

## MEDIA ALERT

### Contact

Homeless Voices for Justice

Phone: 207.775.0026 x2089

Email: [HVJ@preblestreet.org](mailto:HVJ@preblestreet.org)



## Homeless Voices for Justice hosts 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Longest Day of Homelessness Sit-out

**PORTLAND, ME (June 20, 2019)** — On Friday, June 21 from 8:30am-4:30pm, Homeless Voices for Justice (HVJ) will sit out in front of City Hall for its 12th Annual Longest Day of Homelessness Sit-out. This year's theme is *visibility*.

At 12pm, HVJ members and advocates will speak to their experiences with homelessness and how those experiences connect to the indignities and structural causes of homelessness as the City of Portland discusses its plans for a new Homeless Services Center.

HVJ will be joined by other organizations and community members, sitting out in solidarity with those experiencing homelessness on June 21 — the longest day of the year. During the summer months, homelessness increases. Lack of access to adequate shelter puts individuals who are homeless at risk of potentially deadly heat and exposure.

Community members are invited to join Homeless Voices for Justice and share conversation with people experiencing homelessness. HVJ believes that emphasizing the visibility of homelessness can serve as a reminder of the discussions, practices, and policies needed to keep Portland a welcoming and inclusive city for all. All are welcome.

***Homeless Voices for Justice (HVJ) is a grassroots organization that works for social change, with and on behalf of people who struggle with homelessness and poverty. HVJ is self-led by organizers who have all experienced homelessness and is supported by a full-time organizer. The founding group in Portland has existed since 1995, and networks in other locations including York County, Augusta, Brunswick, and Lewiston—HVJ's goal is to build a coalition for, and of, homeless people throughout Maine. Through protest, education, and positive policy change and reform, HVJ seeks to empower poor and homeless people whose perspectives are often excluded from the development of policies and programs that impact their social and economic well-being.***

###