



IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NAACP DC HOSTS U STREET BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON SOLUTIONS TO DEVELOPMENT DISPLACEMENT AND IMPACTS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The NAACP DC Branch will host a U Street Business Leaders Roundtable Discussion on Friday, June 25, 2021 at 2:00pm on ZOOM to discuss solutions to support businesses impacted by gentrification, displacement and developments along the U Street corridor in NW Washington, DC. The NAACP DC Branch invites local business owners and leaders impacted by recent development and may potentially be impacted by the Reeves Center Redevelopment to join this important discussion. It is important to ensure resource and racial equity throughout this development project because this historic location is home to many local businesses that are vital to the economic empowerment and financial stability of black communities, families and businesses in this area.

The Reeves Center Redevelopment process is managed by the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED). The RFP was issued on December 30, 2020, the RFP Proposal deadline was February 19, 2021 and a selection is expected by July 2021. There are currently 2 finalists for the Reeves Center Redevelopment, including CMC Ventures and Legacy Community Partners. The NAACP DC Branch will present findings to the Developers, DMPED and ANC 1B by July 1, 2021.

Local business leaders are invited to register for this ZOOM meeting here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/91012020000>. If unable to access the registration hyperlink, please email douglass@naacpdc.org to RSVP and you will receive the registration link to register.

Akosua Ali, NAACP DC Branch President, stated, "Many small black-owned businesses are still struggling to recover from the impacts COVID-19. Black-owned and small businesses are disproportionately impacted by displacement due to large developments. When small businesses suffer, families and jobs within that community are adversely impacted. We have a responsibility to the Business owners and families in this community to provide real solutions to address displacement, gentrification and begin to balance these inequities."

For more information, please email douglass@naacpdc.org

ABOUT NAACP:

Founded in 1909, the NAACP is the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization. Its members throughout the United States and the world are premier advocates for civil rights in their communities. The mission of NAACP is to ensure the political, educational, social and economic quality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination.

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