

**Frequently Asked Questions:**  
**Catskill Main Street Black Lives Matter Street Mural**  
Hudson/Catskill Housing Coalition (HCHC) | (518) 291 9415 | [hchc@hudsoncatskillhousing.org](mailto:hchc@hudsoncatskillhousing.org)

**WHO IS ORGANIZING THIS?**

Hudson/Catskill Housing Coalition (HCHC), a Black-led initiative that empowers public housing and low-income residents to fight for housing justice. HCHC is paying for the mural and continues to accept donations.

**WHAT WILL THE MURAL LOOK LIKE & WHERE WILL IT BE?**

The words "Black Lives Matter" will be painted with quick-dry D.O.T. paint in large yellow letters on the surface of Main Street. The location options are Willard Alley to Bridge Street OR Willard Alley to Church Street. This allows for access to Willard Alley, easy detours, and some street parking.

**HOW LONG WILL THE STREET BE SHUT DOWN?**

We estimate the street will be closed for *a maximum* of 48 hours. All sidewalks will remain open.

**WHY DO THE ORGANIZERS WANT IT ON THE STREET RATHER THAN A WALL?**

Cities across the country including Albany, Sacramento, Charlotte, Dallas, NYC, and Oakland have created Black Lives Matter murals on their streets in the same style, which have been commissioned and supported by local government officials. These murals are unequivocal expressions of solidarity with the current uprisings led by the Black Lives Matter movement. A wall mural would be a welcome addition, but *a mural on the street links Catskill with the broader national movement for Black lives* and honors the work of the people who have taken the *streets* to create tangible change throughout the uprisings. What is more, the Village Board has informed us that even if a building owner offers their wall to us directly, we would have to seek the approval of the planning board for a mural. The Black community in Catskill has already watched the mural as requested be dismissed for over two weeks, we cannot ask them to not only compromise on the location (and its symbolism and significance) but be forced to seek further permission from the majority white planning board.

**WHY CAN'T IT BE ON WATER STREET?**

If the mural is on a side street, it sends a message to the community that demands for racial justice are relegated to the sidelines. As HCHC organizer Claire Cousin said, "the people who live near Water Street already KNOW Black lives matter." We want our community and visitors on Main St. to stand with us.

**WHY CAN'T WE JUST HANG A BANNER?**

Again, a banner would be a welcome *addition* to the street mural. However, a banner can be easily torn and damaged by inclement weather, ripped down, or removed once the current movement stops getting national coverage. We ask that BLM not be treated as a temporary trend but a permanent commitment.

**HOW WILL THIS BE GOOD FOR BUSINESS AND THE VILLAGE?**

In the words of HCHC organizer Tiffany Garriga, "[The mural] could actually *bring* customers and tourists to your city because it would show the diversity, love and actual concern that the village of Catskill has for Black lives. By having this mural, not only does it uplift people of color in your village, but it shows other people of other races the respect that we have for one another." As of today, the petition HCHC has created to gauge support for this mural now has over 2,058 signatures from Hudson and Catskill residents as well as from across the country and world. *Many are watching*. We hope the

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Village will demonstrate that it listens to and values the voices and lives of Black people locally and across the nation, in this unprecedented moment where we are all called upon to take a stand for change.