



**PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS
HOLLY J. MITCHELL
LINDSEY P. HORVATH
JANICE HAHN
KATHRYN BARGER

Correspondence Received

The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:				
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
44.		Other	Dustin Essex	<p>My name is Dustin Essex. I am a longtime LA County resident, currently residing in District 3. I am a member of the Loyola Law School Pretrial Justice Practicum where I have gained expertise into bail and pretrial services law and policy. I write today in support of closing Men's Central Jail by expanding opportunities for pretrial release. In addition to gaining expertise on this topic through research and law, I have personally been incarcerated in LA County Jails and am a grateful recipient of county services that saved my life.</p> <p>I know firsthand that investing in care instead of incarceration works. In 2018, houseless again, and suffering from addiction, I was offered a county bed at a drug treatment center. From there, I went to Recovery Bridge Housing, where I learned to support myself financially as I focused on staying sober. I have been sober and housed ever since.</p> <p>This year in the practicum, I have learned that pretrial release—not pretrial detention is effective at ensuring people show up for court and avoid rearrest. Just two days of pretrial detention increases the likelihood of rearrest by 40% compared to pretrial release. Someone held in jail pretrial is 10X more likely to become unhoused.</p> <p>Today, March 30, 2025, as I submit this comment, 6,781 people are detained at MCJ pretrial, who are innocent until proven guilty. Their families and livelihoods are at risk when the data shows that pretrial release is more effective than detention. MCJ is full of not-yet-realized success stories because county dollars continue to support incarceration instead of growing the types of services that saved my life.</p> <p>Please close MCJ and invest in pretrial services instead.</p>
			Dustin Essex	
			Dustin Essex	
			Montana Evans	
		Item Total	4	
Grand Total			4	

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March 22, 2025

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Los Angeles
500 West Temple Street
Room 383
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Closure of Men's Central Jail

Good morning, my name is Montana Evans, and I am a law student with the Loyola Law School Youth Justice Education Clinic Center for Juvenile Law and Policy, an education-based organization dedicated to systemic reform of the Los Angeles County juvenile justice system. Our center is predicated upon our belief that by reducing the minority over-representation in the juvenile justice system and reinforcing its rehabilitative nature, we can propel our community in an equity-driven direction. I am submitting public comment in support of the closure of Men's Central Jail in furtherance of our mission in Los Angeles County.

Today I would like to raise my concerns with the lack of progress in the closure of Men's Central Jail and its impact on the surrounding community. The conditions at Men's Central Jail perpetuate comfortability around the mass incarceration of underserved individuals in our community by normalizing death, overcrowding, inadequate services, and a reliance on incarceration. Men's Central was expected to close within 18-24 months as of March 2021, however the Jail Closure Implementation Team have not reported any progress on their strategic approach since June 2022. To date, at least 216 people have been killed at Men's Central since the board voted to close the jail in 2021.

As an advocate for true rehabilitation rather than imprisonment and degradation as a means to reinforce segregation in our city, I believe that the closure of Men's Central presents an opportunity for Los Angeles to stand for equity, justice, and freedom. This country has utilized the justice system as a means to keep slavery alive, and Men's Central is an embodiment of just that. The facility is inhabitable and encourages an environment fueled by brutality, aggression, and fear as faculty members have become engaged in organizing violence and promoting oppression. As the call to action goes unaddressed, the Jail Closure Implementation Team is conveying the message that commitments made in this city will remain unfulfilled, despite imminent risks imposed to the lives of our community.

In the short term, I urge the Board to reform their strategic approach to the jail's closure by promoting realistic and efficient plans of action that ensure the swift closure of Men's Central. I also ask that the Board consider establishing proactive oversight to supervise the implementation team's progress. In the long term, I encourage the Board to reinvest in alternatives to

incarceration in Los Angeles County to support rehabilitation in our community. Rehabilitative programs incorporating mental health, education, career preparation, and physical health should be the priority moving forward to truly align Los Angeles County with a mission predicated on establishing unity and equality for the members of our community.

Closing Men's Central Jail is an opportunity to take a step toward a more just criminal justice system that prioritizes the safety of all individuals. The Board should act boldly and without delay to ensure that no more lives must be lost based on the dangerous conditions plaguing Men's Central.

Sincerely,
Montana Evans
Youth Justice Education Clinic
Center for Juvenile Law and Policy
Loyola Law School

Dustin Essex
Loyola Law School—Pretrial Justice Practicum
919 Albany St.
Los Angeles, CA. 90015

March 30, 2025

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
500 West Temple St. Room 383
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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