

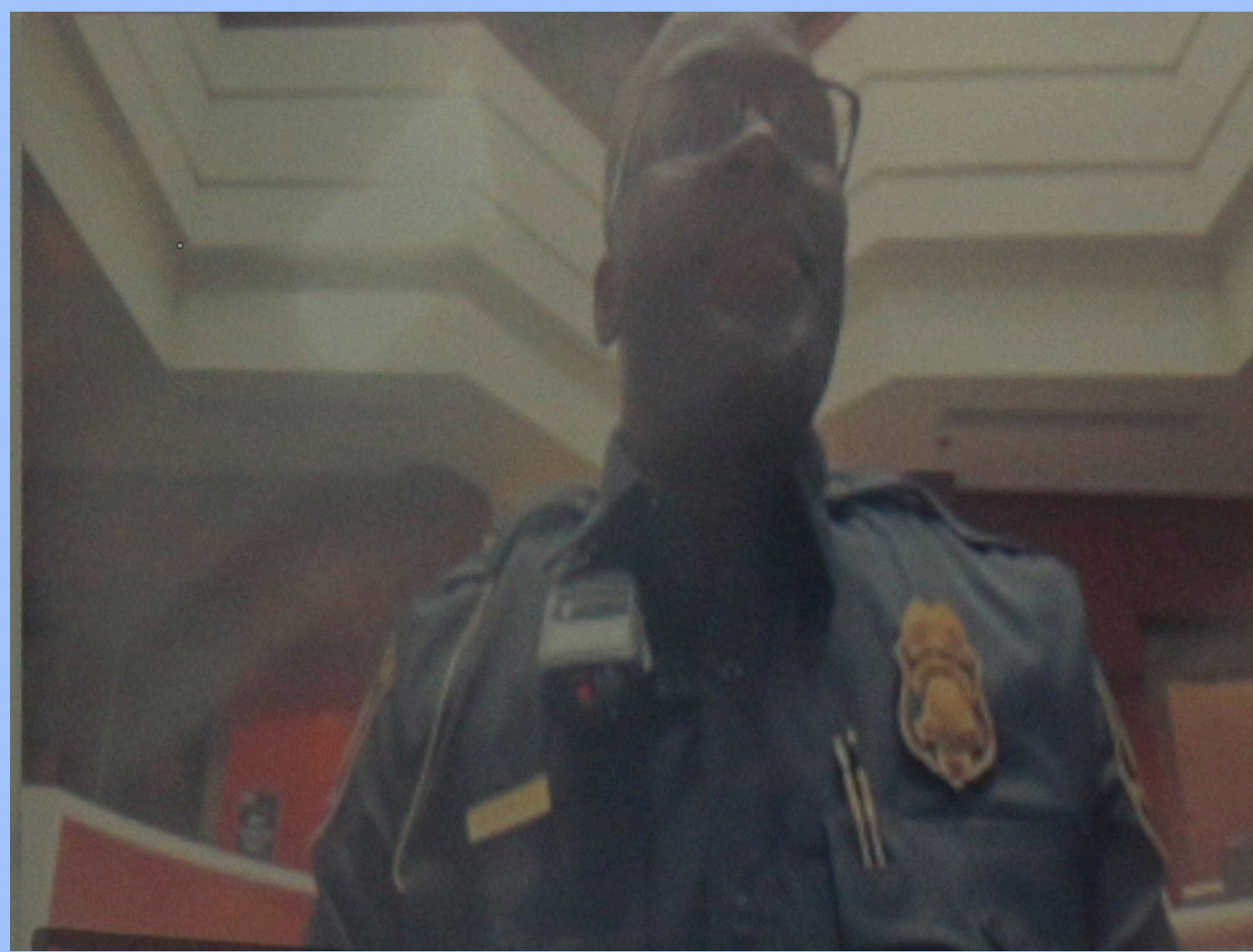
WHEN TWO SDMA SIGNINGS ARE BETTER THAN ONE

Last Friday SDMNY Mentor/Facilitator Karen had a rare experience, signing ceremonies for two separate Decision-Makers, in two different parts of the state, whom she has facilitated over the past two years. Jah and Miles are special in many ways, and there is so much to say about each of them that we’ve decided to make this a 2-part Good News, with Jah today (because his ceremony was at noon) and Miles next week (he and his supporters celebrated at 6 PM)!

Jah (real name Jahmien), 32, lives in supported housing at Liberty Arc in Amsterdam, New York. We’ve had a previous SDMA signing there that was notable for the involvement of so many members of that community (Good News 8/30/24). At the time, Decision-Maker Indira spoke of her intention to be an ambassador for SDM, and it turns out she and Jah started their journey there about the same time. Liberty Arc is committed to the right of everyone to make their own decisions, and, as with Indira, they were very much a part of Jah’s celebration.



The Liberty Arc community and his supporters celebrate Jah



Jah's supporter and uncle "D."

Jah’s supporters, his mom, Lakishia and brother Keyshaun, Amanda, the manager of supported housing, and Pete, his comhab worker were all there in person; his “Uncle D”, a Corrections Officer in North Carolina attended on Zoom during his lunch break!

Everyone spoke of how focused Jah has always been in making his own path in life; the words “persistent”, “diligent” “proactive”, “goal driven”, “gritty” and “reliable” showed what an extraordinarily purposeful and effective person Jah is. Pete described him as full of “boundless energy, always ready to try anything” and Amanda said “I’m so proud of you Jah. If you have your mind set on something, you don’t give up. You will call, you will say “How can I make this happen for myself” Mom Lakishia may have said it best: “I’m beyond proud of Jah. Every single challenge, every single time. He conquers everything. He is a great advocate for himself and for other people.” In return, Jah described all of them as “pretty great people” and “beyond great supporters.”



Jah's mom and supporter Lakishia, DM Jah, and Jah's brother and supporter Keyshaun

Jah is very athletic, and has been since he was young, staying competitive, as Keyshaun explained, even after falling out of a tree and breaking his arm! He loves playing basketball and now stars on a Special Olympics team, Uncle Sam’s Slammers, that will play against the rival Wildcats in Ballston Spa tomorrow. Jah’s dream has always to play professional ball in the NBA, and although some might think that’s unlikely at his age, he cheerfully says “you’re never too old!”

At his signing ceremony, and in a subsequent conversation with SDMNY, Jah shared “how glad [he is] to be on this earth” and how he always “tries to be as kind and polite as possible.” It was also really important to him to encourage all of us to “live our dreams, stick to our convictions, stay motivated and consistent, and never give up.” Jah is, truly, an inspiration!

THANK YOU JAH FOR YOUR GREAT SPIRIT, AND CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU, YOUR AMAZING SUPPORTERS AND FACILITATOR KAREN!