



A campaign led by JLUSA

For years, directly impacted and formerly incarcerated people in Philadelphia have advocated for the City of Philadelphia to close the House of Correction, known locally as The Creek. On April 18, 2018, Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney announced that the city would close The Creek, but **our work is just beginning**. We must push forward to ensure that all our demands are met and that the voices and experiences of directly impacted communities are amplified throughout this process.

DEMAND 1: #CLOSEthecreek FOR GOOD

Built when Ulysses S. Grant was the President, The Creek is an outdated facility that represents the worst and most destructive policies of mass incarceration and mass criminalization. The Creek harms people who are forced to come into contact with it and it is a continuation of this City's record of racial injustice. Human rights abuses are rampant. The building is a nightmare. There is an opportunity now to make a major shift toward racial justice, beginning with closing the Creek.

Philadelphia must #CLOSEthecreek and demolish it so that it can never again cage human beings.

DEMAND 2: Cut the local prison population in HALF, to no more than 3,000 people

Philadelphia is one of the most incarcerated major cities in the U.S. Rates of incarceration are about four times higher than the rate in New York City. Racial disparities in Philadelphia are rampant, with Black and Latino people making up three-quarters of the jail population. Pennsylvania has regressive sentencing practices that help fuel Philadelphia's incarceration crisis and too many people are still unnecessarily detained simply because they cannot afford bail. The city maintains one of the most expansive parole and probation supervision regimes in the country, with a supervision rate that is twice the national average. Half of the people trapped in Philadelphia's jail system are there on probation or parole detainers. Intended as the avenues toward a second chance, probation and parole are instead drivers of mass incarceration.

Philadelphia must enact or push for reforms that cut the prison population in HALF to no more than 3,000 people.

DEMAND 3: Philadelphia must END electronic monitoring

E-monitoring is one of the most stigmatizing and inhumane tools of the criminal justice system. It is not an acceptable condition of release for anyone. It brings the shadow of the criminal justice system into people's homes and communities. The existence of and reliance on e-monitoring will undercut efforts the city takes to reduce its incarcerated population.

Philadelphia must END electronic monitoring in all forms at all stages of the criminal justice process.

DEMAND 4: Take the money saved by decarceration and use it to #buildCOMMUNITIES

Philadelphia spends anywhere from \$115 to \$135 to detain one person for one day. The city loses about \$160 in opportunity costs per person, per day. Additionally, there are significant fixed costs that the city expends to operate the House of Correction and other facilities. This money should not be wasted on incarceration. It must instead be directed toward and reinvested into where it can actually be impactful: the communities most harmed by mass incarceration.

Philadelphia must reinvest savings in locally run, community-based services for returning community members.