

For Immediate Release
August 4, 2021

Statement from Close the Workhouse Campaign on 140 People Transferred to the Workhouse

Following a reported disturbance on July 31st, 140 people were transferred from the City Justice Center (CJC) to the Workhouse. While we applauded the Jones administration taking the important step of emptying the Workhouse earlier this summer, we also made it clear that ***empty is not closed***. As long as the Workhouse remains open, there is always a possibility that people can be moved back into this decrepit and inhumane jail.

The Close the Workhouse campaign has listened to thousands of St. Louisans who have affirmed that our city does not need two jails. While we understand the immediate context that led to this move, our demands are still that we end the system of pretrial detention in St Louis, re-envision public safety, and invest in people and communities, not cages. To repeat what we said in June: **“Nothing short of the full and complete closure of the Workhouse will do.”** We will continue to call upon the Jones administration to provide a clear commitment and timeline for this complete closure, and to move with urgency to accomplish this goal.

###