

# ***To Bigotry No Sanction A Personal and Communal Journey***

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METRO DALLAS HOMELESS ALLIANCE

# Who Am I? Why Am I Here?

## Rabbi

- 8<sup>th</sup> generation rabbi
- U.S. born and Israeli bred
- Served in leadership positions on three continents
- Once Orthodox, I am now a secular Jew

## Development and Communications Director MDHA

- Strengthen MDHA as the backbone organization of Dallas' homeless response system, as well as the system itself, through fundraising, messaging, and relationship building

# Seek the Peace of the City

“Seek the peace of the city... and pray unto the Lord for it; for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace.”



# Pray for the Welfare of the Kingdom

“Pray for the welfare of the kingdom (=government). For without fear of it, people would swallow each other alive.”



# U.S. Chief Marketing Officer

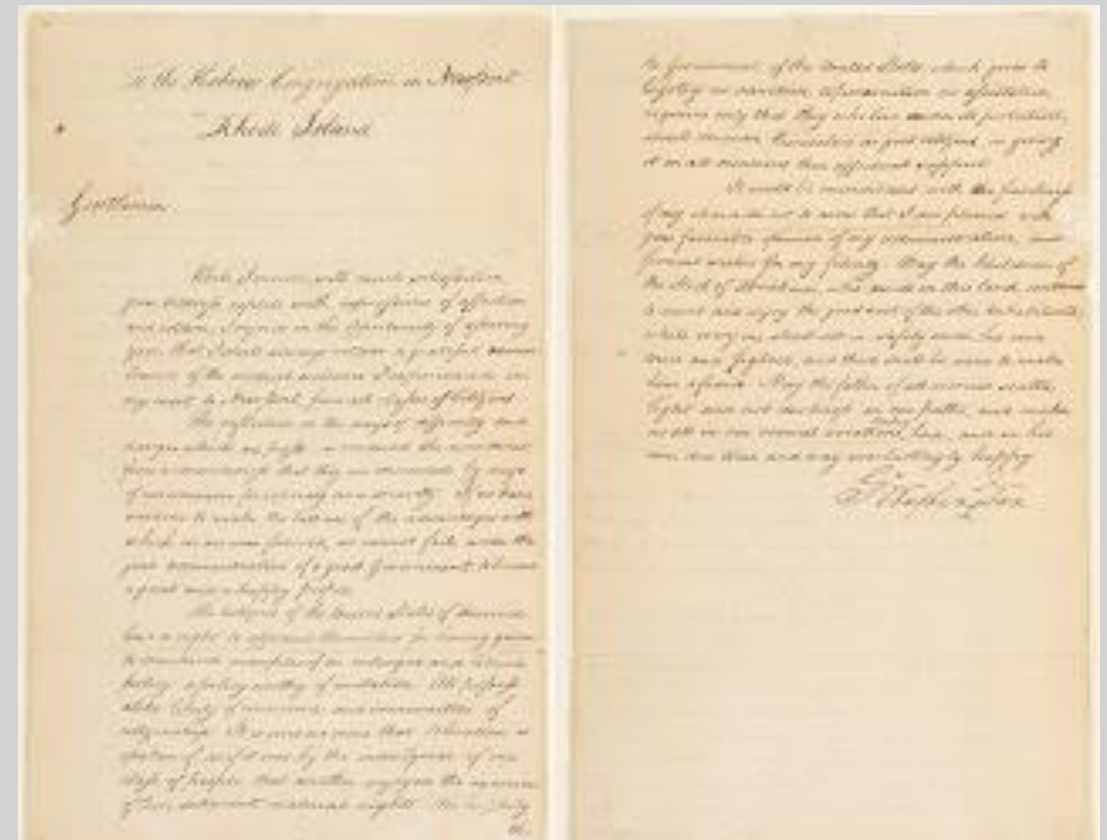


In 1790, the new President of the United States, George Washington, traveled through the thirteen states of the union, to promote the new Constitution.

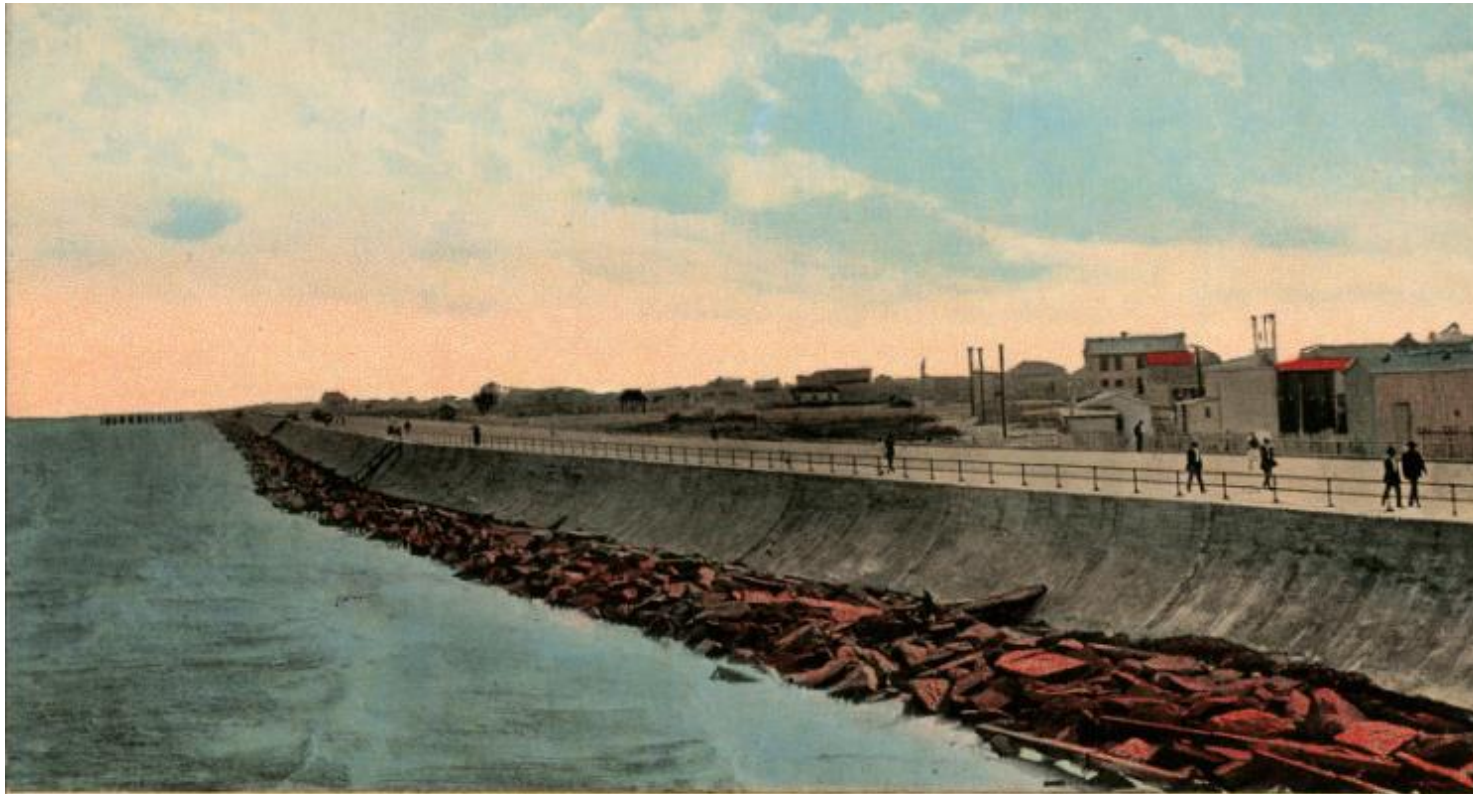


# G. Washington's Letter

“For happily the Government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance, requires only that they who live under its protection, should demean themselves as good citizens...”



# Overwhelmed by Henry Landes



Sunset Route, Sea Wall, Galveston, Texas.

“We are overwhelmed that the ruler of the city should greet us. We have never been spoken to by the officials of our country except in terms of harshness, and although we have heard of the land of great freedom, it is very hard to realize that we are permitted to grasp the hand of the great man. We will do all we can to make good citizens.”



# **Rabbi Moshe Feinstein**

## **U.S. Cheerleader**

“Kingdom of kindness, whose only goal is to do good on behalf of the residents of the country.”



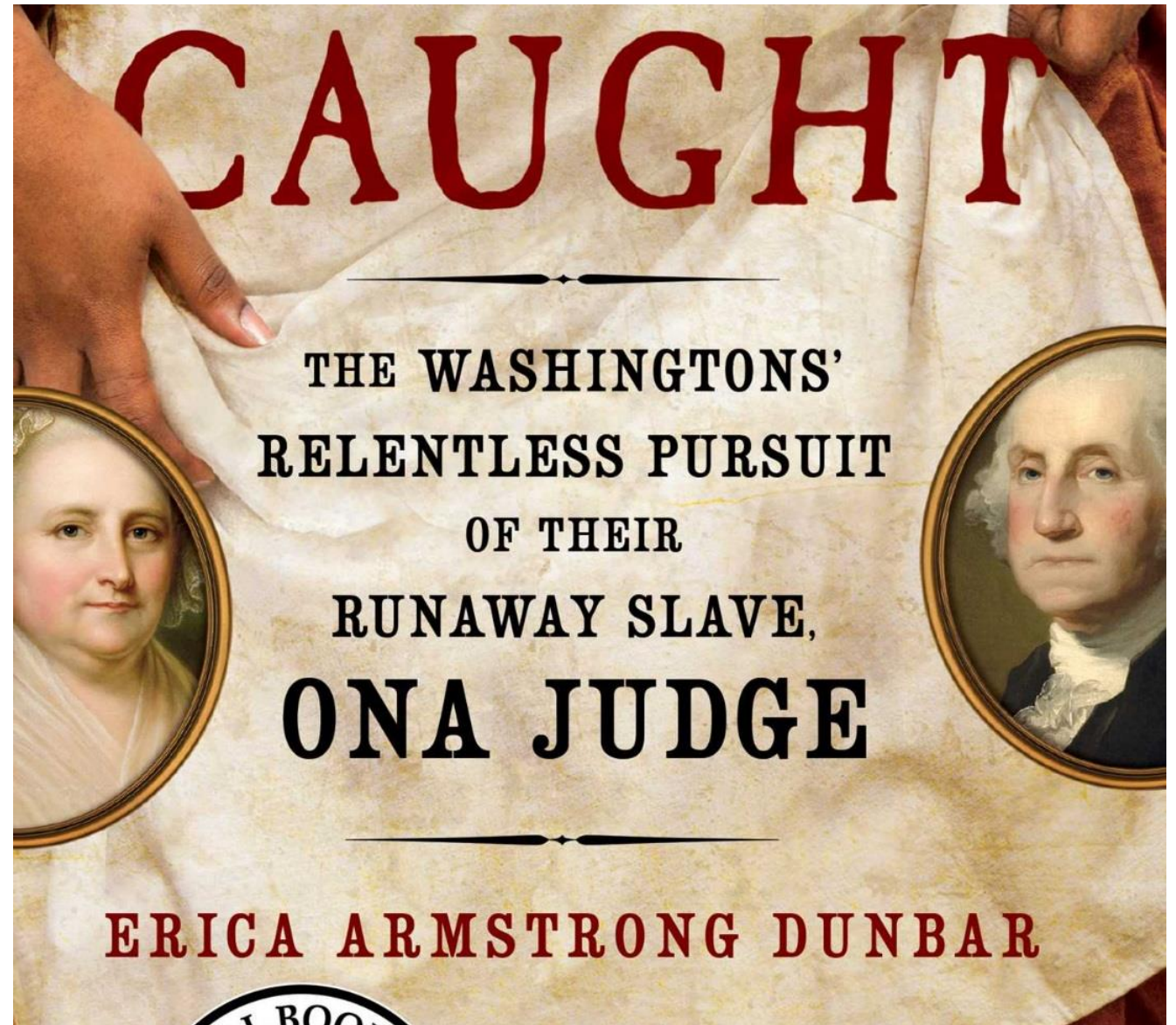
# Slave Holder

In 1790, when the new President of the United States, George Washington, traveled through the thirteen states of the union, to promote the new Constitution, there were enslaved people in his retinue.



## G. Washington's Actions

“No Person held to Service or Labour in one State, under the Laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in Consequence of any Law or Regulation therein, be discharged from such Service or Labour, but shall be delivered up on Claim of the Party to whom such Service or Labour may be due.”



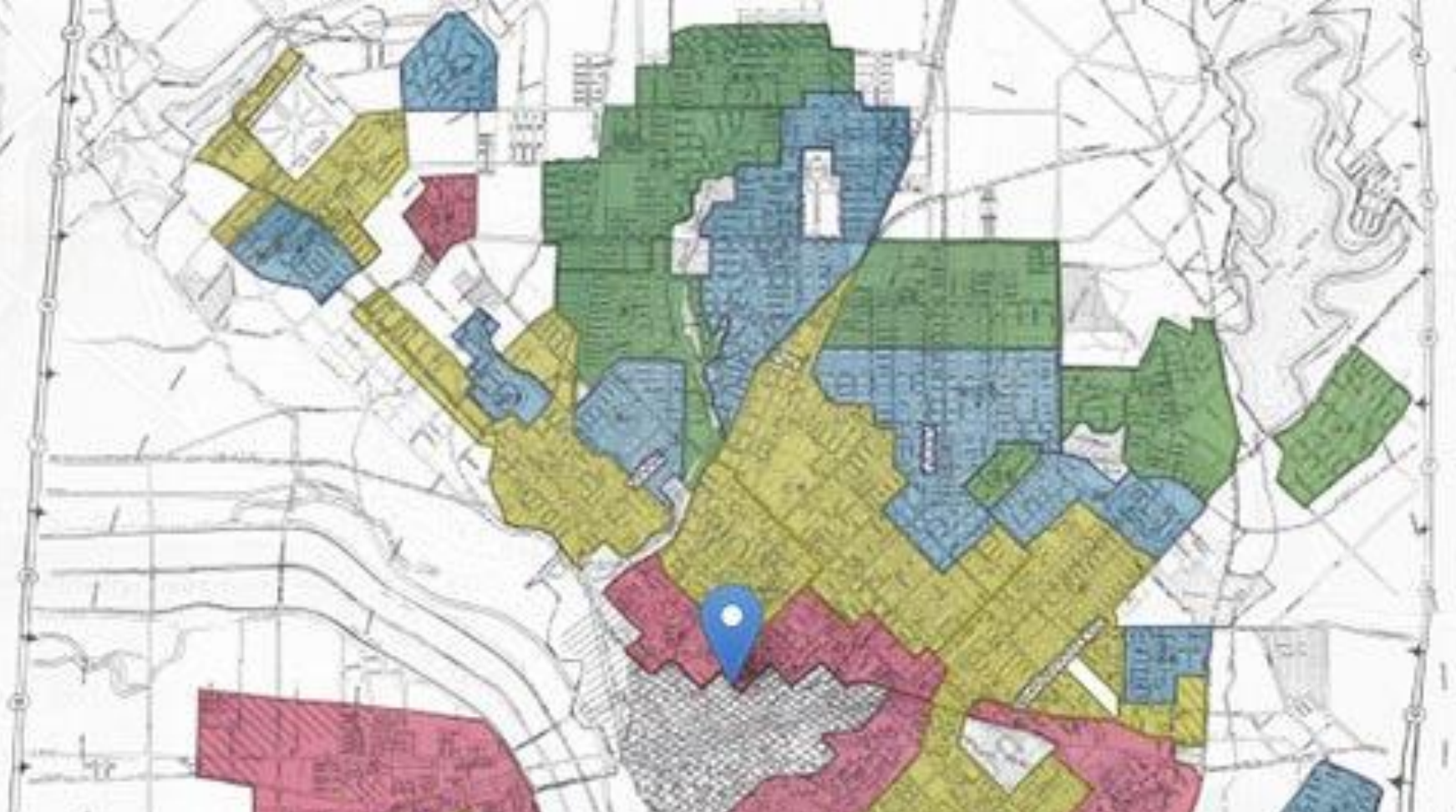


# Jim Crow Goes to the Beach

In the very Galveston, to which the Jews were welcomed by the Mayor, African Americans were restricted to one small block, along the water, between 28th and 29th Streets.



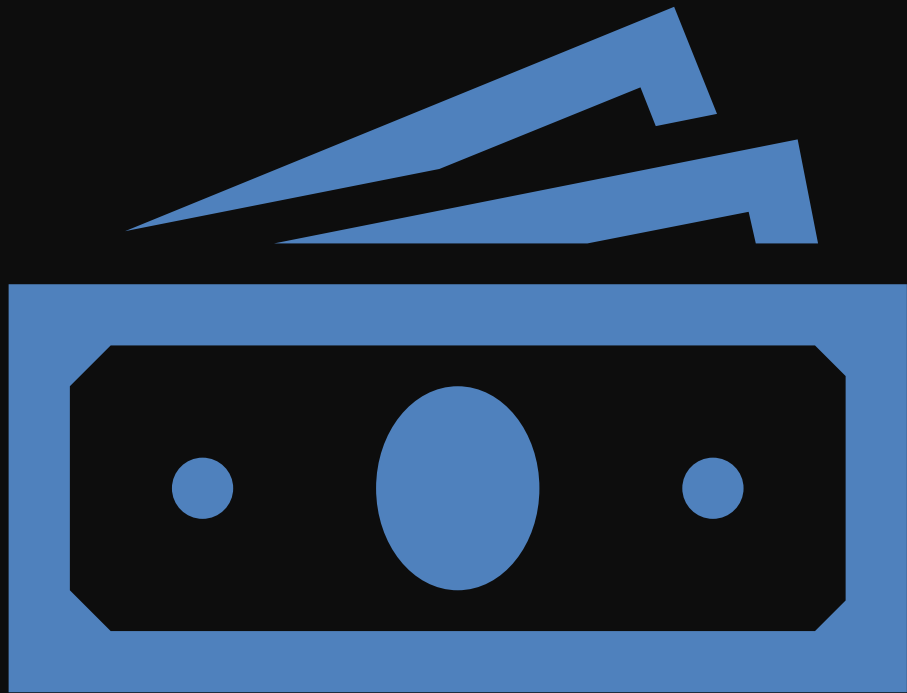
Sunset Route, Sea Wall, Galveston, Texas.



# Redlining

To do good on behalf of the residents of the country?

- A "Best"
- B "Still Desir"
- C "Definitely Declining"
- D "Hazardous"



“Instead of honoring  
this sacred  
obligation, America  
has given the Negro  
people a bad check.”

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



## Seek the Peace of the City?

“Seek the peace of  
the city... and pray  
unto the Lord for  
it; for in the peace  
thereof shall ye  
have peace.”  
Really?





Tamir Rice



Philando Castile





Botham Jean

## Time to Act

“Though you pray at length, I will not listen... Cease to do evil... Do good. Devote yourself to justice. Aid the wronged. Uphold... rights...”





# The Facts in Dallas

1

African Americans make up 13% of the population, both in the U.S. and in **Dallas County.**

2

African Americans make up 40% of the U.S. homeless population, and 28% of the U.S. unsheltered homeless population.

3

**African Americans make up 67% of the Dallas homeless population, and up to 70% of the Dallas unsheltered homeless population!**

# The Tragedy That Lit a SPARC

In the aftermath of July 7, 2016, [United Way of Metropolitan Dallas](#) called for programs that could help heal the city, specifically in the area of race.

The [Center for Social Innovation](#) (C4) called for cities to join a research and action program, to “close the racial gap that has led to... disproportionate... homelessness among African Americans.”

With a \$32,700 grant from United Way of Metropolitan Dallas’ Unite Dallas Relief Fund, [MDHA](#) partnered with [C4 and other cities](#), towards establishing racial equity in homeless services.



# 2016-2018

C4 kicked things off with a [Hard Conversation](#), delivered training, met with us and the key players, and conducted in depth research.

Q2 - MDHA experienced a leadership change, and C4/SPARC did too. It was up to me and Diana Romagnoli to keep the ember burning. [Faith Forward Dallas](#) helped us.

2016–2017

2018

2018

Q1 - C4 held it conference in February and issued its [reports in March](#). We held a system leader retreat in March, which among other things endorsed all the SPARC recommendations.



**Jerry Hawkins**

## **Dallas Truth Racial Healing and Transformation**

[Dallas TRHT](#) is a community-driven vehicle for change to transform the community and eventually the country. The TRHT approach examines how the hierarchy of human value became embedded in our society, both its culture and structures, and then works with communities to design and implement effective actions that will permanently uproot it.



# Late 2018-Present

Jerry created a racial equity plan of action, [Racial Equity and Homelessness 2.0](#), funded with a \$30,000 Unite Dallas Relief Fund grant. TRHT issued a [groundbreaking report](#).

MDHA and TRHT formed a racial equity task force to guide our work with representatives from UWMD, FFD and The Bridge, chaired by Nissy New of the Child Poverty Action Lab.

TRHT built and began a pilot to train everyone at The Bridge. Concurrently, we began planning how to roll out similar trainings at other homeless response system partners.





# CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

# Follow Our Journey, As It Unfolded

[To Bigotry No Sanction, To Persecution No Assistance](#)

[Racism and Homelessness](#)

[SPARC Dallas - Racism and Homelessness - Addressing Inequity in 10 American Cities](#)

[Addressing Racism and Homelessness in Dallas – a Progress Report](#)

[Hard Conversations: Toxic Inequality](#)

[Homeless Response System Community Dashboard Race Addendum](#)

[Supporting Partnerships for Anti-Racist Communities](#)



# Follow Our Journey, As It Unfolded

[Homelessness in Dallas is Wakanda](#)

[We Love it When a Plan Comes Together...](#)

[The Story of Homelessness in Dallas Still Keeps Coming Back to One Simple Truth](#)

[Continuum of Care Strategic Work Plan 2017-2018 Final Progress Report Dashboard](#) (See Goal VII)

[State of Homelessness Address](#) (The work continues under new leadership; see slides 43-49.)

[The D-ONE Plan](#) (See Introduction, 3.6 and 4.3)

[Ending Homelessness With a Little \(OK, a Lot of\) Help From Our Friends at United Way](#)



A black and white photograph of a large crowd gathered in front of a classical building with columns. The crowd is dense, filling the lower two-thirds of the frame. In the background, a large building with many columns and arched windows is visible. An American flag is flying on a pole to the right. The text "Let Us Strive on to Finish the Work" is overlaid in white at the top center.

# Let Us Strive on to Finish the Work

We must change the system, so Lincoln's vision, Washington's vision, and the vision of the prophets, will come true: "Every one shall sit under his own vine and fig tree, and there shall be none to make him afraid."