



## THE ROI OF **SPOTLIGHTDC**

### ***Return On Investment = \$80,000 for 18 Investigative Projects***

Your generosity since 2020 has allowed **SpotlightDC** to fund **18 investigative and explanatory projects with more than \$80,000 in awards** to reporters uncovering **contract steering, government misspending, coverups of child deaths in DC care, homicide investigations, environmental journalism** and **police overpay** across print, digital, radio and podcasting.

#### **SpotlightDC-funded Projects Pending Publication:**

- **DC's Failed Sports Betting App**
- **Developers Abuse of DC's Voucher Program**
- **Contract Steering** in DC's Small Business Agency
- Hola Cultura's **One-hour Heat Island special with WAMU**. (Heat Island series in Washington City Paper was a Finalist for Institute for Nonprofit News Explanatory Journalism Prize.)
- **Corruption in DC's Medicaid funding contracts**
- **MPD Officers Compensation**

#### **Projects Published in 2022:**

- **Un-Recycled:** Five-part investigation of DC's trash system showed that while DC residents diligently separate refuse for recycling, **nearly 90% of recycling in some cases winds up in the dump:**  
<https://www.hillrag.com/2022/06/06/trashed-the-challenges-of-apartment-recycling/>
- **DC's Illegal Gray Market Cannabis Economy:**  
<https://www.hillrag.com/2022/09/02/the-wild-west-of-unregulated-of-cannabis-retailers/>
- **Potomac River Rapist:** <https://dmvdownload.wtop.com/podcast-how-dna-brought-the-potomac-river-rapist-cold-case-to-trial/>
- **DC's Failed Forensic Lab** – How federal prosecutors scuttled the DC lab.  
<https://washingtoncitypaper.com/article/573597/making-a-meltdown-what-role-did-federal-prosecutors-play-in-unraveling-d-c-s-crime-lab/>
- **DC's Heat Islands:** Hola Cultura's multi-part podcast giving voice to DC residents surviving in the District's hottest communities. August 2022 by WTOP and WAMU.

## Projects Funded in 2021:

- **Pandemic Injustice:** How DC's criminal justice system kept defendants behind bars without charges or indictments: <https://www.hillrag.com/2021/05/03/defendants-stranded-in-jail-by-pandemic/>
- **DC's Heat Islands:** Mapping the District's hottest neighborhoods and their effect on residents' health: <https://washingtoncitypaper.com/article/528645/temperatures-in-d-c-s-heat-islands-can-register-ten-to-twenty-degrees-hotter-than-in-leafy-neighborhoods/>
- **Murder In A Safe Place:** Revealed how Prince Georges County detectives used cutting-edge DNA technology to track down the killer of a nurse in 1998: <https://spotlightdc.org/murder-in-a-safe-place/>
- **Still Broken:** DC child welfare agencies covering up deaths of children in the District's care, as part of a six-part investigation of child welfare in DCLine: <https://thedcline.org/2021/12/21/still-broken-dcs-child-welfare-system/>

## Projects Funded in 2020:

- **Waste Mismanagement:** How DC taxpayers are subsidizing major private trash haulers with millions in padded fees: <https://washingtoncitypaper.com/article/303753/waste-mismanagement-how-the-district-loses-millions-on-garbage-disposal/>
- **Fraud in DC's eviction system:** Winner of the Institute for Nonprofit News Investigative Story of the Year: <https://bit.ly/3e6QEIn>. Published Monday and the DC Council closed the loophole in emergency legislation Tuesday.
- **Discrimination against DC employees** seeking workers compensation: driving DC Council oversight hearings and provoking reform: <https://washingtoncitypaper.com/article/415407/workers-compensation-in-d-c-separate-and-unequal/>

Thank you for your  
continued support!