



Californians United for a Responsible Budget

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San Francisco Can't Afford a New Jail

- The City and County of San Francisco plan to spend up to \$290 Million to build a new jail on Bryant & 6th St to house 588-640 people.
- This project will create 30 years of debt that San Francisco taxpayers will be responsible for.
- Critical programs and social services, like permanent affordable housing and community-based re-entry services, continue to go unfunded. We agree with Sheriff Mirkarimi that California needs sentencing reform, but we disagree that San Francisco voters should pay hundreds of millions of dollars for a new jail due to legislative inaction and cowardice.

San Francisco Already Has Too Much Jail Space

- 35% of jail capacity is not currently being used and an entire jail (CJ #6) is sitting empty.
- A current proposal to expand pre-trial release by 500 people would allow CJ #3 and #4 to be closed without re-opening CJ #6.
- The county has discussed “leasing” empty jail beds to other counties, states, or the federal government to profit off of imprisonment. We will not allow our jail system to run as an income mechanism on the backs of African-American and poor and homeless Californians.

But Isn't the Hall of Justice Unsafe?

- Yes, Hall of Justice, which includes County Jails #3 and #4 on its top two floors, is in disrepair and seismically unsafe and should be closed immediately. The Supervisors could easily move forward on plans to replace the Hall of Justice without building a new jail.
- All jails are unsafe: imprisonment breaks up families and communities, causes people to lose their jobs and homes, and exacerbates mental and medical health problems. People in jails face regular harassment and are subject to violence from guards.

The SF Jail System Targets Poor People and People of Color

- African-Americans are approx 6% of San Francisco's population and 56% of SF's jail population San Francisco suffers from a serious lack in culturally appropriate, services for its black community, both inside the jail and out. Shockingly, 75% of those in SF County Jails are awaiting trial and most of those are there because they can't afford bail, meaning they are there because they are poor. With appropriate bail reform, *all* of these people could be released.
- Using criminalization as our response to poverty and homelessness has created this appalling situation: it is time to change our city's approach.

We Need to Expand Community-Based Programs

- Community programs are more effective and less costly than incarceration.
- The more people that get treatment and services in the community for drug addiction, mental health issues and trauma, homelessness, unemployment, etc., the less people that will "land in jail" and the less jails you need.
- "Housing First" is San Francisco's stated framework for ending homelessness. With over 5,000 people sleeping on our city streets, we need to build homes, not jails!

What could we do with this money?

Our communities are suffering from lack of investment.

- \$10M would house 300 of our city's poorest families for a year in a subsidized apartment;
- \$5M would prevent homelessness for 6500 SF homes;
- \$27.8M would house over 1000 individuals in a market-rate apartment for a year;
- \$1.3M would provide after-school programming to 1,000 SF students for 1 year;
- \$100,000 would provide 1,000 HIV tests in community-based clinics.
- \$14M would cover the cut in employer contributions to SF Healthy San Francisco that are expected in 2014.

San Francisco can be a Leader

- San Francisco has been forward thinking during California's public safety realignment by prioritizing community-based programming and supportive re-entry services. This proposal would be a significant step backwards.
- Realignment recognized building more prisons produced more problems than it solved and counties are better equipped to use alternatives.
- The Sheriff and Elected Officials need to focus on bail reform, sentencing reform, increased use of pre-trial alternatives, and treatment, not incarceration. All these reforms will result in less jails and less need for jail beds.
- A further investment in community solutions will eliminate the "need" to build a "replacement" jail and show local governments across California how real public safety can be achieved.

