Statement on the Killing of Jordan Neely

We at JASMYN are grieving the loss of Jordan Neely in NYC, because it strikes at the heart of our work to house young people experiencing homelessness. We recognize the community of unhoused people everywhere and the trauma they face daily. At JASMYN, our staff fight for their access to suitable resources and a system that doesn’t perpetuate their poverty and mental illness. We work with and for those who see themselves in this creative and beautiful young man, their proximity to a situation that could have put them in his shoes, and the void of compassion for their lives. We find ourselves in places where tragedies like this are experienced, and so we work constantly at JASMYN for a better way to hold what is hard for our unhoused young people, a government that sees them and a more caring world to keep them safe.

Our call is for justice for Jordan Neely in NYC, as well as for the young persons in Jacksonville who also shine with talent and hope in spite of their lack of housing. Our leaders and community must hold perpetrators accountable when young lives are taken so
violently. We want leaders and community members to stop the hateful rhetoric toward people experiencing homelessness and stop criminalizing homelessness. Instead we need city and statewide investments in affordable housing and programs like JASMYN that meet young people experiencing homelessness as they are, welcome them with care, and give them a hand so they can be their best selves and express their inspiration and contributions to the world around them. Everyone deserves the safety of a stable home and welcoming community.