

## September 2018 Newsletter

[View this email in your browser](#)*Get involved, get informed, act together!*

**May 2018 Celebration.** Clergy, Team Leaders, and Network Members came together to celebrate a fantastic year by sharing a meal, playing games, telling our own super story, and investing in the Justice Ministry.

Over \$71,000 dollars were turned in as of that night - great job guys!! CAJM's goal this year is to raise \$115,000 in individual investments. To date we've raised ~\$90,000. **Help push us over our goal and [make your investment today!](#)**

*CAJM is a growing network of faith-based congregations who come together with one goal: to make the Charleston area more just. We are culturally, economically,*

*geographically, and religiously, diverse.*

*Together, we speak with one powerful voice for justice for our community.*

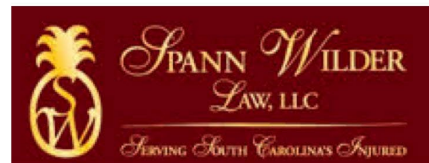
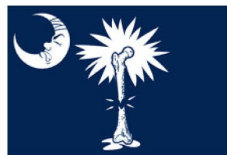
## Corporate Investment Drive Update

**2018 is CAJM's best year ever with \$37,000 committed so far!**

And it's not over yet. Our key to success has been strong referrals from CAJM members with relationships with businesses.

**If you have a relationship with any business owners, please share their names and contact information with us!**

***CAJM is supported by the following corporate investors:***

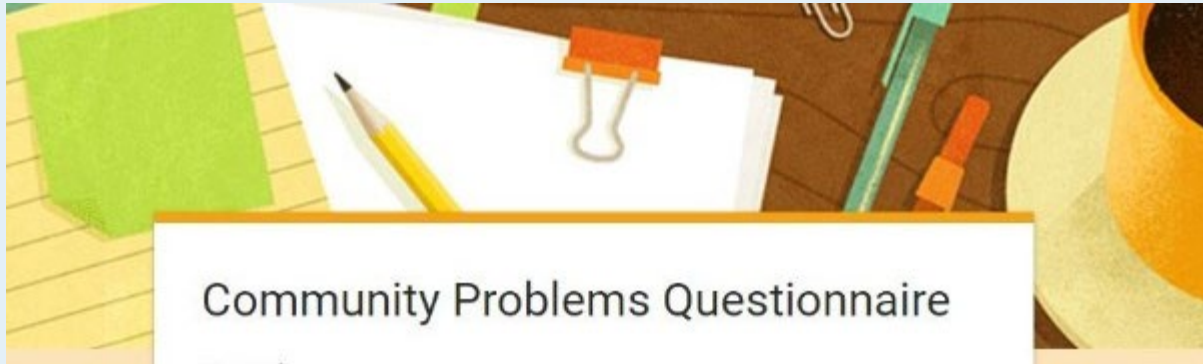


South Carolina  
Injury Solutions



**CAJM clergy, team leaders, and network members**, please fill out this survey. We have ongoing issue campaigns and are working to get a better understanding of the jurisdictions we all live in. We also want to build parental support for restorative practices.

\*\* Please use the [link](#) to fill out the 5-minute survey. \*\*



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## Issues Updates

### Housing



At our April 30th Nehemiah Action, elected officials representing all four governing bodies in the Charleston region agreed to support CAJM’s Housing Action Plan as a first step in establishing a Regional Housing Trust Fund with permanent funding from all local governments. The next day, the Post and Courier’s lead editorial, entitled, [“Regional solutions to housing crisis needed,”](#) endorsed our goal of “dramatically increasing the supply of affordable housing units in the area.”

On July 10th, CAJM hosted the first Regional Housing Coalition Meeting, including national housing trust fund expert, Michael Anderson, who gave a presentation on the benefits of establishing a regional housing trust fund.

Last week, a CAJM delegation of 20 community members met with Mayor Tecklenburg to gain his support for the Regional Housing Trust Fund. The Mayor agreed with us that the Housing Trust Fund is necessary and will only work if there is a dedicated source of funding. He also acknowledged the need for all municipalities to participate. He stated

that he is committed to supporting the Regional Housing Trust Fund. CAJM members also took that opportunity to invite Mayor Tecklenburg to our 7th annual Nehemiah Action on Monday, May 6th. He would not commit to attend that meeting.

The second Housing Coalition Meeting was held on September 5th. The work is off to a very good start. To continue to build support for this work, it will be important for us to have strong presence at all city, town, and county meetings:

### **Charleston County Council**

Meets on Tuesday evenings: September 11 & 25, October 9 & 23, November 13 & 27, and December 11 & 20 (Thursday).

Start times vary (usually 6:30 PM). Check information at

<https://www.charlestoncounty.org/calendar.php> or contact the Clerk of Council's office at (843)-958-4030 or [ksalisbury@charlestoncounty.org](mailto:ksalisbury@charlestoncounty.org)

### **Charleston City Council**

Meets on Tuesdays at 5:00 PM: September 11 & 25, October 9 & 23, November 13 & 27, and December 4 & 18.

Most meetings are held in City Hall's Council Chambers. The location for the September 25 & November 27 meetings are "TBA." Check information at

<https://www.charleston-sc.gov/calendar.aspx?CID=14> or contact the Clerk of Council at (843)-724-3729 or [maybankv@charleston-sc.gov](mailto:maybankv@charleston-sc.gov)

### **Mount Pleasant Town Council**

Meets on Tuesdays at 6:00 PM: September 11, October 9, November 13, and December 11.

More information at <https://www.tompssc.com/Calendar.aspx> or contact the Clerk of Council at (843) 884-8517 or [cbarrett@tompssc.com](mailto:cbarrett@tompssc.com)

### **North Charleston City Council**

Meets the second and fourth Thursday of every month at 7:00 PM.

More information at <http://www.northcharleston.org/Events.aspx> or contact the Clerk of Council's office at (843) 740-2502 or [ellenclark@northcharleston.org](mailto:ellenclark@northcharleston.org)

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**Racial Discrimination in Policing Practices** - Three top companies bidding for Police Audit will give presentations on September 24th

In July, members of Charleston's police audit committee met to evaluate seven firms that

submitted bids to conduct a study of racial bias in the the Charleston Police Department. Their top three firms are:

- \* [CNA](#)
- \* [OIR](#)
- \* [RTI International](#)

These three companies will give presentations to the police audit committee on Monday, September 24 beginning at 1:00 PM in the Gaillard Center. Following the presentations, the committee will vote on one company to recommend to City Council.

These presentations are open to the public. **It's important for the police audit committee and these companies to see strong community support for this audit so please join us for these presentations. If you are able to attend, please click on the link to [RSVP](#).**

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## **Wages - Getting Our Workers Paid What They Are Due**

Charleston Legal Access (CLA) is Charleston's first sliding scale law firm. They are committed to expanding our Wage Recovery Program so that workers of all income levels including undocumented workers have access to legal representation.

**UPDATE! CLA has received a grant from the South Carolina Bar Foundation for a Wage Recovery Project, to start October 1, 2018. This grant funds a half-time attorney for the project!**

If you or someone you know is a victim of wage theft, please contact [Charleston Legal Access](#) (phone: 843-640-5980).

Si usted o alguien que conoce ha experimentado robo de sueldo, por favor contacte con [Charleston Legal Access](#) en 843-640-5980. Se habla español.

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[Click](#) to watch an informative 1-minute video, [Wage Theft: How Employers Steal Billions from American Workers Each Year](#)

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***Preparation for a new year - We'll soon begin the listening process***

*It's time to continue dreaming about what justice looks like in our neighborhoods. To continue building our power to deepen our impact in the Charleston area. How do we build that power? By building relationships through the telling of our stories. It all begins with our house meetings this fall. Plan to attend a house meeting to build relationships, build power, and raise awareness of community problems.*

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*"The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any." -- Alice Walker*

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## **Important Dates**

**November 5, 2018 - 7:00 PM**

Location TBA

### **Community Problems Assembly**

All Network Members, Team Leaders, and Clergy

Come vote on key organizational decisions

**December 3, 2018 - 6:30 PM**

Location TBA

### **Research Kickoff**

All Network Members, Team Leaders, and Clergy

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## **CAJM Organizer Spotlight**

Farewell to Est

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Welcome! to Raynique & Rose

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**Est Mungai** left CAJM in March to become a [community organizer with LDF](#) in Washington, DC.

"Not every warrior  
is from Wakanda  
some are  
from Minneapolis

and not every  
superhero flies  
in a Black Panther  
spaceship

some just  
drive their cars  
to meetings  
in church halls.

So it is  
that the  
Dora Milaje  
come to find us

not on  
our movie screens  
but in brighter  
living color

and so it was  
that Est  
came to Charleston  
to join the cause

of freedom



In 2015, **Raynique Syas** moved from California to Charleston, SC to build a better future for herself and her three children. Raynique's move was a leap of faith to follow a call on her life she is just now beginning to understand. Growing up in the heart of South Central, Los Angeles, Raynique witnessed tragedies, devastation and deficits within her community. These experiences are what motivate her to "do justice." In the past three years, Raynique's experiences in Charleston equipped her with a deep understanding of the vast problems locally in education, housing and economic opportunity. As a member of Charity Missionary Baptist Church, Raynique has been heavily involved in the work of CAJM serving in the role of Team Leader. She is excited to transition from a Team Leader to a full time organizer to help train and educate more community members to build the power necessary to dismantle the systems of injustice.

for the people  
black and white  
together

but you know  
with an emphasis  
on black  
if we're keeping it 100.

In celebration  
of her time  
with us  
we really should

retire her jersey  
hang it  
from the rafters  
our CAJM Kobe

or better yet  
our Nakia  
Shuri  
and Okoye

all rolled into one  
now sent  
to the District  
to join a new team.

The Legal Defense Fund  
is lucky indeed  
as were we  
as are we all

we who  
watch the Wakandans  
on screen  
and decide to make it

real life." *-Rev. Rutledge*



**Rose Stump** was born in Tallahassee and graduated from the University of Central Florida with a degree in English Literature and Women's Studies. While in Central Florida, she worked to improve farm workers' conditions. Rose recently graduated with an MPA from UNC Chapel Hill where she continued organizing with farm workers as well as with her peers to bring the Racial Equity Institute to her master's program. She also helped contribute to the first ever data collection effort on the diversity of local government leaders. Rose has also worked as a group fitness instructor for four years and is passionate about making exercise more accessible for everyone. She believes relationship-building is a vital part of addressing oppression and achieving collective liberation, and she is committed to organizing in the south among the people and traditions who made her who she is.

The hiring of CAJM's fourth organizer is made possible by financial investment from



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## Congregational Investments

Please make your investment today!

*Mail checks to:*

CAJM  
PO BOX 71416  
North Charleston, SC 29415

*To donate online, click the link:*

[Givelify](#)

CAJM is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. All or part of your investment may be tax deductible as a charitable contribution. Please check with your tax advisor.

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