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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

St. Louis, MO - August 8, 2018 - At a press conference, family members of the late Louis “Lynn” Payton raised questions about Louis’s unexpected death in the Workhouse, shared their concerns about the City’s lack of transparency, and called for the permanent closure of the Workhouse.

“Louis, like too many people have suffered and died inside the Workhouse and it needs to be shut down. We want justice for Louis, and we don’t want any more families to have to go through this,” said Janice Washington, sister of Mr. Payton.

“The Workhouse is irredeemable. It is not fit for human beings and needs to be permanently closed. Louis’ death exposes St. Louis City’s ugly side-- their disregard for black men and black families. We will not stand for any of that,” said Inez Bordeaux, Close the Workhouse campaign member, who also spoke at the press conference.

Celestine Buford, Mr. Payton’s cousin, and Campaign Organizer Michelle Higgins also shared remarks at the press conference, which can be viewed [here](#).

Louis “Lynn” Payton died before he got his day in court, and is the second person reported to have died in the Workhouse this year. Despite making several attempts to communicate with the City, public officials have not responded to family members, but instead have shared information with local media.

For decades, “the Workhouse,” St. Louis City’s Medium Security Institution, has been known for its hellish and inhumane conditions. More than 90% of people in the jail are detained pretrial, awaiting court and unable to make a cash payment to buy their freedom. Officially launched in July, the Close the Workhouse is a campaign made up of people directly impacted by the criminal legal system and partner organizations working to permanently close the Workhouse and ensure no new jail is built in its place.

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For more on the Close the Workhouse campaign, visit: www.closetheworkhouse.org



