THE PLAN TO CLOSE THE WORKHOUSE

To permanently close the Workhouse we must decarcerate St. Louis by 400 people.
Once the Workhouse is closed, we must continue to decarcerate while re-investing the millions of dollars currently spent on incarceration to achieve a new vision of public safety.

1. Release Individuals Incarcerated Pretrial

The Mayor and Circuit Attorney’s Office should recommend automatic release for individuals charged with misdemeanors, victimless, and poverty-related offenses. For other charges there should be a presumption of release with any conditions of release being the least burdensome means of ensuring that a defendant returns to court.

2. Close the Workhouse

Mayor Krewson should direct the closure of the Workhouse. As a political leader of St. Louis she controls the jail through the Department of Corrections and can choose to close the jail.

3. Decline to Prosecute and Criminalize Individuals

The Circuit Attorney’s Office should de-prioritize prosecutions of victimless and poverty crimes. The prosecutor’s office must also dismiss similar pending charges categorically and not restrict dismissals based on individuals’ past criminal records. Prosecutors should expand pre-plea diversion programs for those who they choose to charge. These programs work with individuals to address underlying issues such as housing insecurity or substance abuse that can lead to continued interactions with the criminal legal system.

4. Re-Invest in Communities

Every year the City of St. Louis spends over $16 million to operate the Workhouse. The St. Louis Board of Aldermen, along with the Mayor, should vote to fund initiatives that improve community safety and wellbeing, not incarceration. For example, the Public Defender’s Office must receive public funding equivalent to the Circuit Attorney’s Office. Community priorities can be defined through a participatory budgeting process.
## WHO CAN CLOSE THE WORKHOUSE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHO</th>
<th>HOW</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 St. Louis Mayor <strong>Lyda Krewson</strong></td>
<td>Lyda Krewson has the authority as St. Louis Mayor to direct the immediate closure of the Workhouse. We are calling on her to do so immediately. Mayor Krewson should collaborate with Public Safety Director Jimmie Edwards to facilitate closing the Workhouse.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 St. Louis Circuit Attorney <strong>Kim Gardner</strong></td>
<td>Kim Gardner has the discretion to not bring charges in cases without significant evidence or offenses that should be decriminalized such as crimes of poverty or minor drug possession.</td>
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<td>3 St. Louis <strong>Board of Aldermen</strong></td>
<td>The Board of Alderman can refuse to fund the Workhouse, effectively closing it. They have the opportunity to allocate money to services that truly keep the public safe such as housing assistance, mental health treatment. They could also propose a bill that would close the facility itself.</td>
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THE WORKHOUSE COSTS ST. LOUIS TAXPAYERS MILLIONS
& DOES NOT MAKE US SAFER

By closing the Workhouse, St. Louis has an opportunity to create a permanent shift in the way we think about public safety. Investing in the people of St. Louis instead of policing and mass incarceration will lift up individuals and communities that have been highly impacted by the criminal legal system—and create a safer and more just St. Louis.

ST. LOUIS’ CURRENT APPROACH TO PUBLIC SAFETY IS NOT WORKING

In recent years, the City of St. Louis has spent hundreds of millions of dollars on public safety, and in 2019, the city will devote $290 million, over half of its general fund, to public safety. The Department of Human Services, which the city relies on to provide “social service programs to the aged, homeless, veterans, disabled, youth, and families in need,” gets 187 times less money.

Most of the money St. Louis spends on “public safety” is for policing and incarceration. In 2019, the St. Louis City police, their retirement fund, and the city’s two detention centers, the City Justice Center and the Workhouse, will receive almost $208 million—over 70% of the $290 million earmarked for public safety.

Research shows that these initiatives do not make us safer.

- National increases in incarceration have corresponded with a nearly 0% decrease in crime.
- Increased law enforcement efforts also fail to keep communities safe. The St. Louis Police Department has attempted to promote public safety with policies like “hot spot policing,” which focuses law enforcement efforts in communities with historically high rates of arrest. Yet after this policy’s implementation, violent crime rates in St. Louis have only risen.

We must reinvest in a new vision of public safety.

Instead, we could fund programs that build stronger communities and provide all our residents with expanded opportunities. These could include funding:

- Affordable housing
- Community-based mental health care
- Economic and educational opportunities

More equitable city programs, like equitable public transportation, affordable and accessible child care and expanded reentry wrap-around services

Community spaces that are free and public

The money the city currently spends on the Workhouse comes from the General Fund, and so it could be redirected and spent on all the above programs. Passing the annual budget requires the input of every city department and the approval of both the Board of Estimate and Apportionment (comprised of the Mayor, Comptroller, and President of the Board of Alders) and the Board of Alders. The Board of Alders and the Mayor are accountable to their constituents and we must tell them to reinvest in different models of public safety!
HOW ST. LOUIS’ CIRCUIT ATTORNEY
KIM GARDNER CAN CLOSE THE WORKHOUSE

A progressive vision for the City of St. Louis created in collaboration
with those most impacted by the criminal legal system

FIRST: KIM GARDNER CAN DISMISS AND DE-PRIORITY THE PROSECUTION OF VICTIMLESS CRIMES, POVERTY CRIMES, AND OTHER LOW-LEVEL OFFENSES.

“The circuit attorney has unequalled and broad discretion in the criminal prosecution process – from whether to pursue criminal charges, to offer plea deal, or recommendation for bail or sentencing. Throughout the entire prosecution process, the circuit attorney exercises significant discretion.” Kim Gardner

Kim Gardner has broad discretion as the lead prosecutor for the City of St. Louis. She has the power to decline to prosecute certain crimes as well as the power to dismiss charges. Current prosecutorial practices result in a cycle of incarcerating poor people and communities of color. Racial profiling lead courtrooms and jails to be unjustly filled with people of color; Black people are 85% more likely to be stopped by police than white people, although there are no statistics showing they are more likely to commit crimes and 90% of the people incarcerated at the Workhouse are Black, while less than half of St. Louis City residents are Black.

Recently Gardner agreed to not pursue charges for possession of under 100 grams of marijuana. This type of reform is important but must be expanded in scope to apply to all those charged with possession of marijuana and to many other similarly victimless and poverty-based low-level offenses. In addition, by restricting access to these reforms to individuals who have never had interactions with the criminal legal system, the Circuit Attorney’s Office continues to exacerbate cycles of criminalization and incarceration in communities that have been over-policed and under-resourced.

This table demonstrates the decarceration impacts of choosing not to prosecute the most common low-level offenses. The Circuit Attorney has the discretion to stop prosecuting these crimes, not to revoke probation for new charges, and immediately dismiss existing low-level prosecutions. If the Circuit Attorney’s office took these actions, it would result in the immediate release of over 400 people, and the Workhouse could close immediately.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample Data: Charges for People Incarcerated in Workhouse in March 2018</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Technical probation violations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Only with a misdemeanor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Driving-Related Charges</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drug-related crimes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Including Unlawful possession of a controlled substance, marijuana, or drug paraphernalia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poverty-Related Crimes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Including Non-payment of child support, trespass, stealing [not a car or a firearm], prostitution, and receiving stolen property</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Victimless Crimes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Including unlawful possession of a gun, resisting arrest, perjury</td>
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<tr>
<td>Approximate Total</td>
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SECOND: KIM GARDNER CAN DECREASE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE INCARCERATED PRETRIAL BY SUPPORTING PEOPLE’S RELEASE ON PROMISES TO APPEAR AND OTHER NON-RESTRICTIVE CONDITIONS

Although many major cities are reforming their bail practices and progressing towards justice and decarceration, St. Louis bail practices have been stagnant for years. Kim Gardner has admitted that most people in the Workhouse are facing charges that are not serious and are non-violent, but we estimate that only between 4% of people in St. Louis are ever offered release on a promise to appear. If rates of pretrial release were similar to other progressive cities, like Philadelphia, this would result in the immediate release of 480 people. This move alone would allow us to shut down the Workhouse.

Pretrial release would also permit individuals to fully defend their cases. Individuals incarcerated pretrial are still legally innocent. Studies show that those released pretrial have better outcomes in court, including fewer guilty pleas, higher chances of dismissal and enrollment in diversion programs, and shorter sentences. The Circuit Attorney’s office should also work with the police to reduce numbers of individuals arrested by increasing the use of summonses to initiate a prosecution.

Note: This campaign does not support the use of electronic monitoring, private surveillance or supervisory services as an alternative to pretrial incarceration.

THIRD: KIM GARDNER’S OFFICE CAN EXPAND THE AVAILABILITY AND USE OF PRE-PLEA DIVERSION.

Kim Gardner’s office has four diversion programs, but they are very limited in nature with only 150 people given the opportunity to participate in over one year. All diversion programs must be expanded, with a special focus on pre-plea diversion. This pre-plea diversion program successfully connects individuals with important social service supports and restricts the collateral impacts of the criminal legal system but it is largely limited to people without prior records and individuals who are not currently incarcerated. Diversion programs must be widely available and frequently offered in order to impact incarceration rates in St. Louis.

FOURTH: KIM GARDNER CAN BE ACCOUNTABLE TO ST. LOUIS BY RELEASING INFORMATION ON THE CHARGING DECISIONS AND POLICIES OF HER OFFICE.

“As your next Circuit Attorney, my office will operate through transparency to enhance community trust, a critical ingredient to make our city safer.” Kim Gardner

- Release information on charges being prosecuted by the Circuit Attorney’s Office, which cases are dismissed, and bail amounts for people incarcerated pretrial.
- Release information on Circuit Attorney policies to decrease the incarcerated population in St. Louis, including policies around the prosecution of marijuana crimes, eligibility for diversion programs, and the increased use of summonses.
- Quantify the cost of incarceration throughout the prosecution and sentencing process. At a bail or sentencing hearing, when prosecutors are calling for incarceration, they should also declare the public costs of this incarceration, including the cost to taxpayers.