



Note from Ebony

Hi All! Happy New Year! I am pleased to share that our organization is growing stronger and look forward to providing support and affecting change amongst communities of color residing throughout Vermont.

Please read on for details on recent and upcoming events.

We'd like to extend a warm welcome to Vermont high school and college students. PoC students AND any student who is interested in learning more and joining the movement can start by liking our Facebook and becoming a member!

-Ebony Nyoni, Founder,
Black Lives Matter Vermont

Community Activists Dispute Process, Intent of Policing Policy

On January 11th, the City Council of Burlington convened a meeting of the ad-hoc committee formed to focus on issues involving undocumented immigrants. The singular goal of Tuesday's meeting was to discuss [the pending draft](#) of the City's fair

and impartial policing policy, which first became available to the public during the meeting. Advocates for more just policing attended the meeting and voiced substantial

Continued on 4

School to Prison

Pipeline Protest on January 16th – Join us at Burlington High School. Continued...

Page 2

BLMVT Storefront

An interview with Ebony Nyoni about how volunteers are transforming 325 Main Street in Winooski...

Page 3

Useful Links

Scroll down to see all: Includes Driving While Black and Brown UVM Study

Page 6

January 16 2017: Anti-Police Brutality School to Prison Pipeline

Attention Black Lives Matter
Vermont Members and Fellow
Green Staters:

On Monday, January 16, we as a community will gather at Burlington High School, 52 Institute Rd. (off North Ave.) at 2 pm. From there, we will march down North Ave. to the Burlington Police Headquarters.



“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”
-Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The event will bring people together in unified opposition to police brutality in our communities and across the country, as well as declare a **dismantling of the School-to-Prison Pipeline.**

In spirit and in action, we will commemorate the work and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Join us, and bring family, friends, and neighbors.

[Facebook Page](#)

Black Lives Matter Storefront: A Safe Space to “Just Be”

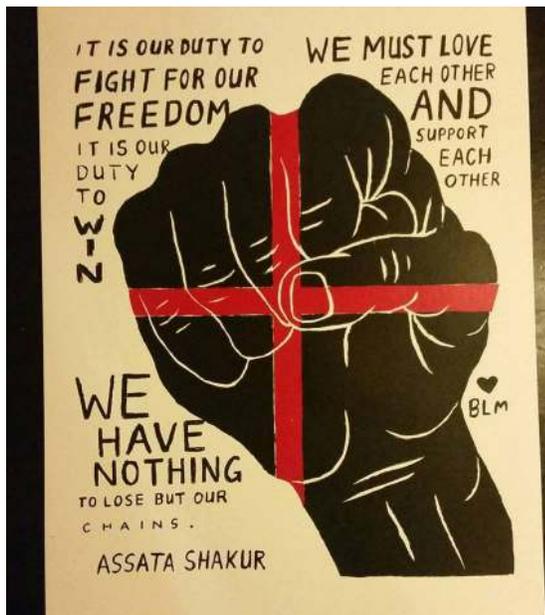
We have a unique fight in Vermont



325 Main Street in Winooski has a new look and a new purpose. Amid a groundswell of volunteer support and some elbow grease, the storefront of Ebony Beauty Supply and Hair Boutique has been transformed into a retail location where supporters of Black Lives Matter Vermont can meet, collaborate, and contribute to the cause. Stop in to shop for donated arts, clothes, and pottery, or even a quick cup of coffee on your way to work. For those of you who relied on Ebony’s Hair Boutique, we’ve got you covered; salon services are still available in the shop.

If you haven’t heard of a Black Lives Matter coffee shop/storefront before, then you’re in good company, neither has Ebony Nyoni, the store’s founder and the founder of Black Lives Matter VT.

Vermont’s spread-out population is almost 100% white and totals just over half a million people. This led Ebony to diversify the organization’s revenue streams. “We have a different fight. We have a unique fight in Vermont. We need to look for creative ways to stay sustainable as we help the community understand what’s going on.”



Limited edition prints available at Black Lives Matter Storefront, or in online store. Design by Jabari Jones; produced in collaboration with Jasmine Parsia and Noah Lagel at Iskra in Burlington

Continued from Page One:

...concerns about both the process that led to the meeting and the contents of the document.

Most of the meeting was spent on Burlington Police Chief del Pozo's presentation of the revised document to the committee. According to del Pozo, those involved in the drafting had a "line-by-line" discussion of the State's model. He went on to highlight particular sections for the committee's attention, which included discussion of anti-bias trainings, justifications for requesting immigration status information, and in which situations Burlington police may assist the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). While there is a substantial "Accountability" clause, no repercussions or punishments are outlined in the event that an officer fails to follow the policy.

Chief del Pozo characterized many of his revisions in the context of federal compliance, both currently and for the incoming Trump administration. He promoted the revised



policy as coming into greater compliance with ICE and related federal authorities. "We won't gleefully run afoul" of the values of the policy, del Pozo assured, but operating in defiance of ICE would "run afoul of the Vermont spirit of cooperation."

Following del Pozo was a brief period of public comment. A representative from [Migrant Justice](#) explained that the Fair and Impartial Policing policy was originally designed collaboratively because of substantial cooperation between Border Patrol and local police, leading to the inhumane deportation of migrant farmworkers. "Let's not assume Vermont is safe

from bias."

Jay Diaz, of the [American Civil Liberties Union of Vermont](#), criticized the Burlington Police Department for not responding to attempts by the organization to get involved in the process of revising the policy. Diaz explained that the successes of the state policy were the failures in the local policy, and disagreed with the BPD's interpretation of federal statutes.

The meeting took [a significant turn](#) when a local person spoke, expressing that the structure of the entire

process is “flawed,” that there lacked significant outreach to the “most affected populations,” that the language of the document is not accessible to those who did not share his master’s-level education, and that terms like “anti-bias” are far too broad.

As the meeting closed, several members of Black Lives Matter Vermont spoke up, decrying the closed nature of the process so far, the short public comment period (about fifteen minutes), and inadequate outreach. Further, BLMVT members spoke against the focus on immigration at the expense of other communities whose lives are deeply impacted by racist and bias policing. “I don’t see where my community is represented,” stated Ebony Nyoni.

Mark Hughes, a member of BLMVT

as well as a co-founder of [Justice for All \(JFA\)](#), clashed with city officials over how the situation had been handled, demanding that they “figure out a way to open this process up.” Justice for All, along with Migrant Justice and the ACLU of Vermont, were involved in drafting the original state policy. A councilperson protested the characterization, and Hughes turned to the small crowd, asking “Did anyone in this room know about this meeting three days ago?” No hands went up.

The next meeting of this ad-hoc committee is tentatively scheduled for January 24th

Black Lives Matter Storefront: a Place to “Just Be” continued...

Continued from Page 3:

The store will bolster revenue to keep the movement strong.

This innovative storefront coffee shop is the product of the “tremendous dedication” of a group of “amazing, amazing, amazing volunteers,” Nyoni said. Volunteers also staff the store in four hour shifts. In order for it to thrive, however, the space needs volunteers to show up not just once, but on a regular basis, covering the cash register shifts each week, and coming in to clean and organize at regular intervals. To volunteer for shop hours, please contact Aurora.

Ebony felt moved by conversations with the generous volunteers. She has found that, when given the chance, people of all backgrounds can come together around their “aspirations for social justice in underserved communities,” Nyoni said.

“I’m committed to the rights of People of Color,” Nyoni says. “I’m committed to standing with our members and growing our community so we can be a support to communities throughout Vermont.”

The newest symbol of that commitment is the very brick and mortar of this storefront as a permanent foothold for peace, justice, and security within the heart of Winooski.

Useful Links

WWW.BLACKLIVESMATTERVERMONT.COM

[Black Lives Matter Vermont Facebook Page](#)

[Racial Justice Reform and Vermont Constitutional Amendment Petition: Justice for All](#)

[Study: Vermont Police Stop Data Show Racial Disparities](#)

["Driving While Black and Brown in Vermont,"](#)

University of Vermont Study



Get Involved Today!!

Want to get involved? Contact Aurora!

Email: aurora.angelina.h@gmail.com

Current Working Groups Include: Marketing, Door Knocking, Newsletter (that's us!), Technology, Art Donation, Tabling Advocacy, Shop Volunteers, Research, Photography, Music, Grant Writing -- many skills are helpful!

Black Lives Matter: Store 4 Change

325 Main Street, Winooski, 05404

blacklivesmattervermont@gmail.com

Link to Sign Up as a Member:

WWW.BLACKLIVESMATTERVERMONT.COM