

# FREEDOM WEST

NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2022



Richard O'Neal Sr. and Jr.



Richard O'Neal and Hazel Odom



Ruby Bond and Katie McFarland



Joseph Polk

## Upcoming Freedom West Alumni Events

### Mother's Day Celebration

May 14th

### Father's Day Celebration

June 11th

### National Night Out

August 2nd

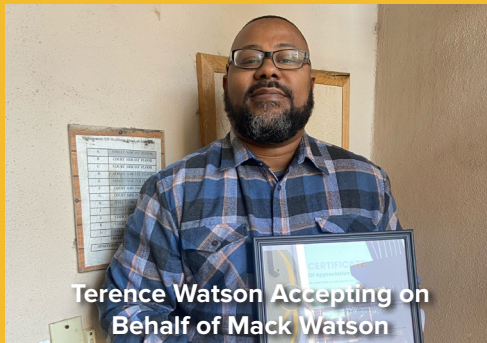
### Freedom West Family Day

September 24th

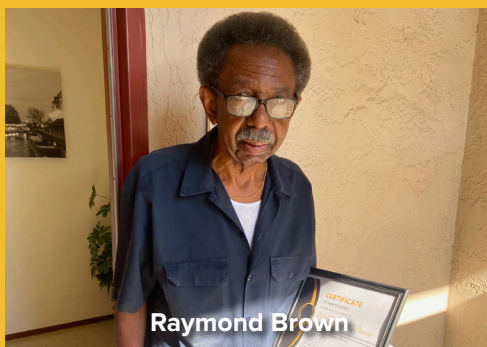
### Holiday Grocery Giveaway

December 10th

## Residents Honored As Part of Black History Month



Terence Watson Accepting on Behalf of Mack Watson



Raymond Brown

On February 5, the Freedom West Alumni Association honored eight longtime residents as part of a celebration of Black History Month.

Ruby Bond, Katie McFarland, Rosemary Brown, Hazel Odom, Mack Watson, Richard O'Neal Sr., Raymond Brown and Joseph Polk were each awarded a Certificate of Recognition and given a letter of appreciation during a virtual Zoom event.

The Certificate of Recognition acknowledged the outsized influence of the eight residents, lauding their "lifegiving efforts" and remarking how having each of them as a "leader, voice and living example in the Freedom West

homes community makes it a better place to call home."

The letter, written directly to the honorees, thanked them for helping to "foster equality and self-pride" and for always being "friendly, helpful, trusting and positive influences" for the Freedom West community.

**Continued on Back**

## Freedom West's Management Contact Info: 415-929-1011

### Anthony Maldonado

– Community Manager

### Monica Garcia

– Assistant Community Manager

### Krystyna Gurova

– Admin. Assistant

### Tywon Fitzgerald

– Maintenance Supervisor

### Paul Figueroa

– Maintenance Tech

## Continued from Front

Freedom West resident Ericka Scott, who helped organized the virtual Black History Month celebration, praised the eight

leaders for their persistence, hard work and commitment in helping create and strengthen the community.

# Community Profile

## Lolly Lewis

### When did you move to Freedom West?

My mom had a friend who moved into Freedom West I in 1973, so she knew about the project. She was able to qualify for an original share in Freedom West II and we moved in when it was completed in 1974. At the time I was in college in Santa Cruz, and for the first few years we lived at FWH I was not there often, just on weekends and holidays to visit. But when Mom died I took over the apartment, commuting to school for my last couple of years. I moved in full time in 1980 and have been here ever since.

### Why do you enjoy living at Freedom West?

I love the vitality of living in the city. It's great to be able to walk nearly anywhere! Freedom West is central and accessible to the whole city by foot or by bus. I appreciate how close we are to Davies Hall, the Opera House, the Jazz Center. It's like we live in the musical heart of the west!

### What makes the Freedom West community unique?

I think Freedom West stands out for its natural diversity. We really have all walks of life. That's because of the original commitment to the historical Black community, and FWH has grown even more inclusive over the years as a welcoming, family-oriented neighborhood. I guess it's thanks to the stability of cost - we can afford to live in the center of one of the most desirable cities in the world.

### Why do you think Freedom West 2.0 is important?

The city is becoming more homogeneous and autonomous - that is, with the high

cost of living we get more and more people who don't have deep roots in SF or connection to the community.

Hayes Valley has changed so dramatically over the years, and especially since the tech industry has become so dominant in the mid-Market area. Our neighborhoods are losing their individual character and sense of history.

You might think Freedom West was part of the removal of that very history, because it was part of the urban redevelopment that uprooted so many families and simply wiped away whole neighborhoods in the 70s! But thanks to the vision of its founders, it's been a family-focused neighborhood since the beginning, welcoming people who lived in the homes that were torn down as well as attracting families who wanted a chance for affordable urban life.

That baked-in multiculturalism is incredibly valuable, and remarkably stable. The character of the neighborhood hasn't fundamentally changed in all those years. It's given people a safe environment to raise their kids and for our elders to age in place. San Francisco needs more neighborhoods with generational continuity.

Our city also needs to honor the Black and multicultural roots of the Western Addition, and Freedom West 2.0 will provide the affordable housing that can support that robust community going forward.



"We know the struggle you must have endured to even get this development off the ground," Scott said at the celebration. "I can only imagine how difficult it must have been to be part of a Black-led property management at that time, but we are so thankful that you worked for us and fought for us."

## Management Corner

### Who to contact in emergency situations:

- If you are experiencing a **medical emergency**, please call 911 immediately.
- Freedom West's security company is SVR. The security team can be reached at 415-724-3215

### Call the management office if:

- There is a repair needed in your unit
- You have an issue with payment of carrying charges
- You have an issue with registering a vehicle to qualify for parking on a Freedom West lot
- You have a pest control issue. Pest Control service is the 4th Wednesday of every month. Please call the office to get on the schedule.
- You have an issue with a neighbor

### The next shareholder meeting will be held on March 22, 2022.