

December 2, 2015



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Who: Little Haiti Homeowners, Entrepreneurs, Community Leaders and Elected Officials
What: Protest efforts to push out and displace long-term residents of Little Haiti
When: Thursday, December 3rd, 2015
Where: 181 NE 82nd Street, Miami, FL 33138
Time: 11:15 AM

When Haitian refugees began to come to the U.S. en masse to escape the violent dictatorship of the Duvalier's regime in the late 70s, they settled in a blighted, slum-like neighborhood located between 36th and 87 street known as Little Haiti, where they were basically left to fend for themselves. It was a difficult time for the new residents, especially children. They had a very hard time to adjust in an unwelcomed environment. Called "boat people", which was used as a derogatory term, they were teased mercilessly and beaten at school. One of them, is 17-year old Phede Eugene, who in 1984, killed himself when his American girlfriend found out that he was Haitian. He felt that he could not survive the shame.

Out of sheer resilience and determination, the newly arrived refugees worked hard, bought homes, developed businesses. They turned Little Haiti into a dynamic, attractive, and culturally rich community. Over a decade ago, many Haitian homeowners were targeted and they were forced to sell their homes cheap through cunning and deceit. Now, developers, investors, dilettantes, and art business owners alike are not hiding their hands anymore. Little Haiti is coveted by local and foreign investors alike. They come in with hard cash and they do not hide the fact that they want "in", Haitians and other low income residents "out".

On Thursday, December 3rd at 11:15 AM, home and business owners will join community leaders to demand immediate action against the push out of long-term residents from Little Haiti!

For information, call Vanessa Urbina at [786 285-2363](tel:786-285-2363) or via email: communications@fanm.org

*FANM/Haitian Women of Miami is a community based organization whose mission is to empower Haitian women and their families socially, financially, and politically, and to facilitate their adjustment to life in Florida and the U.S.

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