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FPWA Assembles Panel of Experts to Dissect Trump's Urban Agenda

(New York, NY) – FPWA hosted its latest installment of Personally Speaking *entitled The First 100 Days: Examining the Impact of Trump's Urban Agenda* on Thursday, May 11th. Panelists, varying from academics, political experts, media analysts, to social justice and nonprofit leaders, convened to discuss Trump's first 100 days and dissect the impact of his urban agenda on low-income communities across New York City.

FPWA's Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director Jennifer Jones Austin started the evening by highlighting FPWA's intent to ignite a timely and powerful discussion amongst leaders and social activists. The panel focused on addressing the most urgent issues, their implications for marginalized communities, and how people can take action and engage others moving forward.

An insightful discourse, moderated by Borough of Manhattan Community College Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice Dr. Shirley Leyro ensued featuring Executive Director of New York Immigration Coalition Steven Choi, Senior Vice President of Social Justice at The New School Maya Wiley, Director of Progressive Programming, SiriusXM Zerlina Maxwell and National Political Strategist L. Joy Williams.

Zerlina Maxwell, who is also part of the DNC Transition Advisory Committee, reflected on the Trump presidency posing a bold question, "What does it mean for us as citizens when our leader brazenly lies to us over and over again?" Sentiments in the room echoed the concern and how revealing it is that the Trump administration boasts about executive orders and the 28 laws signed in the first 100 days rather than communicating the impact of those laws on the most vulnerable.

Steve Choi pointed to the destructiveness of the Trump agenda, its stand on immigration and its attack on immigrants, especially as an engine that moves New York City's economy. "People (immigrants) don't want to go out anymore," noted Choi. "They don't feel secure about their future, their communities. They don't want to invest in their own futures because they kind of feel like that future may not be in the United States."

Maya Wiley described the ideology of the Trump Administration as "intentional ignorance in service of the elite." "Fundamentally what we are seeing is a cabinet that has been installed in the

major institutions of the federal government in order to dismantle those institutions,” said Wiley. “In particular, dismantle their use of research based informative inquiry in order to make policy decisions and programmatic decisions.”

Williams spoke at great length about what she deemed organized chaos. “You have some people who are ready to go and ready to act, but you have even more people who are immobilized and don’t know what to do,” said Williams. “The perception of chaos contributes just like the perception contributed to the election overall.”

Maxwell weighed the changing dynamics and stressed the need to keep up the momentum of an increase in the participation of political discourse across America. “Voter education, making sure people understand it isn’t just about congress, it isn’t just about the white house, but that we need to stay engaged as opposed to getting engaged just to get out the vote at the end,”

FPWA’s speaker series event provided a platform for audience members and panelist alike to share their perspectives on the first 100 days, reflecting on the current trend of governing at the expense of the poor and disenfranchised.

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About FPWA

FPWA is an anti-poverty, policy, and advocacy nonprofit with a membership network of nearly 180 human-service and faith-based organizations. FPWA has been a prominent force in New York City's social services system for more than 95 years, advocating for fair public policies, collaborating with partner agencies, and growing its community-based membership network to meet the needs of New Yorkers. Each year, FPWA helps close to 1.5 million New Yorkers move up the economic ladder. Visit us at www.fpwa.org and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).