

NO NEW JAIL IN FRESNO COUNTY!

FRESNO CAN'T AFFORD A NEW JAIL. THE COUNTY IS ASKING FOR \$80 MILLION TO CONSTRUCT THE JAIL, PLUS AN ADDITIONAL \$6 MILLION A YEAR TO OPERATE IT. TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR CONSTRUCTION FUNDS FROM THE STATE, THE COUNTY WOULD NEED TO MAKE A 30-YEAR COMMITMENT TO THE JAIL, MEANING OVER \$1BILLION IN OPERATING COSTS TO THE COUNTY IN THAT PERIOD. TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR STATE FUNDING, THE COUNTY WILL ALSO NEED TO AGREE TO PUT A 10% MATCH OF THOSE FUNDS ADDING ANOTHER \$5MILLION TO THE PRICE TAG. WITH THE CITY OF FRESNO LOOKING AT A \$16 MILLION SHORTFALL THIS YEAR, THE COSTS ARE JUST TOO HIGH.

FRESNO JAILS TARGET POOR PEOPLE

75% of the jail population is awaiting trial. A large proportion of this population just cannot afford bail. In a county with over 18% unemployment and 20% of adults living below the poverty level, Fresno residents are being jailed for being poor. When people go to jail, they can lose their jobs, housing, and even their children. Their families lose desperately needed economic and emotional support.

FRESNO JAILS TARGET PEOPLE OF COLOR AND IMMIGRANTS

76% of the people confined in Fresno jails are people of color. The jail is also currently detaining nearly 150 people on ICE holds.

CONDITIONS FOR MENTALLY ILL PEOPLE IN FRESNO JAILS ARE SCANDALOUS

In an effort to save money, the Fresno County jails have cut back on mental health medications. One in six prisoners requires mental health medications, but they may sit in cells for weeks without receiving them. The jails have also increased the use of isolation units to "manage" prisoners' mental health issues. The conditions are so bad, that the County is being sued to have conditions changed. If Fresno County can't afford to address the mental health needs of the people it imprisons, it can't afford to build a new jail.

BUILDING JAILS DOES NOT SOLVE OVERCROWDING

California has tried to build its way out of a prison crowding crisis for 30 years and failed. Rather, it just spread terrible conditions over more buildings and more lives.

THERE ARE ALTERNATIVES

Recent polling shows that 75% of California voters oppose having their tax money spent on prison and jail construction and support alternatives to imprisonment. We could prevent a new jail project by:

- implementing a pre-trial release program,
- expanding community-based mental health services, and
- expanding pre-arrest diversion for people who are charged with simple drug possession and low-level drug sales, sex work, or minor property crimes into programs and services.

Community programs are more effective and less costly than imprisonment.

The more people that get treatment and services in the community for substance abuse, mental health issues and trauma, homelessness, unemployment, the fewer people that will be arrested and the fewer jail cells will be filled.

INVEST IN COMMUNITIES, NOT IN CAGES

Budget cuts have put an enrollment freeze on Fresno State; cuts to the Black Infant Health program parallel a two-fold Black infant mortality rate in the county; court houses and court services across the county have been slashed. Investing in the programs and services that make Fresno residents strong will help drive down the jail population.

NO NEW JAILS! NOT HERE NOT ANYWHERE!

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO JOIN THE FIGHT CONTACT CRITICAL RESISTANCE AT 510.444.0484 OR WWW.CRITICALRESISTANCE.ORG

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