



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Call 202-848-4394 or email [Info@dontmutedc.com](mailto:Info@dontmutedc.com)

June 17, 2020

The Don't Mute DC collective of artists and activists is hosting a daylong JUNETEENTH virtual and in-person celebration. "FREE US NOW!" commemorates the date on June 19<sup>th</sup>, 1865 when enslaved Texans received news of their emancipation from slavery.

This year's Juneteenth is taking on special urgency in light of the State of Emergency for racial health and justice. The coalition will celebrate Black joy, art and resilience as well as mobilize around issues such as mass incarceration, voter registration and racial equity.

Partners include: ONE DC, Crank the Vote, 70K Strong, Training Grounds, ArtRage, National Association for the Advancement of Returned Citizens, DC W.I.R.E., WEACTION Radio, Manpower DC, Backyard Band, EU, and others.

### **JUNETEENTH (June 19<sup>th</sup>) SCHEDULE**

The following schedule of activities on June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 will be Livestreamed on [Facebook.com/MakeGoGoForeverDC](https://www.facebook.com/MakeGoGoForeverDC) or in-person when indicated:

**NOON-1 p.m. PANEL DISCUSSION:** "*Black Cop. Black Cop. Black Cop. Black Cop.*" Live from the Howard Theatre, 607 T Street NW Washington, D.C. (No live audience. Press only.) Inspired by the 1993 KRS-ONE song, current and former Black police officers speak about their struggles to serve their badge and their people, too. MODERATOR: **Charles Ellison** radio host and *The Root* Contributor.

**1-3 p.m. Block Party Protest and Kick Off of #Artrage**, a weekly gathering of artists to address social issues impacting people of color. Outside the Howard Theatre. Featuring a DJ, open mic and onsite voter registration. \*Participants must wear masks and remain physically distant.

**3-5 p.m. #DontMuteDC Rally and Protest Floats featuring Backyard Band and EU.** Two floats will depart from Central Communications/MetroPCS at 7<sup>th</sup> and Florida. Departs West U Street. Turns South on 16<sup>th</sup> Street. Ends at Black Lives Matter Plaza.

**6:30-7:30 p.m. PANEL DISCUSSION:** "**Mass Incarceration and Cultural Equity.**" Panelists will discuss the fate of prisoners and returning citizen amid COVID-19, as well as how to bring equity to Black artists and mom-and-pop entrepreneurs amid the COVID-19 recovery. MODERATOR: **Johnny Barnes**, Civil Rights Attorney and founder of Living with the Law.

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**7:30-11 p.m. AFTERPARTY AND DEEJAY BATTLE.** Hosted by ONE DC and Serve Our City, WEACT RADIO and CHECK IT ENTERPRISES. Streamed on FB LIVE on MakeGoGoForeverDC

#### ABOUT DON'T MUTE DC

Don't Mute DC is a collective of cultural activists working tirelessly to amplify the voices of marginalized and displaced Washingtonians through art, advocacy, and voter education and registration. The District of Columbia's indigenous Go-Go music--and the 80,000 people who came to its defense—are the muse and rallying cries that have powered this social enterprise. This cultural agency battle silences around urban erasure through partnerships in the arts, media, education, preservation, philanthropy, public and private sectors.

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**JUNETEENTH**  
**FREE US NOW**  
VIRTUAL DISCUSSION  
ON ELIMINATING  
**MASS-  
INCARCERATION**  
AND  
**RACIAL  
INEQUITIES**  
Moderated By: Civil Rights Attorney  
**Johnny Barnes**  
From: Living with the Law  
**FRIDAY JUNE 19TH**  
**6:30PM - 7:30PM**  
LIVE FROM THE FORWARD  
facebook **LIVE**  
Streamed Live on @Make GoGo ForeverDc

**ERIC WEAVER**  
NAARC

**LASHONIA THOMPSON-EL**  
DC-WJRL

**RONALD MOTEN**  
CO-FOUNDER  
DON'T MUTE DC

**ANWAR GLOVER**  
BIG G  
BACKYARD BAND

**NATALIE HOPKINSON**  
AUTHOR

**AFTER-PARTY 7:30-11PM WITH DJ BATTLE FEATURING  
DJ DIRTY RICO, DJ BIG JOHN AND DJ FRANK WHITE**

One DC  
Juneteenth  
Virtual Conversation  
Series

presents...  
**BLACK COPS**  
The Conversation of the  
Life, Roles and Solutions  
From Black Cops Who Care

Moderated By: Charles Ellison  
Contributing Editor, TheRoot.com  
Executive Producer, Reality Check  
On WURD.com  
**FRIDAY JUNE 19TH**  
**12PM-1:30PM**  
facebook **LIVE**  
Streamed Live on  
@Make GoGo ForeverDC

**Hakim Tate**  
Officer and Author

**Edwin Buckner**  
Officer

**Darryl DE Sousa**  
Former Baltimore Police Commissioner

**Mitch Credle**  
Former MPD Homicide Detective