

For Immediate Release
July 17, 2021

Close the Workhouse Campaign Responds to Emptying of Workhouse

For the first time in its history, there are no detainees being held in the Workhouse. We have organized to close this hellish jail for over 3 years, and we are relieved that people who have been accused of crimes will no longer be housed in a facility known for caging poor, Black people pre-trial in inhumane conditions.

This step by Mayor Jones's administration takes seriously the demands of the community to re-envision public safety. We applaud their willingness to listen to the thousands of impacted people who mobilized in rain, sleet and snow to make their voices and stories heard. However, the work is not done. Nothing short of the full and complete closure of the Workhouse will do.

We are organizing to divest from the carceral system and fully invest in our communities. In order to achieve this, we must re-envision the Workhouse into something that will provide healing to the countless people who have been caged and traumatized by its existence over the years. We are collecting feedback from the community on how the Workhouse can be repurposed, and we encourage you to get involved by completing [this survey](#).

We are also calling upon Circuit Attorney Kimberly Gardner to carefully evaluate cases that are charged and prosecuted and our judges to adhere to the spirit of the bail regulations set forth by the Missouri Supreme Court.

We look forward to the day when the Workhouse is fully shuttered and our region stops caging poor, Black residents. Until this happens, we will continue to advocate and organize to build the St. Louis we all deserve.

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