

For Immediate Release

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“No New Jail Indianapolis” opposes Mayor Hogsett’s justice campus proposal, calls on community to create solutions to societal problems outside of incarceration and the justice system

Several community groups have come together in opposition to the proposed “justice campus” and are calling for its funding to be spent instead on efforts that will truly create safe and thriving neighborhoods in Indianapolis. No New Jail Indianapolis meets on Tuesdays from 5:30 to 7pm at the John Boner Center at 2236 E. 10th Street and is open to new members.

Mayor Joe Hogsett was to have released a plan for financing the proposal by March 31, but no plan has been released. The mayor made a statement that taxes will not be raised to pay for the facilities and that \$35 million will be saved through canceling the lease for some county offices. No New Jail Indy challenges Hogsett to release the plan to finance the justice campus immediately.

“Up to \$650 million is proposed to be spent on the construction of the justice campus, and that doesn’t include the cost of daily operations or maintenance. That kind of money could make a truly positive impact on everyone in our city. We could build shelters for people experiencing homelessness, invest in our schools, fund neighborhood community centers and gardens, and create access to living-wage jobs for people who are unemployed and underemployed,” states erin marshall, a member of Decarcerate Marion County, one of the groups involved in the No New Jail campaign.

This collective challenges Hogsett to think outside the cage of incarceration to bring economic opportunity to the Twin Aire neighborhood and real safety to the people of Marion County.

“Even the \$31 million Hogsett wants to spend for a financial analysis of the proposal could affect great change if it was used responsibly. We have to quit wasting money like this,” says marshall. Former Mayor Greg Ballard spent more than \$16 million on studies and planning for a similar, unsuccessful proposal that was slated to cost \$1.75 billion.

No New Jail Indianapolis will be at Kheprw Institute, 3549 Boulevard Place, on Sunday, June 4 from 3:30pm to 5:00pm to present its opposition to the justice campus. The goal of the meeting is to get people informed and ready to act. The presentation will cover what the proposal is and how much it is going to cost, other ways the county could use funds to create a safer and healthier Indy, and actions community members can take against the proposal.

No New Jail Indianapolis believes in the power of community members to create a city that opens opportunity to all, where all people have the resources they need to live, thrive, and contribute to their world. The coalition is composed of Decarcerate Marion County, Indy10 Black Lives Matter (BLM), Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ), individual members, and is open to new organizations and individuals.

For more information on No New Jail Indianapolis and this Sunday’s event, go to www.facebook.com/nonewjail317.

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