

For Immediate Release  
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**Close the Workhouse Campaign Statement on The Bail Project's Recent Announcement  
of Their St. Louis Office Closure**

St. Louis, Missouri - The Bail Project recently announced the closing of their St. Louis City Office. For the past three years, The Bail Project St. Louis has been an amazing partner in the campaign to Close the Workhouse. Over the course of the campaign, The Bail Project St. Louis bailed out over 3,000 people, and gave people the tools to fight their case by sending folks court date reminders, offering them transportation, and even providing childcare. This is how you re-envision public safety.

You can't talk about the amazing work of The Bail Project St. Louis without mentioning how we got here. In 2019, a federal court judge ruled that every person being detained has to have a bail hearing in a reasonable length of time. This ruling confirmed that hundreds of people were being held sometimes for months without a proper bail hearing. After this ruling and a Missouri Supreme Court rule that judges must take into account a person's income and ability to pay when determining bail, most people accused of crimes in the City of St. Louis are jailed with no bond at all. As a result, people have been forced once again to languish away in jail indefinitely.

When The Bail Project came to St. Louis, they helped change the way we think about bail, bond, and pre-trial detention. The Bail Project's interventions drew attention to the court's systemic practice of granting high bails to people who cannot afford it, forcing poor, mostly Black people to suffer in jail for unconscionable lengths of time. We thank The Bail Project for drawing attention to this practice and giving people tools to fight for their freedom. But this work is far from over.

The system continues to hold people at alarming rates without bail. In the coming weeks, the Close the Workhouse campaign will shed light on what the courts, the Jones Administration, and the Circuit Attorney can do to close the Workhouse, end pretrial detention, and reinvest the money used to cage poor people and Black people into rebuilding the most impacted neighborhoods in this region.

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