

# NEWSLETTER



**Mary Dade**  
Housing Program Manager

## Housing Action Illinois was in the House!

MHCDO hosted a meeting with Housing Action Illinois (HAI). HAI is a national HUD Intermediary, headquartered in Chicago, with more than a dozen sub-grantees. MHCDO joined the network on January 14, 2025. David Young, HAI's Director of Capacity Building, visited the MHCDO office to extend an in-person welcome to the network.

The meeting was crucial to the success of fundraising and relationship-building. The hosting team consisted of Babatunde Oloyede, Mary Dade, and Patrice Roberts. David received a PowerPoint presentation on the status of the housing department's events, including attending and presenting at the Housing Action Illinois annual conference, scheduled for October 16-18, 2025. The team asked questions and gained valuable insights into future funding for housing counseling. MHCDO was encouraged as we are likely to receive a higher funding award for FY26.

## Housing Department

### Funding Advocacy at Its Finest

Mary Dade and Patrice Roberts were recently asked to speak about the impact of HUD's Housing Counseling Assistance Program during a series of legislative meetings at the Senate.

The HUD Housing Counseling Assistance Program is a proven, cost-effective initiative that empowers American families to make informed housing decisions, avoid foreclosure, secure stable rental housing, and successfully achieve homeownership. Through a nationwide network of HUD-approved housing counseling agencies, the program helps low- and moderate-income households navigate complex financial and housing challenges. The program strengthens families, safeguards neighborhoods, and minimizes government costs down the line.

The program is currently funded at \$57.5 million and has been at this level of funding since fiscal year 2022. President Trump's FY2026 budget request proposed to eliminate funding for the program. The continued funding Mary and Patrice advocated for would ensure that vulnerable households receive the guidance they need to navigate today's complex housing landscape.

## Workforce Development

June closed on a high note with the graduation of 20 participants from MHCDO's CORE construction training program. After completing the 80-hour course, these individuals were equipped with the skills and certifications needed to launch careers in the construction industry. Specifically, our goal was to place these individuals with subcontractors on the MHCDO and NRPC co-development, Emblem. This 115 unit affordable housing project is located at 301 Florida Avenue, NE.

July brought a flurry of job interviews and successful hires, with several graduates now on-site and contributing to the project's construction. This progress is made possible in partnership with the Department of Employment Services' Office of First Source Compliance, ensuring local residents have access to meaningful employment opportunities.

We recognize the following individuals for taking their next steps toward Apprenticeship training:

- Harry Locks – Telligent
- Kevin Chambers – Merit
- Keving Reeves – LP Roofing
- Marquet Kelly - Helix
- Arande Johnson - Global
- Robert Jones III – LP Roofing
- Marquet Kelley - Helix
- Everett Sharpe - MPG
- Kevin Thomas – Dynamic



**Blythe Patenaude**  
**Director of Business Development**







**Elridge Allen**  
**Director, Small Business Development Program**



## Small Business Development

### **CVS (Penn Branch) Closing Demonstration – Wednesday, July 2nd 3250 Pennsylvania Avenue SE**

MHCDO and Pennsylvania Avenue East Main Street (PAEMS) were active in support and participation of the community protest against the abrupt corporation closure of the CVS retail drug store at 3250 Pennsylvania Ave SE. The demonstration highlighted not only the inconvenience of the elimination of retail drugstore operation in the community, but also the reduction of health safety net resources for area seniors and those with medical needs. The protest was organized and conducted by civic leadership of Penn Branch Community Association (PBCA), Fort Dupont Civic Association (FDCA), Hillcrest Community Civic Association (HCCA), and Randle Highlands Citizens Association (RHCA). MHCDO assisted with logistics and safety by providing a canopy tent, electric generator, portable speakers/bullhorns, and first aid kits.

### **MHCDO / TD Bank 2025 Small Business Financial Information Series**

MHCDO's Small Business Development Program, in partnership with TD Bank, kicked off its 2025 Small Business Financial Information Series in July! This four-part series is designed to help entrepreneurs at all stages develop the financial confidence and strategies needed to grow and sustain successful businesses. The series started Wednesday, July 9th with "Session I - Assessing Your Company's Financial Needs," which focused on conducting a comprehensive analysis of a small business' financial health, future projections, and funding options. "Session II – Running A Profitable Company" held July 23, provided insight on how to boost a business' bottom line through SMART planning, strategic decision making, and targeted execution. Spirited engagement was had with members of our small business community and business support professionals.



# Deanwood Heights Main Street

July marked significant community engagement and progress in Deanwood!

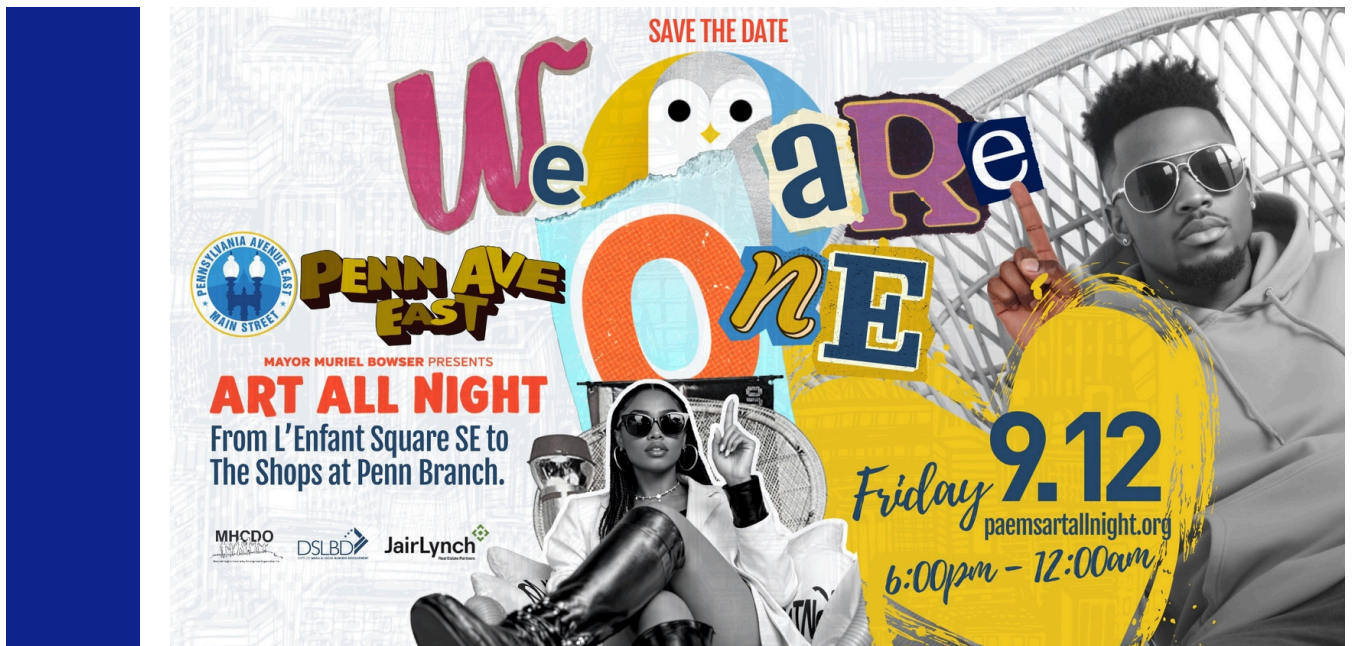
DHMS Program Manager, Paul Spires, conducted a successful tour of Main Street businesses along Nannie Helen Burroughs Avenue NE. The Department of Small and Local Business Development (DSLBD) visited key establishments to celebrate the neighborhood's vibrant small business corridor and discuss opportunities for growth and revitalization.



**Paul Spires**  
Program Manager,  
Deanwood Heights Main Street







**Racquell Perry**  
Program Manager,  
Pennsylvania Avenue East  
Main Street

## Pennsylvania Avenue East Main Street

### Art All Night 2025

Art All Night is taking place on Friday, September 12, 2025, along the Pennsylvania Avenue East corridor—and you don't want to miss it!

This year's theme, "We Are One," highlights the rich diversity and vibrant voices of our community. From live music and film screenings to family-friendly fun and local art, there will be something for everyone to enjoy.

But we can't do it without you. We're looking for dedicated volunteers to help bring this incredible night to life! Whether you're helping with set-up, greeting guests, or supporting artists and vendors, your energy will help make this our best year yet.

Interested in volunteering?

Email [rperry@mhcd.org](mailto:rperry@mhcd.org) to sign up or learn more.

Let's come together, celebrate our corridor, and show the city that We Are One!