



*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

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Following the Sudden Death of Louis “Lynn” Payton at the Workhouse, Family Members Raise Questions and Urge Workhouse to Close at Press Conference

For decades, “the Workhouse,” St. Louis City’s Medium Security Institution, has been known for its hellish and inhumane conditions. Approximately 90% of people in the jail are detained pretrial, awaiting court and unable to make a cash payment to buy their freedom. Louis “Lynn” Payton died before he got his day in court, and is second person reported to have died in the Workhouse this year. As Mr. Payton’s family has searched for answers, St. Louis City has shut them out and disregarded their grief by selectively sharing information with local media.

Who: Janice Washington, Sister
Celestine Buford, Cousin
Inez Bordeaux, Close the Workhouse Member
Michelle Higgins, Close the Workhouse Organizer
Kayla Reed, Action St. Louis

What: Family members of the late Louis Payton raise questions and concerns about his unexpected death and advocate for the permanent closure of the Workhouse. Despite multiple attempts to contact City officials within the Public Safety Department, St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department, and the Medium Security Institution, the family lacks answers to several critical questions pertaining to Mr. Payton’s death.

When: 1pm on Wednesday, August 8, 2018

Where: 4515 Evans Ave, St. Louis, MO 63113

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The Close the Workhouse campaign organizes people directly impacted by the St. Louis criminal legal system and partners in order to permanently close the Workhouse and ensure no new jail is built in its place. The campaign also works to decarcerate St. Louis by transforming criminal justice policies and practices. For more, visit: www.closeheworkhouse.org

