a video campaign that was featured on a panel for the Congressional Black Caucus. The Florida state formation continued to support in outreach and engagement with Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley’s office to advocate for the Ending Qualified Immunity Act, pushing for meaningful systemic change.

BLM Houston, TX

BLM Houston is led by the family of #JalenRandle, who was killed by white Houston cop Shane Privette in 2022. The chapter was built in Jalen’s honor and collaborated with national civil rights leaders and attorney Ben Crump to help justice-seeking families. Chapter leads have offered support and healing to families across the state, including the mother of #SandraBland, killed in custody in Prairie View, TX, and the family of #ErskinJenkins, who was killed by Lubbock County sheriffs in November 2024. They hosted events that centered on healing, awareness, and art. Their work helped to oust the previous District Attorney and is calling on the newly elected DA to hold Houston police accountable.

BLM Kalamazoo/Battle Creek, MI

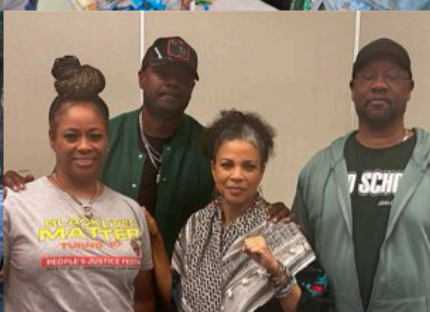
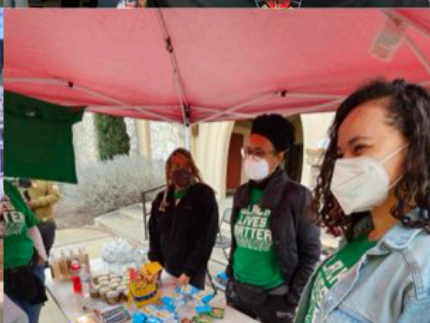
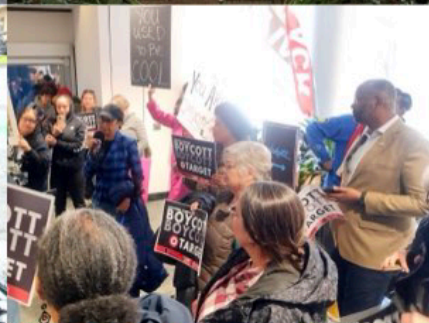
BLM Kzoo/BC supported local community members who are experiencing and recovering from police and systemic violence in the aftermath of criminal prosecutions and targeting of activists who led uprisings, protests, and organizing from 2020-2023. The chapter - which is led by Black mamas - also organized parents, students and community members to address the school board about injustices towards Black students, including profiling and criminalizing behavior of youth.

BLM Long Beach, CA

BLM Long Beach initiated the Black Neighborhood Tenants Council to advocate for renters and residents. In 2024 they convened monthly meetings that have helped dozens of Black residents struggling with housing and address larger questions of gentrification. Ongoing support for the family of #BrandonBoyd included mutual aid/direct support and assistance with counseling services and court support. Alongside the Boyd family, there are ongoing organizing efforts to mobilize, speak, and support the family at City Council and Police Oversight Commission meetings demanding accountability for the murderous cops who killed Brandon, brutalized his sister, and criminalized his family. As a part of a coalition effort that started with the harassment of food vendors at the beach, the chapter works to support and advocate for micro kitchen and street vendor justice, clearing the way for folks to be in business beyond the 2028 Olympics. The chapter hosted events for Black Women Are Divine and profiled Black businesses for #BlackXmas. As a part of Vote & Organize efforts, BLMLBC organized voter education sessions for the November 2024 election.

BLM Los Angeles, CA

BLM Los Angeles (BLMLA) stands as the first, largest, and, perhaps, most active Black Lives Matter Grassroots chapter. With the funds directly donated to the chapter in 2020, BLMLA purchased the Center for Black Power outright. The Center is home to aligned Black liberation organizations, including Students Deserve, and is the worldwide headquarters for BLM Grassroots. It is the site of BLMLA's monthly organizing meetings, trainings, and events, and has been offered for free to more than 100 events, including a weekly food giveaway. BLMLA also leads the #EndPoliceAssociations campaign to challenge the power of police associations with an objective of removing them from the House of Labor. The chapter continued to lead People's Budget LA, conducting a survey of 2500 Angelenos, townhall meetings, and community conversations that were compiled into a report and presented to the Mayor ahead of her 2024 budget proposal. The chapter continues to organize alongside the families of those killed and harmed by police, including #JessicaBrown, #DijonKizzee, #AnthonyVargas, #FredWilliams, and #WakieshaWilson. 2024 included ongoing court support for the family of #AlbertRamonDorsey and #ChristopherDeAndreMitchell. In 2024, BLMLA was a core member of a coalition demanding real reparations in California and continues to advance the work.





BLM Memphis, TN

BLM Memphis engaged in work around economic justice that included a back-to-school drive for teachers and highlighting Black-owned businesses year round - and especially as part of #BlackXmas. Additionally the chapter engaged in Vote & Organize work by registering hundreds of Black people to vote ahead of the 2024 elections. The chapter is co-founded by the mother of #JaylinMcKenzie who was killed by Memphis PD in December 2022. A priority has been telling the true stories of those stolen by state-sanctioned violence, rather than allowing police to assassinate their characters. In coalition with BLM Atlanta, BLM Memphis brought together dozens of families for a "Say Their Names" memorial project.

BLM Milwaukee, WI

The Milwaukee chapters successfully onboarded with BLM Grassroots in July 2024. Led by the family of #AlvinCole, who was just 17 when he was killed by a three-time killer cop - Joseph Mensah - inside a mall. The family has worked tirelessly to join together the families of each of Mensah's victims and advocate for justice in their names. They advanced their civil case to trial at the end of 2024. In addition to their work to support the families of those killed, they provided community resources with a turkey drive in November.

BLM Mississippi

Black Lives Matter Mississippi was founded in response to the murder of 15-year-old #JaheimMcMillan by Gulfport police. In 2024, the chapter expanded from Gulfport to take action all across the state. Most notably, the team won a historic victory with the prosecution of the "Goon Squad" in Rankin County, where a band of cops had been terrorizing Black communities for decades. This included the torture of Eddie Parker and Michael Jenkins. The chapter worked closely with other community organizers and attorneys to win a historic outcome in the criminal case, which resulted in multi-decade sentences for 6 cops, the most in Mississippi state history. The chapter was also part of the organizing that exposed a horrendous finding of 215 bodies of Black folks buried in shallow graves behind a jail just outside Jackson in January 2024.

BLM New Orleans, LA

Black Lives Matter NOLA was chartered by the family of #GlennFosterJr. in July 2024. Glenn was a former football player with the New Orleans Saints, father of four, husband, brother, son, and successful entrepreneur, who was killed in police custody after a routine traffic stop in Pickens County, Alabama. As a family-led chapter, BLM NOLA is part of the Black Lives Matter Grassroots Justice Families and is working to deepen community commitments to justice - including, but not limited to, ending police violence. They have worked to provide community resources, including housing for citizens returning from incarceration and making their land cooperative space for community gardens. They envision building a jobs and entrepreneurial training program for community members. The chapter attends City Council meetings advocating for health equity and addressing New Orleans food deserts. Vote &

Organize! efforts included door-to-door canvassing, phone-banking, and voter registration drives.

BLM Pasadena, CA

BLM Pasadena continues to organize community against police violence in Altadena and Pasadena, specifically organizing with the families and in the names of #KendrecMcDade, #JRThomas, #AnthonyMcClain, and #VanessaMarquez. The Pasadena team led weekly engagement at Pasadena City Council meetings, calling for community oversight of the police. In addition, the chapter co-organizes the weekly #EndPoliceAssociation meetings, meant to challenge police associations and oust them from the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor. The chapter participated in the mass #BlackXmas action at Trump International golf course that brought hundreds out to voice collective outrage against a Trump regime that embodies white-supremacist-patriarchal-capitalism.

BLM Phoenix, AZ

BLM Phoenix Metro utilized the hard won report on the Phoenix Police Department as material for a press conference and public statements- centering the role of protestors and families in exposing police violence, blocking police budget increases, and demanding accountability. The chapter advocated to repeal the felony murder law in the name of #JacobHarris - a teenager killed by police, whose friends were prosecuted for his death. The unjust law was used to block police accountability and lock up three Black youth based on claims that they were co-conspirators in a robbery that was being committed when Jacob was killed by cops. Additional policy efforts included the Family Bill of Rights which would grant access to legal and community supports following a critical incident by law enforcement. They worked to eliminate 50 abortion bans, passed Proposition 139 - enshrining abortion rights into the State Constitution and are helping to shape statewide proposals to be presented at the state capitol. BLM Phoenix Metro was a key force in winning a \$68 million settlement for protestors who were harmed by police in actions from 2020-2023 and have been front and center in the demand for a #FreePalestine and to #StopCopCity.

BLM Port Huron, MI

During Black History Month, BLM Port Huron curated a live tasting exhibit that told the story of Black history through food- blending culture and education in an interactive, memorable experience. For Juneteenth, they organized a community-centered event aimed at uplifting and financially supporting local Black-owned businesses. The Port Huron chapter successfully advocated for the addition of AP African American History to the local school district's elective offerings. Through their ongoing K-12 work, they also launched a Parent Advisory and Support Team to help families navigate challenges Black students face in schools, providing tools and guidance to better advocate for their children's educational needs.

BLM Richmond, VA

BLM Richmond built towards food sovereignty and engaged in mutual aid efforts with their community gardens. They engaged in “Jobs Not Jail,” a diversion program aimed at advancing liveable wage employment instead of criminalization. Known as BLM RVA, the chapter hosted a “Stop the Violence” water fight to interrupt systems of harm that create community violence. Additionally, they advocated for a reparations study through direct action and political education. The chapter continues to maintain the space where they toppled the memorial that once honored racist, violent Confederate general Robert E. Lee, which the chapter has turned into a community garden and site for grassroots activism.

BLM Twin Cities (St. Paul), MN

BLM Twin Cities is one of the oldest #BlackLivesMatter chapters and hugely significant as part of the 2020 uprisings in the name of #GeorgeFloyd. To commemorate King Day, the chapter led the Justice For Marcus Golden #FreePalestine Caravan. For Black History Month they held their first National Reparations Conference which they followed up with another conference for Black August. The St. Paul Recovery Act Community Reparations Commission was seated in April, the lead organizer for BLM MN was elected the Chair. The chapter also held rallies and protested in solidarity with other organizations and impacted families. In 2024, there was an uptick of police shootings in St. Paul, so they responded with press conferences and direct actions. Additionally, they engaged in mutual aid efforts through their free winter coat giveaways.

BLM Tampa, FL

The Tampa chapter celebrated one year in their dedicated organizing space, the “Freedom Center,” which has become a hub for activism and community building. In an effort to expand their work for economic justice, they built a partnership with the Black Business Bus Tour and Juneteenth Vendor Fair. Solidarity efforts included participating and hosting teach-in sessions at the Freedom Center and joining Palestinian solidarity marches. The chapter was founded and is led by the family of #AndrewJosephIII - who was just 14-years-old when he was killed as a result of police misconduct. As a family-led chapter and lead for our Justice Families, BLM Tampa is particularly responsive to the families of those killed by police. In 2024 several families joined the chapter, including the mother of #BreonteJohnsonDavis, who was killed by Tampa police in March 2024. Advocacy in Breonte’s name led the county commissioner to move money from the police for mental health calls, creating non-police alternatives.

BLM Torrance

BLM Torrance continues to focus its efforts on court support for the family of #ChristopherDeAndreMitchell as the family and community navigates a rare instance of criminal prosecution for police who killed someone. In the wake of a messaging scandal that detailed the full corrupt and racist nature of the police department and a new District

Attorney who is trying to undermine the initial charges and case, the presence of BLM Torrance and the community they mobilize is important in city council chambers and at court proceedings.



BLM Grassroots x Hip Hop

In April 2024, Black Lives Matter Grassroots deepened a historic partnership with the legendary Chuck D of Public Enemy and emerging political Hip Hop group Gumbo. Brought together for the first time at our ten-year anniversary in 2023 by renowned music executive Adrian Miller, the partnership continued and was featured on the national radio program "Sway in the Morning." The baton was officially passed on air by Chuck D to Gumbo and a recommitment to utilizing Hip Hop culture for the advancement of Black liberation was made, with BLM Grassroots uplifted. The partnership was made real through a special collaborative t-shirt featuring Black Lives Matter Grassroots that is included with the Gumbo album and made available on their website.

POLICY AND ADVOCACY



Representing Massachusetts 7th District, Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley (D) introduces House Resolution 6830, the Books Save Lives Act, which intends to counteract the rise in book bans in public libraries and school libraries nationwide.

BLM GRASSROOTS CO-CONVENES PANEL ON BOOKS SAVE LIVES ACT

On Friday, September 13, 2024, Black Lives Matter Grassroots co-convoked a panel with Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley's office on HR6830 (i.e., the Books Saves Lives Act). The panel was kicked off with a video of youth from around the country talking about how book bans have and could impact their lives and education. Many of the youth were a part of Black Lives Matter Grassroots' Youth Vanguard and gave powerful testimony. Specifically, members of the Youth Vanguard recorded videos of themselves talking about the impact of book bans on their lives and how, in many cases, banned literature shaped them, their world view, and gave them an outlet by reflecting their lived experiences. The esteemed panel was moderated by Congresswoman Pressley and featured internationally recognized legal scholar, Dr. Kimberlé Crenshaw, best-selling author George M. Johnson, educator Devin Morris, and Leonard Egerton, co-owner of Frugal Bookstore in Roxbury, MA.

FIGHTING FOR REPARATIONS

The fight for reparations has roots that date back to before the end of U.S. chattel slavery. Reparations is a massive debt owed to the descendants of enslaved people and requires systemic transformation for the benefit of all Black people. Black Lives Matter Grassroots chapters around the country are prioritizing reparations work, including chapters in Boise (ID), Los Angeles (CA), Richmond (VA), and Twin Cities (MN). Our California state formation has been a part of growing demands and tangible policymaking that stands to make reparations real. BLM California was part of a coalition that strategized and organized

around the three key reparations bills in 2024. Sadly, all were derailed. When the vital bills were blocked, BLMLA called community together at its Center for Black Power to hold

NATIONAL POLICY TEAM CONTINUES ADVOCACY IN WASHINGTON

BLM Grassroots continues to advocate for policy that moves us towards racial and social justice. Inspired by the spirit of #AndrewJosephIII - the beloved son of our Board member, Deanna Joseph, and Rapid Response Coordinator, Andrew Joseph, Jr., who was just fourteen when he was killed as a result of police misconduct in Tampa, Florida - Congresswoman Ayanna Pressly introduced the Ending Qualified Immunity Act. Qualified immunity is the unjust legal doctrine that shields police who kill and harm our people from accountability. "Wakiesha's Law," the 24-Hour Family Notification Act has been reintroduced by Congresswoman Sydney Kamlager in honor of #WakieshaWilson. The bill was introduced for the first time in 2018 by former Congresswoman, now Los Angeles Mayor, Karen Bass. In addition to the bills which were introduced with BLM Grassroots as full community partners, we are advocating for reparations policy, pushing the reallocation of resources towards community-based safety, and engaging around critical issues in public education.

Black Lives Matter Grassroots ascribes to the pan-African principle that Black people around the world are connected and rise and fall together. Moreover, our struggles are aligned with that of all oppressed people. In 2024, BLM Grassroots affirmed support for a #FreePalestine, asserted the right (and sacred duty) to protest, and challenged the expansion of imperialism. This took shape in support for policy, the release of official statements, and frontline organizing.

HR9495 AND RESISTING THE ATTACKS ON ACTIVISM

Black Lives Matter Grassroots has braced for the all-out war declared by right-wing radicalism. In November, House Bill 9495, also known as the Stop Terror-Financing and Tax Penalties on American Hostages Act, passed in the House of Representatives but stalled in the Senate. If re-introduced in the 119th Congress, the bill, referred to as the "Non-profit killer," would grant Trump's Treasury Department unchecked power to strip tax-exempt status from organizations it deems to be a threat to the administration's political agenda, including colleges and universities.

NATIONAL POLICY TEAM AND CHAPTERS AT CBC WEEKEND

BLM Grassroots participated in educational panels and events at Congressional Black Caucus weekend for the second year in a row. We co-convened a panel on the importance of open access to books and co-hosted a gathering focused on movement building, both with Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley. Our Youth Vanguard and Justice Families provided essential information to thousands of attendees in the exhibition hall. We furthered our knowledge of policy campaigns and grassroots efforts by attending dozens of panels and sessions over the four-day event.

DIRECT SUPPORT



Black Lives Matter Grassroots organizers provide court support to the mother and family of Ronald Greene in Union Parish, Louisiana

GRASSROOTS JUSTICE FAMILIES CIRCLE

BLM Grassroots officially formed its own Justice Families circle, with Board member and mother of #AndrewJosephIII as lead. Each month families of those killed by police and white-supremacist violence convene virtually to provide support, share updates, build skills, and serve as an organized force of directly-impacted families. Chapters in Atlanta, Houston, Memphis, Milwaukee, New Orleans, and Tampa are founded, led, or co-led by Justice Families. Justice Families work also means honoring stolen loved ones. BLM Grassroots helped to organize and support dozens of “angelversary” celebrations and “heavenly birthdays” around the country, in person, through traditional media, and online.

FRONTLINE COURT SUPPORT

One of the things that families whose loved ones were stolen by police and white-supremacist violence need the most is comfort as they enter courtrooms that are cold and hostile to Black life. Less than 2% of police face prosecution when they kill someone and even civil trials are a rarity. In 2024, BLM Grassroots continued to provide court support in five criminal cases, supporting the families of #AhmaudArbery (in Georgia), #RonaldGreene (in Louisiana), Senior Airman #RogerFortson (in Florida), #ChristopherDeAndreMitchell (in California), #FrankTyson (in Ohio) and #HermanWhitfield (in Indiana), and Eddie Parker and Michael Jenkins (who survived police torture in Mississippi). Advocacy and support was also

provided to the family of #BreonnaTaylor (in Kentucky). Team members join local chapters, Justice Families, and local organizers to sit with loved ones through every phase of the case, offering meals, transportation, and a shoulder, along with community organizing and media coordination.

Civil suits are more common as a pathway to justice in the names of stolen loved ones. However, they are also rare as qualified immunity is often invoked to prevent cases from being heard. In 2024, we provided court support for the family of #AlbertRamonDorsey (in California).



Black Lives Matter Grassroots, , along with Attorney Ben Crump, join the Tyson family at his funeral in Canton, Ohio

Court support also includes standing with organizers and freedom fighters who are targeted by the criminal legal system. In 2024, Cariol Horne - co-founder of BLM Buffalo and former police officer, who was targeted after she physically intervened in an instance of police brutality, was criminally prosecuted for another case of righteous intervention. The chapter and the BLM Grassroots team mobilized to ensure that the beloved mother, grandmother, and community member did not face proceedings alone. The Black Lives Matter Grassroots team also organized and provided support for Dr. Tiffany Willoughby-Herard, a Black professor at UC Irvine who was targeted for criminal prosecution and doxxing after she stood up for the students who were demanding an end to the genocide in Palestine.

AREA 7

ABOLITION

#FREEBRITTANYMARTIN

Brittany Martin is free! After a multi-year fight alongside Brittany's husband, Eric Kennedy, the ACLU, and attorney Dr. Sybil Rosado, BLM Grassroots was able to help secure the early release of former political prisoner, comrade Brittany Martin, in November 2024.

Heeding the call to demand justice for Black people in 2020, Brittany helped organize a protest in Sumter, South Carolina in the names of #AhmaudArbery, #BreonnaTaylor, #GeorgeFloyd, and countless others. Subsequently, Brittany was charged, convicted, and sentenced to four years in prison for what the state deemed violation of Breach of Peace of a High and Aggravated Nature common law.

Within the first year of serving her sentence, Brittany was forced to give birth to her youngest of seven children, Blessing, inside, and denied the right to mother or breastfeed her infant. Guards also restrained Brittany while her locked hair, a religious symbol, was forcibly cut. Brittany was also routinely denied attorney visits, repeatedly beaten, placed in solitary confinement, and transferred to an out-of-state prison without the knowledge or consent of her family.

Black Lives Matter Grassroots stood with Brittany's family and refused to allow the system to steal her away from us. Thank you to everyone who shared Brittany's story, donated to her family, signed petitions, called the governor, and echoed demands to #FreeBrittanyMartin. Her early release is a testament to the relentless advocacy of her family and community. While her return is a victory, it underscores the injustice of a system that criminalizes Black protest and silences those who demand accountability.

Brittany and her family have suffered for too long, Ms. Martin never should have been arrested or imprisoned in the first place. Unfortunately, they continue to be terrorized by the state, including levying additional charges against her in an attempt to return her to prison. We are fighting alongside her and her family to ensure she remains home with her beautiful family so they can all recover and heal.



To support Brittany and her family as they rebuild, please donate to her CashApp **\$TonyCourt**.



JAY BURTON

Co-Founder, BLM Prison Chapters

Jay Burton is a political prisoner ensnared by LA County Sheriff gang and has been wrongfully incarcerated for 35 years.

#FREEJAYBURTON

Jay Burton was just 16-years-old when he was targeted by what is now known to be a Los Angeles County Sheriffs Deputy Gang - the Lynwood Vikings. He was framed for murder and has served 36 years in prison, much of the time in solitary confinement. For decades he has served as a jailhouse lawyer and advocate; he founded the BLM Prison Chapters in Lancaster, Corcoran, and Kern Valley California State Prisons. BLM Grassroots won policies which brought the release of several of Jay's comrades who were prosecuted as children, including Lancaster Prison Chapter co-founder "Prince Akili." We continue to fight for Jay's freedom, providing support - including reading materials and advocate for his freedom.

END THE DEATH PENALTY

The execution of Imam Khalifah Marcellus Williams in September 2024 brought to the fore the absolute savagery of the death penalty in the United States. Black Lives Matter Grassroots was one of hundreds of organizations to uplift the sanctity of Imam Khalifah's life- we organized calls, emails, and actions to halt the execution. We did not win. Through our heartbreak, ending the death penalty continues to be a priority.



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [BLMGRASSROOTS.ORG](https://blmgrassroots.org)

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