Morris, Carolyn

From: Eliza Gifford <ekgifford01@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 8:35 AM
To: County Legislators
Cc: Morris, Carolyn
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Hello,

My name is Eliza Gifford and I was a resident of Dutchess County for the first 15 years of my life.

I am emailing you today in hopes that the county will reconsider spending $200,000,000 of taxpayer money on constructing a new jail. If the county is looking to lower crime rates/keep their streets safer, this is NOT the way to do it; the construction of this new jail will only unfairly target poor communities of color, particularly the black and latinx residents of Dutchess County. These communities will continue to suffer as residents are locked up, and the systemic issues contributing to higher rates of incarceration in some these communities will be ignored.

Instead of spending this money on a new jail, why not put it towards funding the schools in Dutchess County that really need it? Why not put it towards supporting the businesses of the City of Poughkeepsie, creating resources for black and latinx communities in the county, funding hospitals and youth programs, etc.?

The US's prison/jail system is a broken one, and the leaders of Dutchess County can make the choice to be at the forefront of change by reallocating funding for any new jails. Lower rates of incarceration, TRUE change cannot occur until the systemic issues that often contribute to crime, including a lack of access to mental health resources, education, etc., are solved.

Please consider reallocating this substantial amount of taxpayer money into resources that will uplift Dutchess County's communities of color, not harm them.

Thank you,

Eliza Gifford

Morris, Carolyn

From: Brendli, Craig
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 9:57 AM
To: Jessica Cohen; County Legislators
Cc: Morris, Carolyn
Subject: Re: Public Comment

Hi Jessica,

Thank you so much for your email.

I agree and have sponsored the resolution to rescind the jail bond that puts the County on the hook for hundreds of millions of dollars.

At a time when COVID-19 has drastically impacted our budget and layoffs could possibly be forthcoming, we should not be entertaining such a massive and costly jail project. In these trying times, we must be fiscally responsible.

Best wishes always,
Craig

Craig P. Brendli
Dutchess County Legislator, District 8
cbrendli@dutchessny.gov
Cell: 845.612.3382

From: Jessica Cohen <jesszhc@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 10:00 PM
To: County Legislators <CountyLegislators@dutchessny.gov>; Brendli, Craig <cbrendli@dutchessny.gov>
Cc: Morris, Carolyn <cmorris@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Hello Dutchess County Legislators and Legislator Brendli,

My name is Jess Cohen and I reside in District 8 in Poughkeepsie. I am emailing to demand that you vote to rescind the hundreds of millions of dollars set to go towards constructing a new jail. It is unacceptable to me that this is where we are set to spend our money right now. We do not need another jail. What we need is more investment into our communities in terms of roads, libraries, and supporting those who are marginalized in these conversations. Our priorities must change.

Jess Cohen
Poughkeepsie Resident

Morris, Carolyn

From: Amanda Spinella <amandalspinella@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 10:29 AM
To: Morris, Carolyn; County Legislators
Subject: No Dutchess County Jail

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Legislators,

I am writing today to urge you to rescind the $200,000,000 funding for a new Dutchess County Jail.

This money would be far better spent on community programs that would help those in poverty and our most marginalized community members avoid ending up in the criminal justice system.

As a community member who has witnessed the vast over-imprisonment in our country, as well as drug addiction and mental health ravage our community with little to no resources, I am livid that my tax dollars are going to be spent on a facility that incarcerates people when investing those dollars in social programs could have prevented countless lives from being ruined.

Spend my money on education, mental health services, job readiness, domestic violence prevention and assistance, sexual health education, drug prevention and counseling, and after-school programs, and not only will this jail be unnecessary but those who would have filled its cells will be out benefitting society.

I appreciate your service and urge you to think hard on how this money could be better spent for the future of our community.
Abundantly,

Amanda

Amanda Spinella
AmandaLSpinella@gmail.com
845 702 4597



Morris, Carolyn

From: Jason Sill <jasoncsill@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 11:45 AM
To: County Legislators
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

My name is Jason Sill, I'm currently living in Brooklyn, NY, but I am a graduate of Vassar College with a vested interest in Dutchess County and its communities.

Building a new jail is a severe misuse of taxpayer money - it will cost millions of dollars per year to fully pay for the approximately $200 million price tag that comes with this jail. Instead of committing money for incarceration and prison systems, save the taxpayers money, and reinvest in things that will actually promote community safety, like social work, youth programs, and mental health services. Not only are these measures more caring, and humane, they also lower the risk of criminal activity that would otherwise see people thrown in jail, at a cost that is a lot lower to each individual taxpayer.

We must support the Democratic Caucus's efforts in passing legislation to rescind the funding for the construction of the Dutchess County Jail.

Thank you,
Jason Sill

Morris, Carolyn

From: Jaclyn Skrela <jskrela@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 12:37 PM
To: Morris, Carolyn; County Legislators
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

My name is Jaclyn Skrela and I am a resident of Pleasant Valley. My comment today concerns the funding for the construction of a new county jail this September. I believe that Dutchess County should rescind the nearly $200 million in funding for the construction of a new jail. There are several reasons why I believe that this is the best decision for our community.

Within the past two years the amount of people being housed in the jail has gone from 400 to only about 130. This proves a decreasing trend in the amount of people being imprisoned, so it seems illogical to me to build a new jail that is meant to house 328 people, which would be approximately two and a half times larger than the current prison population.

If our goal is to prioritize the safety and well-being of the residents of Dutchess County, then county funds could be better utilized in other ways. The portion of the annual county budget allocated to the sheriff's department and the jail has more than doubled in the past 20 years, going from $21.2 million in 2000 to $54.7 million in 2020. Moreover, spending for health and mental health services has dropped from $59.3 million in 2006 to $46.4 million in 2020. In addition, funding for youth programs has remained almost entirely stagnant in the past 14 years, going from $1.68 million in 2006 to $1.65 million in 2020.

Further, paying back the construction bond of this new jail will cost county taxpayers $10 million per year for the foreseeable future. I propose that instead of using nearly $200 million to only further increase funding towards the jail, that money could instead be used to improve social programs that have not seen an increase in funding in recent years. I believe that by using this money to increase funds for things such as health and mental health services, youth programs, education, and affordable housing, the community will see a greater benefit than if that money went towards constructing a jail that, based on the recent downward trend in the prison population, is unnecessary.

I hope that you will use this information and decide to rescind funding for the construction of a new Dutchess County jail, and that you will consider other ways that this money can be utilized to help and improve our community. Thank you.

Morris, Carolyn

From: William McHugh <williamjmchugh3@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 12:56 PM
To: Morris, Carolyn; County Legislators
Subject: Re: Public Comment

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I'd like to correct my typo; Angela Davis** not "David."

Thank you.

-Billy

On Thu, Jun 25, 2020 at 12:53 PM William McHugh <williamjmchugh3@gmail.com> wrote:

Billy McHugh, 29, Hopewell Junction. "Dutchess County Jail like all other similar local facilities has long been a stain on our community. With a history of abuse and neglect this so-called "correctional facility" is yet another display of archaic punitive vengeance rather than anything that sincerely resembles justice.

Building a new, state of the art facility will not eradicate the culture of abuse, violence, and neglect that resides within the walls of any jail, especially a jail that has been reported to be one of the most dysfunctional statewide.

If there is no care taken to address the flaws of the system itself, we will simply be reinforcing the very structures that our communities, ***your constituents***, are tirelessly fighting to dismantle as we speak. We demand that our local officials take quantifiable steps toward incarceration alternatives as opposed to funneling money into provably ineffective methods.

The allotment of taxpayer dollars to this project in comparison to that of housing, recreation, education, transportation, etc... is astonishingly shortsited and would indicate that leadership in this county is either woefully disconnected from the needs of their constituents and/or they are unapologetically beholden to the prison industrial system.

We must step back and examine whether an allotment of money big enough to fund an entire school district for a full-year should instead be dedicated to building a shrine to the worst policies and practices our country has to offer.

To quote the great Angela David, "This is the ideological work that the prison performs—it relieves us of the responsibility of seriously engaging with the problems of our society, especially those produced by racism and, increasingly, global capitalism."

Now more than ever we must ensure that our actions as a county and as a COMMUNITY reflect the values we'd like to see in the future and jails are decidedly a thing of the past.

We must stand together as a community and denounce the fortifying of the racist, discriminatory institution of mass incarceration that is thriving in our very backyards."
Thank you.

-Billy

Morris, Carolyn

From: Rafaella Spielberg <rafaellaspielberg@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 2:52 PM
To: Morris, Carolyn
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Hello,

My name is Rafaella and I'm a student at Vassar College. As a member of the Poughkeepsie community I urge the Legislature Board to vote against the construction of a $2,000,000 jail. Building a new jail will inevitably lock more people up unnecessarily and occupy much needed funds. It will further systemic oppression, racism, and police violence in Dutchess County. Additionally, paying back the construction bond will cost county taxpayers nearly $10 million per year for the foreseeable future. As we are experiencing national and local calls to shift legislative funding and priorities towards community needs, Dutchess County must follow suite. $2 million must be put towards areas such as health/mental health spending and funding youth programs, both of which have dropped in the past 14 years. Please reconsider what is most important for Dutchess County.

Thank you,
Rafaella Spielberg

Morris, Carolyn

From: Brian Cuautle Garcia <bcuautlegarcia@vassar.edu>
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 3:10 PM
To: Morris, Carolyn; County Legislators
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Hello,

I am concerned with the construction of a new jail and ask that you all ask yourselves if it is truly necessary? What else could this money be used for? Are we addressing the root of the problem, or the symptoms of a greater defect in our county? Is this truly going to be beneficial to the people in our county? Please ask yourselves these questions not as legislators, but as residents of the county. If you still think it necessary to build the jail, why? Thank you for your time and stay safe.

Morris, Carolyn

From: mdeanillustration@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 3:33 PM
To: Morris, Carolyn; County Legislators
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Hi there,

My name is Lee, I've lived in Beacon for one year now. Please let me know if my address is needed.

This is a comment in response to the proposed building of a new and unnecessary prison within Dutchess County. When I first moved here, I knew the policing would be bad because of the gentrification of the area and I grew up in an over-policed tourist focused area myself and have seen the ramifications and harm it does to local communities. I was extremely bothered by there already being a prison in Fishkill, especially considering the size and make up of the towns here in Dutchess.
When I heard of the idea of a new prison in our county I was shocked and disappointed in the utter transparency of such a move. We cannot perpetuate the Hudson valley as an area where white people move in from the city and gentrify the area and then have the BIPOC communities who have long existed here be shuffled off by an over abundant and zealous police force into prisons to allow for us to take their homes and lives and communities away. I can't see any other situation happening here as things are and I am absolutely against my money being used for the continued colonization of this area. Very, very disappointed with the hypocrisy of our local government.

-Lee

Morris, Carolyn

From: countyexec
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 3:59 PM
To: Emily Vanston; County Legislators
Cc: Morris, Carolyn
Subject: RE: Public Comment

Dear Emily,

Thank you for your email. Addressing the mental health and social problems that drive incarceration remains our priority. The County has heavily invested in access to mental health services with the building of the Stabilization Center, a 24/7 walk-in facility providing a single point of access where individuals can receive crisis counseling, mental health assessments, and peer advocacy. In addition to the Stabilization Center, the Department of Behavioral and Community Health operates other 24/7 crisis services including our call or text service HELPLINE and our Mobile Crisis Intervention Team, which can go directly into the community to aid individuals in crisis.

The County partners with local school districts to incorporate Second Step, a social-emotional learning program that focuses on empathy and communication skills, bullying prevention, problem-solving, and substance-abuse prevention – all of which are protective factors against future criminal justice system involvement. We have also dedicated resources to family stability by increasing family-based foster care placements, offering parent coaching, and providing home-visiting to high-risk families. A strong, stable, and reliable family structure supports positive social-emotional development and can reduce the likelihood of future incarceration.

Additionally, we remain committed to our Path to Promise initiative, which identifies the critical components, needed resources, and effective programs to start our children on a path to stability, security, and success. In 2019 the County began implementing the first set of initiatives, including a Foster Care Mentoring program and expanding youth employment programs beyond the summer. We have also supported the youth services through our Agency Partner Grant. Over the past eight years, over $7 million has been allocated to critical programs and services in our community through this program. Nearly 75 percent of the funding goes to youth programs – anti-bullying, workforce development, literacy, and more.

These are only some of the important initiatives, resources, and programs we have invested in to support young people and reduce the reliance on the criminal justice system. However, Section 217 of the New York State County Law still mandates that a county maintain a jail. Further, we believe that those who are incarcerated and those who provide services to this population deserve a modern facility designed for the purpose of rehabilitation, safety, and efficiency. The new Justice and Transition Center will provide:

- greater staffing efficiency and productivity, enhancing overall functionality and safety as well as providing cost savings;
- the opportunity to deliver more and better programming, in a light-filled and safe environment that is more conducive to positive behavioral change; and
- the flexibility of design to accommodate the potential for fluctuating population size, with the potential to decommission areas or units, as needed, and the ability to repurpose designated areas for other uses (ex. transitional housing).

These benefits have considerable positive financial impacts, resulting in annual savings of nearly $4.1 million. Cost-savings primarily come in the form of the reductions to required staff and increases in the inmate to correctional officer ratio resulting from efficient design elements on the planned facility. The capital costs are an investment in future annualized operational savings allowing us to save money and focus spending in other areas. Additionally, ending the Justice and Transition Center project would require significant investment in the current jail facility, specifically the 1995 and 1984 sections. Further, with $60 million already bonded for the project, over $3 million in debt service will still need to be paid annually.

Bail reform was signed into law in 2019 and went into effect on January 1, 2020. The legislation significantly impacted the size and composition of the population served within the Dutchess County Jail. Additionally, before the

implementation of the 2019 criminal justice reform, Dutchess County had reduced our jail population by 30 percent over a five year period through initiatives designed to divert lower risk and/or mentally ill defendants from jail, including building our Stabilization Center; providing Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) to law enforcement; and utilizing a sophisticated array of evidenced-based pretrial diversion practices. This work has become the model for many of the counties of which you write about. Given these factors, the design of the new Justice and Transition Center was reduced by over 200 beds.
We recognize the changing dimensions of our criminal justice system, but we continue to have not only a legal obligation, but a moral one as well, to provide a safe, efficient, and effective facility capable of housing incarcerated individuals, as well as provide rehabilitative programming shown to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes. The Justice and Transition Center will meet these needs while also providing millions in annualized cost savings.
I appreciate your interest in this topic, and I hope I have addressed some, if not all, of your concerns.

Marcus J. Molinaro
Dutchess County Executive
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
845-486-2000 phone
845-486-2021 fax
Email: countyexec@dutchessny.gov

www.dutchessny.gov

From: Emily Vanston <emily.vanston@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 3:50 PM
To: County Legislators <CountyLegislators@dutchessny.gov>; countyexec <countyexec@dutchessny.gov>
Cc: Morris, Carolyn <cmorris@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County Legislators and County Executive Molinaro:

I am writing as a taxpayer and voter residing in Dutchess County to call for the Legislature to drop its plans for a new jail. The jail would be the most expensive capital project the County has ever undertaken, costing more than all other county capital spending combined, with bond repayment extending into the 2040s. Post-COVID, the county's financial situation is dire—the fund balance is being quickly depleted, and unless direct federal aid arrives, the county will need to borrow later this year to cover basic operations. Layoffs and cuts to essential services seem inevitable.

This is the worst possible time to invest huge sums in a new jail and divert money from other urgent priorities. For example, we know overdose deaths are spiking sharply amid the Covid-19 pandemic, and that alcoholism and mental health needs are also on the rise. Yet, the current budget has reduced in spending on these services, as well as on much-needed youth programs.

Moreover, the need for a new jail is no longer there. New York's bail and discovery reform laws have dramatically reduced pretrial incarceration and thus the jail population (around 130 now; two years ago, over 400). More people charged with misdemeanors are being diverted to community-based treatment for addiction and mental-health diagnoses. Other New York counties are making plans to convert jail cells into homeless shelters and expand alternatives to incarceration. Dutchess County should join their ranks and reimagine public safety.

For these reasons, we support the resolutions the Democratic caucus has submitted for consideration in July:

* rescind the remaining portion of the legislature's 2017 bond appropriation for jail construction

* recommend a commission to research alternatives to construction of the proposed jail, including renovation of part of the current space, jail-sharing with other counties, or other possibilities.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Vanston

Morris, Carolyn

From: Ellery Cordes <ocordes@vassar.edu>
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 4:06 PM
To: Morris, Carolyn; County Legislators
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County,
The construction of a new jail in Dutchess County is both immoral and a waste of taxpayer's money. The number of incarcerated people in the current jail has more than halved in the past two years, demonstrating how construction for a new jail is completely unnecessary if incarceration rates follow this current trend. As funds are put towards construction and operation of the new jail, the budgets for other community services are being slashed, and there is an appalling lack of focus on rehabilitation. Education, accessible health services, and other social programs that work to uplift the community and cater to their needs are more crucial than ever as we begin to navigate life in the pandemic and make plans for the future. The construction of a new jail will simply further systemic racism, police violence, and oppression. The world is watching, and choosing to build a new jail during this time would be a grave mistake for the Dutchess County government to make.
Sincerely,
Ellery Cordes

Morris, Carolyn

From: Bella DeJoy <bella.dejoy@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 4:19 PM
To: Morris, Carolyn; County Legislators
Subject: Public comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

I am writing to urge you to rescind funding for the construction of the new jail in Dutchess County. Instead, you could utilize funds to provide services like restorative and transformative justice for citizens, which have proved to be more effective than jail. If you construct this jail, it will simply further systemic oppression, racism, and police violence in Dutchess County. This is a step back from where we should be headed as a country - towards creating systems which value the black and brown people in our communities, instead of harming them.
Please consider this.
Sincerely,
Bella DeJoy

Morris, Carolyn

From: Benjamin Turner <bturner@vassar.edu>
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 4:28 PM
To: Morris, Carolyn; Pulver, Gregg; County Legislators; Metzger, John D.; Bolner, Donna
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Hello,

My name is Ben Turner, I use he/him/his pronouns, and I attend Vassar College in Poughkeepsie. I have great pride in going to this institution, and it is the college's--and the student's-- duty to actively benefit the surrounding towns affected by the colleges placement. I find it horrific that you plan to build a $200 million jail.

Over the last 20 years, the budget allocated to the sheriff's department and the jail has increased by more than double from $21.2 million to $54.7 million this year. Meanwhile, health/mental health budget has decreased from $53.9 million in 2006 to $46.4 million in 2020. Youth programs have remained stagnant at $1.65 million.

Despite currently being in a economic free fall, you plan to spend this money on a jail that will cost taxpayers $10 million a year to pay back the construction bond.

Despite worldwide attention to the US's systematic murder of Black and Brown people like Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, Elijah McClain, Trayvon Martin, Tamir Rice, Maurice Gordon (a member of the Poughkeepsie community and student at Dutchess Community College) and thousands of others, this council plans on investing in the prison industrial complex that criminalizes Black bodies. Black Lives Matter, and those lives are being wasted away in jails for minor or no crimes.

Our so called "criminal justice system" does nothing to address the systemic underlying causes of why people are in jail; building new jails ignores the fact that policing and jails do not make communities safer. I urge you to not spend this much needed money on harming your Black and Brown constituents.

Thank you,
Ben Turner

Morris, Carolyn

From: Bethany Frank <frank.bethanyelise@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 4:40 PM
To: Morris, Carolyn; County Legislators
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear County Legislators,

I'm writing to you regarding the legislation to rescind the $200M of funding to build a new jail in Dutchess County.

I live and work in Dutchess County, and see on a daily basis that the greatest need of the community, especially now, is to provide proper funding for food, education, and opportunities for our youth. Taxpayer money is to be used to reinvest in the community in order to better the lives of the people who live there. While prison reform is an absolute necessity, providing $200M in funding to build a new jail will not bring a return on investment to the community, and will deplete opportunity for improvements in county food relief programs, social work programs, parks and recreation programs, public transportation, and roads and bridges maintenance.

I implore that you vote YES on the legislation to rescind the $200,000,000.00 of funding to build a new Dutchess County Jail.

Thank you for your time and service.
Sincerely,
Bethany Frank

Morris, Carolyn

From: Anamae Gilroy <ag4241@bard.edu>
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 5:40 PM
To: Morris, Carolyn; County Legislators
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear whoever it may concern,

I am Anamae Gilroy a 20 year old New Yorker. I currently am attending Bard College and reside in Tivoli, NY; making me a resident of Dutchess County. It is essential we don't build this new jail in September. It will further fuel and increase unjust incarceration, and feed an oppressive system. I demand, as a member of the Dutchess county and as a taxpaying American, that this 200 million dollar funding (our 200 million) is rescinded and used for building and helping positive facilities in our community. We don't need another jail. Dutchess County needs funding for youth programs, mental health/health facilities, and public transportation. From the early 2000s youth programs and mental health facility's funding has dropped while the sheriff's department has more than doubled in their funding in the past 20 years. Our current situation in America isn't a new political issue but rather a humanitarian one and again, building this jail will feed a deeply rooted, oppressive system. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Anamae Gilroy

Morris, Carolyn

From: Hazel Dunning <hazelrosey@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 5:53 PM
To: Morris, Carolyn; County Legislators
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Hello! This email is to voice my displeasure regarding the plans for the new 2,000,000 dollar prison for dutchess county. Just this year there were concerns about whether there would be enough money for education in dutchess county, and plans to cut certain programs due to lack of funding. Rather than spending tax payer money to build a systemically racist institution we should be investing money into our education systems and therefore supporting the future of this community. I hope you are strongly considering the wishes of the citizens you've promised to faithfully represent.
Life long resident of the hudson valley, Hazel Dunning

Morris, Carolyn

From: Skylar Schmid <sschmid@vassar.edu>
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 6:02 PM
To: Morris, Carolyn; County Legislators
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County Legislators,

Dutchess county should not build a new jail. I am demanding that the Dutchess county government rescind funding for the construction of the new jail. Building new jails will further systemic racism and oppression. The money and priority should be shifted toward helping to build up the community, not put people in jail. As a student at Vassar College, the Dutchess County community is important to me and I feel that building a jail is harmful to the community.

Sincerely,
Skylar Schmid

Morris, Carolyn

From: Ariella Hyman-Fessler <ariellahf@me.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 6:28 PM
To: County Legislators
Cc: Morris, Carolyn
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Hello Dutchess County Legislators and County Executive Molinaro,

I am writing as a taxpayer and a voter who resides in Dutchess County, District 18, to demand that the legislature drops its plans for a new jail.
I call on you to vote to rescind the hundreds of millions of dollars set ti go towards constructing a new jail; it is unacceptable that this is where we are set to spend our money right now, especially during a pandemic where physical and mental health, job security, and housing should be at the forefront of our priorities.

We do not need another jail.

What we need is more investment into our communities in terms of youth programs, libraries, and mental health resources.

Our priorities must change.

Regards,
Ariella Hyman-Fessler

Morris, Carolyn

From: Violet Saxon <violetmsaxon@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 6:31 PM
To: County Legislators
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a former resident of Dutchess County, and I am appalled by the $200 million dollar jail scheduled to be built in Dutchess County this September. As a young person who went to college in and around Dutchess County, I feel that many of my most dearly held political beliefs and aspirations were formed by both the injustices I witnessed and the powerful undercurrent of hope with which these instances were met. I saw police officers unfairly target my black friends. I saw police officers hold only people of color accountable for crimes committed by people both black and white. I also saw the community reach up to support these people. I saw impassioned young people determined to build a better world in which no one rots in prison.

This money should be redirected towards spending on mental health and youth programs, both of which have been cut or static for years. Abolitionist tactics such as funding community programs and cutting spending on jails and police will help to build a safer community for all, and to end the over-criminalization of black and brown people. I urge you not to move forward with the construction of this jail, and to spend the money where it could create positive change, such as on mental health and youth programs, to encourage people to participate in their democracy and to undo the structures of oppression of which new jails are a sinister and potent component. If we refocus our attention on hope, abolition, trust and community, rather than on punitive, backwards systems built on inequity and racism, we can work to improve the Dutchess County that has taught us so much. Thank you for your time.

Urgently,

Violet Saxon

Morris, Carolyn

From: Ella Xiao <exiao@vassar.edu>
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 7:10 PM
To: County Legislators; Morris, Carolyn
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County Legislators and County Executive Molinaro:

I am writing to voice my **opposition to plans for a new jail in Dutchess County** as a current resident of Dutchess County. At this time in particular, of heightened financial insecurity due to COVID, to be spending hugely on a new jail rather than directing funds to make sure everyone in Dutchess County has access to quality healthcare (including mental health/addiction as deaths by overdose rising sharply), housing, education, food, etc seems completely out of touch with what our needs are, as a County, as a community, and as human beings.

Moreover, the need for a new jail is not there. New York's bail and discovery reform laws have dramatically reduced pretrial incarceration and thus the jail population (around 130 now; two years ago, over 400). More people charged with misdemeanors are being diverted to community-based treatment for addiction and mental-health diagnoses, particularly as we are releasing more and more that **incarceration does not solve our problems, but in fact drastically heightens inequality** (racial bias in policing/incarcerating, formerly incarcerated people being denied rights to equal opportunity employment, voting, federal financial support, etc) and **jails themselves often acting as containers/perpetrators of violence rather than solving any of the roots of violence**. Other New York counties are making plans to convert jail cells into homeless shelters and expand alternatives to incarceration. Dutchess County should join their ranks and reimagine public safety.

For these reasons, I support the resolutions the Democratic caucus has submitted for consideration in July:
* rescind the remaining portion of the legislature's 2017 bond appropriation for jail construction
* recommend a commission to research alternatives to construction of the proposed jail, including renovation of part of the current space, jail-sharing with other counties, or other possibilities.

In Community,
Ella Xiao

Morris, Carolyn

From: Alex Hilliker <ahillik64@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 7:23 PM
To: Morris, Carolyn; County Legislators
Subject: $200 million prison

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Hello,

My name is Alex Hilliker and have recently started to live in Dutchess County and as a resident I wish to vocalize how building a new $200 million prison would be detrimental not only in the short term as it would be costing the taxpayers tens of millions for years but also in the long term. In the long term, additions to the prison industrial complex in Dutchess County for 138 people seems extremely excessive. Furthermore, the money could be used far better purposes rather than opening up another prison in the already extensive prison industrial complex throughout the country. $200 million dollars for this county is a significant sum and cannot be used to build another prison. Invest in the community, not in prisons.

Morris, Carolyn

From: Isaiah McRoberts <isaiahmcroberts@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 7:31 PM
To: Morris, Carolyn

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Hello,

I am student who has taken residence in Dutchess County over the last two years. It had been a pleasure to be a part of this beautiful New York State community.

However, the issues of mass incarceration and systemic racism that have run rampant throughout our country are still present here.

The current plan to construct a new 2,000,000 dollar prison in a county that currently only has 138 prisoners in precaution of more inmates seems to be a terrible misuse of tax payers money.

The budget planned for this project could be utilized for a variety of other infrastructural improvements such as education, health care, and even roadwork.

The funneling of more resources in to a system that runs on the mass incarceration of people of color for petty drug possessions is not the correct direction to take.

Thank you for your time,

Isaiah McRoberts

Morris, Carolyn

From: countyexec
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2020 3:29 PM
To: Leslie Fritz; CountyLegislature; Llaverias, Giancarlo; Sagliano, Don; Polasek, Michael; Black, Hannah; Keith, Thomas L.; Edwards, Rebecca; Truitt, Will; Brendli, Craig; Johnson, Randy; jeterb@hvc.rr.com; Kearney, Brennan; Metzger, John D.; Bolner, Donna; Paoloni, Lisa; Cavaccini, Joseph; Zernike, Frits; McHoul, Douglas A.; Page, Nick; Pulver, Gregg; Munn, Kristofer; Caswell, Stephen; Garito, Faye; Hauser, Edward; Surman, Alan; Houston, Deirdre; Morris, Carolyn
Subject: RE: County Budget

Dear Leslie,

Thank you for your email. Addressing the mental health and social problems that drive incarceration remains our priority. The County has heavily invested in access to mental health services with the building of the Stabilization Center, a 24/7 walk-in facility providing a single point of access where individuals can receive crisis counseling, mental health assessments, and peer advocacy. In addition to the Stabilization Center, the Department of Behavioral and Community Health operates other 24/7 crisis services including our call or text service HELPLINE and our Mobile Crisis Intervention Team, which can go directly into the community to aid individuals in crisis.

The County partners with local school districts to incorporate Second Step, a social-emotional learning program that focuses on empathy and communication skills, bullying prevention, problem-solving, and substance-abuse prevention – all of which are protective factors against future criminal justice system involvement. We have also dedicated resources to family stability by increasing family-based foster care placements, offering parent coaching, and providing home-visiting to high-risk families. A strong, stable, and reliable family structure supports positive social-emotional development and can reduce the likelihood of future incarceration.

Additionally, we remain committed to our Path to Promise initiative, which identifies the critical components, needed resources, and effective programs to start our children on a path to stability, security, and success. In 2019 the County began implementing the first set of initiatives, including a Foster Care Mentoring program and expanding youth employment programs beyond the summer. We have also supported the youth services through our Agency Partner Grant. Over the past eight years, over $7 million has been allocated to critical programs and services in our community through this program. Nearly 75 percent of the funding goes to youth programs – anti-bullying, workforce development, literacy, and more.

These are only some of the important initiatives, resources, and programs we have invested in to support young people and reduce the reliance on the criminal justice system. However, Section 217 of the New York State County Law still mandates that a county maintain a jail. Further, we believe that those who are incarcerated and those who provide services to this population deserve a modern facility designed for the purpose of rehabilitation, safety, and efficiency. The new Justice and Transition Center will provide:

- greater staffing efficiency and productivity, enhancing overall functionality and safety as well as providing cost savings;
- the opportunity to deliver more and better programming, in a light-filled and safe environment that is more conducive to positive behavioral change; and
- the flexibility of design to accommodate the potential for fluctuating population size, with the potential to decommission areas or units, as needed, and the ability to repurpose designated areas for other uses (ex. transitional housing).

These benefits have considerable positive financial impacts, resulting in annual savings of nearly $4.1 million. Cost-savings primarily come in the form of the reductions to required staff and increases in the inmate to correctional officer ratio resulting from efficient design elements on the planned facility. The capital costs are an investment in future annualized operational savings allowing us to save money and focus spending in other areas. Additionally, ending the Justice and Transition Center project would require significant investment in the current jail facility, specifically the 1995

and 1984 sections. Further, with $60 million already bonded for the project, over $3 million in debt service will still need to be paid annually.
Bail reform was signed into law in 2019 and went into effect on January 1, 2020. The legislation significantly impacted the size and composition of the population served within the Dutchess County Jail. Additionally, before the implementation of the 2019 criminal justice reform, Dutchess County had reduced our jail population by 30 percent over a five year period through initiatives designed to divert lower risk and/or mentally ill defendants from jail, including building our Stabilization Center; providing Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) to law enforcement; and utilizing a sophisticated array of evidenced-based pretrial diversion practices. This work has become the model for many of the counties of which you write about. Given these factors, the design of the new Justice and Transition Center was reduced by over 200 beds.
We recognize the changing dimensions of our criminal justice system, but we continue to have not only a legal obligation, but a moral one as well, to provide a safe, efficient, and effective facility capable of housing incarcerated individuals, as well as provide rehabilitative programming shown to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes. The Justice and Transition Center will meet these needs while also providing millions in annualized cost savings.
I appreciate your interest in this topic, and I hope I have addressed some, if not all, of your concerns.

Marcus J. Molinaro
Dutchess County Executive
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
845-486-2000 phone
845-486-2021 fax
Email: countyexec@dutchessny.gov

www.dutchessny.gov

-----Original Message-----
From: Leslie Fritz <lesliesarafritz@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 8:43 PM
To: CountyLegislature <CountyLegislature@dutchessny.gov>; Llaverias, Giancarlo <gllaverias@dutchessny.gov>; Sagliano, Don <dsagliano@dutchessny.gov>; Polasek, Michael <mpolasek@dutchessny.gov>; Black, Hannah <hblackdc4@gmail.com>; Keith, Thomas L. <tkeith@dutchessny.gov>; Edwards, Rebecca <redutchess6@gmail.com>; Truitt, Will <wtruitt@dutchessny.gov>; Brendli, Craig <cbrendli@dutchessny.gov>; Johnson, Randy <rjohnson@dutchessny.gov>; jeterb@hvc.rr.com; Kearney, Brennan <bkearney@dutchessny.gov>; Metzger, John D. <metzger4dc@gmail.com>; Bolner, Donna <dbolner@dutchessny.gov>; Paoloni, Lisa <lpaoloni@dutchessny.gov>; Cavaccini, Joseph <jcavaccini@dutchessny.gov>; Zernike, Frits <fzernike@dutchessny.gov>; McHoul, Douglas A. <dmchoul@dutchessny.gov>; Page, Nick <npage@dutchessny.gov>; Pulver, Gregg <gpulver@dutchessny.gov>; Munn, Kristofer <kmunn@dutchessny.gov>; Caswell, Stephen <scaswell@dutchessny.gov>; Garito, Faye <fgarito@dutchessny.gov>; Hauser, Edward <ehauser@dutchessny.gov>; Surman, Alan <alansurman@optimum.net>; Houston, Deirdre <dhouston@dutchessny.gov>; countyexec <countyexec@dutchessny.gov>; Morris, Carolyn <cmorris@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: County Budget

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County Legislature,

Hi, my name is Leslie Fritz and I am a resident of Stanfordville. I am asking you to reallocate money away from the Dutchess County Sheriff's Department, which disproportionately targets Black residents. From traffic stops, to arrests, to the use of lethal force, Dutchess County Sheriff's Department targets nonwhite residents at a rate far exceeding their share of the population. Much scholarship shows that a living wage, access to health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at promoting community safety than policing and prisons.

Dutchess County is currently allocating $54,665,818 of its budget to the Sheriff and Jail, $18,041,128 to Probation and $1,312,183 to Juvenile Detention, totaling $74,304,402 (14.5%) toward programs that have little benefit to the community. All the while only allocating $49,520,574 (9.6%) toward public education from Pre-School through Community College, $46,379,552 (9%) to the Department of Behavioral & Community Health, and $11,668,951 (0.02%) to our already inadequate Public Transportation system. Additionally, only $1,215,670 (0.002%) was allocated to the Agency Partner Grant Program which includes many of the programs that support the community in meaningful ways such as housing, restorative justice, food access, literacy, and much more. This means that Dutchess County is allocating nearly the same amount of funding to policing and incarceration as it is to all of these other programs combined.

This is an unacceptable disparity in funding. It stands to reason that a greater number of residents can benefit from access to healthcare, education, and transportation in their communities than they can from police presence and incarceration. As such, I demand a meaningful reallocation of these funds towards healthcare and social programs that truly benefit the community.

Sincerely,
Leslie Fritz

Morris, Carolyn

From: Dylan Reagh <dylanreagh@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 8:45 PM
To: Morris, Carolyn; County Legislators
Subject: Public Comment concerning New Jail

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Hi,

I live in Red Hook. I've learned that Dutchess County plans to allot $200,000,000 to build a new jail. As a resident of this county I find this to be an incredibly unhelpful expenditure of taxpayer funds. Why not use that money to actively and directly improve the society of this county? Infrastructure, healthcare, employment, environmental and public services, utilities, sports, art; there's so many ways that such a large sum of money could be used beneficially.

Please don't use the resources of our government to imprison your constituents. Put the money into programs for the public benefit.

Morris, Carolyn

From: Aidan Zola <azola@vassar.edu>
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 8:50 PM
To: Morris, Carolyn; County Legislators
Subject: Public Comment

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To whom it may concern,

I would like for the following comment to be read aloud during the Dutchess County Legislature Board meeting on July 13, 2020:

"My name is Aidan Zola, and I'm a recent graduate of Vassar College. Though I've since left the Poughkeepsie area to return home, I've also come to know and love this city and county over the last four years. From tutoring incredibly bright, creative kids at the Poughkeepsie Middle School, to working full time at Hudson River Healthcare in the Family Partnership and volunteering as a birth doula at Vassar Brothers, I can definitively say that the people who make up this community are like no other. They're kind, community-driven, and passionate and they welcomed an outsider "Vassar kid" like me--something I'm deeply grateful for.

But you all know this. And besides, it shouldn't make a difference. No matter how you describe Dutchess County, you should not be building a new $200 million dollar jail. I cannot stand for the county allocating a meager $5.6 million dollars to public transit, when everyday at HRHCare, I saw patients who most needed medical care miss their appointments because the bus was late or didn't run near their neighborhood. I cannot stand for the county building a new jail when the local schools are falling down on the children who rely on them.

Building a fancy new prison is not the answer. Instead of building up the county's inhabitants through increased social services, supporting local and POC-/Black-owned businesses, and investing in your own children's futures, you are deciding to incarcerate more people--who are and will be predominantly lower-income and Black folks. Be on the right side of history. DO something--you have the power. Don't build the jail."

Thank you,
Aidan Zola

--
Aidan Zola
Science, Technology, and Society Major
French and Francophone Studies Major
Vassar College '20

Morris, Carolyn

From: Lia Vaccarino <liavaccarino@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 9:45 PM
To: Morris, Carolyn; County Legislators
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the construction of a new jail in Dutchess county. There is a desperate need for funding In our counties public school system. Please protect our children's future, invest in education and not punishment. I vehemently oppose the funding and construction of this jail by mine and my communities tax dollar. Please, I beg for compassion, fund our community through public services, do not build this jail.

Sent from my iPhone

Morris, Carolyn

From: Gaia B <gaiagblessing@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2020 4:19 AM
To: County Legislators
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

To whom it concerns:

My name is Gaia Blessing and I am a resident of Brooklyn, New York and a current student at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie. Throughout my time at Vassar, I have volunteered for a grassroots organization called "Nobody Leaves Mid-Hudson," which is currently focusing on a variety of projects that would make the lives of undocumented citizens in the Hudson valley more equitable.

One thing that the organization has accomplished is surveying citizens of the area on what their everyday needs are. This clearly demonstrates those who have the ability to bring about change listening to the needs of the people.

I ask you to do the same by fighting against Dutchess county's plans to build a new jail. Especially in light of all that is going on in our country at the moment, to do so would both be an act of blatantly ignoring the needs of the people and demonstrating your lack of support for those to whom it is your duty to protect.

Our current "criminal justice system" fails to address the underlying, systemic causes that lead to the incarceration of such a large portion of Americans. Jails and policing have consistently proven to NOT make communities any safer: practices like restorative and transformative justice prompts individuals to engage in transformative reflection that HAS proven to have a lasting, positive impact on both the individual and the community as a whole.

I urge you to consider distributing funds to more practices like these.

Please do not take this message lightly. Your people need you to hear our voices and advocate for our needs.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Gaia Blessing

Morris, Carolyn

From: Miko <mikoother12345@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2020 9:57 AM
To: Morris, Carolyn
Subject: Public Comment

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Hi,

I spent a large chunk of my life in Dutchess Country and am so upset at the idea that $200 MILLION will go towards building jails rather than supporting the community. Please reconsider the priorities, especially since we're in a pandemic and recession! There are so many better ways to spend that money. I'm happy to provide some examples if it helps. Thank you!!

Morris, Carolyn

From: Mariel Cupp <mc3502@bard.edu>
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2020 10:35 AM
To: Morris, Carolyn; County Legislators
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Hello,

I am a Dutchess County registered voter and resident based in Tivoli NY, and I am reaching out with concern and disappointment regarding the budget allocation which has attributed a great deal of money towards the new jail in Dutchess County. Given the lack of funding for highways and bridges, not to mention the very little funds put towards public transport, I am disheartened and disapproving of the millions of dollars that Dutchess County is willing to dump into a facility which will aid in incarcerating our citizens, costing taxpayers millions of dollars for the foreseeable future. I strongly believe that our priorities need to change, and they need to change now. Why would we continue to increase the budget for the sheriff's department and new jails instead of youth programs, education, and public health? I know I am not alone in this disappointment, and I hope that my concerns are heard and taken seriously. Thank you for your time.

Every best,
Mariel

Morris, Carolyn

From: Melina Roise <mr8208@bard.edu>
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2020 12:51 PM
To: Morris, Carolyn; County Legislators
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

I am a resident of Red Hook and senior at Bard College. I am fully against the construction of a new jail in Dutchess county, especially one that will cost taxpayers $200,000,000. It is an extreme injustice, in the midst of a pandemic and civil rights movement, to reduce the budgets from youth services and mental health spending along with money that could be put towards public health and instead allocate it towards incarcerating community members. Our priorities need to change now.

--
Melina Roise
Bard College Class of '21
860-992-6472
(she/her/hers)

Morris, Carolyn

From: Cat Greenstreet <catgreenstreet@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2020 12:53 PM
To: County Legislators
Subject: cmorris@dutchessny.gov

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear County Legislators,

I am urging you to reconsider the appropriation of funds to the county jail project. In the aftermath, perhaps, of Covid-19, the county's fund balance is being quickly depleted, and unless direct federal aid arrives, the county will need to borrow later this year to cover basic operations. Layoffs and cuts to services seem inevitable. At the same time, nationwide protests for racial justice are challenging us to rethink our society's outsized spending on law enforcement and incarceration. This is the worst possible time to invest huge sums in a new jail, burden taxpayers, and divert money from other urgent priorities. Whatever money we have needs to be invested in helping us residents of the county get on our feet.

The good news is that New York's bail and discovery reform laws have dramatically reduced pre-trial incarceration and, thus, the jail population, which is around 130 now, where it was over 400 two years ago. As should be, more people charged with misdemeanors are being diverted to community-based treatment for addiction and mental-health diagnoses. Other New York counties are making plans to convert jail cells into shelters for unhoused people and expand alternatives to incarceration. I urge more restorative justice initiatives and training from middle school to adults. *A new jail should not be Dutchess County's priority.*

I support the Democratic caucus's two resolutions, submitted for consideration in July, which would 1) rescind the remaining portion of the legislature's 2017 bond appropriation for jail construction and 2) recommend a commission to research alternatives to construction of the proposed jail, including renovation of part of the current space, jail-sharing with other counties, or other possibilities.

Thank you for your thoughtful, compassionate consideration at this extremely important crossroads for our county and our nation. We could be trendsetters here in Dutchess County. Let's do it!

Sincerely,

Carol (Cat) Greenstreet

Morris, Carolyn

From: Claire Fondrie-Teitler <claire.fondrie@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2020 1:01 PM
To: Morris, Carolyn; County Legislators
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Hi all,

As a community member I would like to speak out against the construction of a new jail. The construction of a new jail in Dutchess County is, short and simple, a terrible idea. Mass incarceration in this country sets us apart from all other nations in the world, and it is not something to be proud of. We have seen that incarceration is bad for public health, that recidivism is higher with more severe incarceration, and especially that the system targets Black and brown people and was built on racist ideas that it continues to perpetuate. Building a new jail now is like spending hundreds of millions of dollars on an infected bandaid. It makes the problem worse and takes away funding from things that would help reduce crime. Since the pandemic, people and governments are facing budget cuts. Why spend hundreds of millions of dollars on something harmful when you could use that money to improve schools in the area, or fund programs to reduce food or housing insecurity?
Crime is a last resort for people whose basic needs are not being met. Spend money on lifting up the least fortunate and most oppressed among us, not on oppressing them further.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Claire Fondrie-Teitler

Morris, Carolyn

From: Jennie To <tojenniem@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2020 1:27 PM
To: Morris, Carolyn; County Legislators
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Hello,

My name is Jennie To and I am a resident of Poughkeepsie NY, zip code 12601. I am submitting this public comment to state that I am against Dutchess County building a new jail and demand that Dutchess County Legislators vote to rescind $200 million from constructing a new jail.

The plans to construct the jail, despite lack of community support or need, is unnecessary and actively promotes violence towards and incarceration of Black, Indigenous and other people of color. Our so-called "criminal justice system" does not address the systematic underlying causes of why people are in jail, and creating new jails blatantly ignores the fact that policing and jails do not make communities safer.

The $200 million planned spending on the construction of a new jail should go towards services and programs that actually make our community safer, such as health & mental health services, youth services and other community building projects that affirm housing, healthcare and education for all Dutchess County residents, especially since all of these helpful services's funding have been decreasing or have stayed the same, while the sheriff's department and the jail's budget have increased dramatically.

I am a resident of Dutchess County, and I oppose the proposed plan to build a new jail.

Thank you,
Jennie To

Morris, Carolyn

From: Isabella Fabiani <ifabiani@oxy.edu>
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2020 1:40 PM
To: Morris, Carolyn; County Legislators
Subject: Public Comment

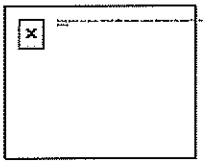
ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County Legislators,

My name is Bella Fabiani and I am an undergraduate student at Occidental College in Los Angeles. I am emailing to demand that Dutchess County **rescinds** the $200,000,000 funding towards the construction of a new jail. The decision to fund a $200 million dollar jail will disproportionately impact Black, Indigenous, and POC communities in Dutchess County. I urge you to vote yes on rescinding the jail's funding and to consider reallocating those funds to mental health services, funding for youth programs, education, and other important social services. Moving forward in 2020 and beyond, I urge Dutchess County to make decisions that ultimately protect and not harm their BIPOC communities.

Sincerely,

Isabella Fabiani
(858)-228-6074
Occidental College '21
Los Angeles, CA



Morris, Carolyn

From: Olivia Gotsch <oliviagotsch@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2020 2:29 PM
To: Morris, Carolyn
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

The decision on behalf of Dutchess County to waste $200 million on the building of a new jail is thoughtless and actively harms Black and brown constituents. This will cost county taxpayers almost $10 million every year moving forward -- it is no wonder that there is no community support for this decision. The annual county budget for the sheriff's department has already more than doubled in the past twenty years, while health funding of all forms dropped over 10 million just in the past year. This is not a prioritization of the health and safety of the population, but rather an increased investment in a system designed to fail. The American criminal justice system (including that of Dutchess County) does not address the roots of crime, but rather treats the symptoms of poverty, harm, and desperation. Practices like restorative and transformative justice are much better posited to create the lasting change needed to transform our communities.

Furthermore, the current incarcerated population is 130 people, yet the supposedly "downsized" jail will be built to accommodate 328; there is no logic to support this size, except that it demonstrates an intention on the part of Dutchess County officials to seek further incarceration of their own people. How can this decision possibly be argued to support public safety? I ask you to rescind this plan immediately and redirect funding into community-oriented programs and human services.

Olivia Gotsch

Morris, Carolyn

From: Alison FV <alison@jayvee.com>
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2020 3:01 PM
To: Morris, Carolyn; County Legislators
Subject: Public comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Thank you for reading my comment. I am a life long resident of the county and a public school teacher.
I believe the county should redirect the funding for the proposed jail to social welfare, community and mental health care services.
We don't need a big new jail, we need support services for our residents.
Dutchess County should be less punitive and more supportive.

Thank you,

Alison Vaccarino

Sent from my iPhone

Morris, Carolyn

From: Jamie Reeves <jamie.j.reeves@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2020 3:39 PM
To: Jamie.
Subject: Explicitly Caring for Black Residents through Budget Reallocation

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Hello,

I am writing today to advocate for my neighbors and my community in saying: we must fund our community services at a greater rate to benefit and advance our oppressed communities. To find these funds for our opressed and specifically Black communities, we must defund the police.

This money must be taken away from the police because policing as an institution is inherently violent towards Black people and other marginalized groups. I do believe we must develop a model of safety that do not involve police, because police do not promote public safety.

Please let me know what you are using your power to do specifically, to make sure our marginalized communities are advanced and cared for. Please let me know specifically, how you are reallocating funds within the city budget to benefit our Black residents.

Sincerely,
Jamie Reeves

Morris, Carolyn

From: Cullen Drissell <cd6586@bard.edu>
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2020 7:15 PM
To: Morris, Carolyn; County Legislators
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

My name is Cullen Drissell and I recently graduated from Bard College. I have since moved back home to St. Louis where I have begun actively learning and working on being anti-racist. It frustrated and saddened me to recently learn that Dutchess County, my home for the past four years, is planning on building a 200 million dollar jail. I challenge you to think more critically about this choice. Will this temporary "band-aid" solution to the incarceration issue in this country do anything but put more bodies in the evil and repetitive cycle of our criminal justice system? Have you stopped to think about why you are even considering the need for a new jail? Maybe the issue is a lack of investment in our communities, especially poor communities and communities of color. I am asking you to think about the potential of investing in the physical and mental health of Black and Brown children who are fearful for their lives every day. Investing in the education system to help young people build a foundation to navigate within this world. Investing in affordable housing so people struggling against racism and poverty in this country have the option to put a roof over their head. These investments can become a reality if we, as a country and as a people, decide to shift our collective funds away from jails and policing and into the well-beings of our neighbors, friends, and family. This is a crucial moment in time where we have the ability to step away from the deeply racist and oppressive systems our parents, grandparents, and ancestors left us. Focus on the problem at the core rather than the surface. Invest in real solutions like education, healthcare, housing, and other social services rather than jails and policing. I am asking you, Dutchess County, to rescind this choice of spending $200,000,000 on a new jail and put that money into the community. Thank you for your time.

Cullen Drissell

Morris, Carolyn

From: Carla Castillo <ccastillo@hudsonvalleyrc.org>
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2020 7:20 PM
To: Patricia Pomeroy
Subject: June 30th Resources
Attachments: PutnamCleanHeating&CoolingCampaignVirtualLaunch.pdf

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Good evening, June 30th is proving to be a busy day with important resources for municipalities as well as residents and businesses. Please see below. Best regards, Carla Castillo

Low-Embodied Carbon Concrete: Beginning at **10am on June 30th,** the Village of Hastings-on Hudson will present a webinar on how low carbon concrete can play a role in decreasing global greenhouse gas emissions. Register for the webinar here and learn more on the Village's website.

Putnam County Clean Heating & Cooling Campaign Virtual Launch: Following at **11:00am on June 30th**, Putnam County will launch a campaign designed to reduce energy use and energy costs through heat pump technology. While this opportunity is specifically for Putnam home- and business-owners, since we are all so interconnected in the Hudson Valley, please feel free to share with your Putnam County colleagues, friends, family members, and neighbors. Registration for the virtual launch is here; attached find an invitation with more information on the launch and campaign.

Energy- & Cost-Saving Heat Pump Technology: Interested in this technology, but you live or own a business in Orange, Sullivan, Ulster, or Westchester counties? Visit the below-listed webpages for specific county campaigns or the NYSERDA Clean Heating & Cooling Campaign webpage to learn more about the program.

- HeatSmart Orange County for Orange County.
- Sustainable Hudson Valley for campaigns in Sullivan and Ulster counties.
- Sustainable Westchester for Westchester County.

Carla C. Castillo G., MS/MCP | Deputy Executive Director / Clean Energy Communities Coordinator
Hudson Valley Regional Council | Newburgh, NY 12550 | 845-564-4075, ext. 210
Check out HVRC's Winter Newsletter & Facebook page!

Morris, Carolyn

From: KEYA <keya.acharya13@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2020 7:22 PM
To: Morris, Carolyn; County Legislators
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Hello,

My name is Keya Acharya. I live in Bronxville, NY. I am writing today to ask that you rescind $200, 000, 000 from constructing a new jail. I have worked extensively with people who are incarcerated and know the social, physical, and emotional impact of incarceration is devastating. This money could be better used by providing mental heath resources, housing, and health care. There is extensive research documenting high recidivism rates in the U.S. Jails are clearly not creating safe communities nor preventing crime. Please do not use the $200, 000, 000 to build a new jail.

Sincerely,
Keya Acharya

Morris, Carolyn

From: Carl Nelson <carlnelson19@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2020 8:26 PM
To: Morris, Carolyn; County Legislators
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County Legislators,

I am writing today to demand that this body rescind all $200 million allocated for the construction of a new jail, cancel the project, and reallocate the money to vital community services.

The proposed jail, with its enormous budget, is a massive step in the wrong direction. Amidst a national conversation about mass incarceration and the decades of systemic racism and violent over-policing in black communities, it is time to radically reimagine our justice system.

The $200 million price tag for this regressive project is insulting in the wake of recent budget cuts to vital youth programs and health care services in Dutchess County. It is an undue tax burden on communities which could be better served if this money was spent on education, rehabilitation, and family aid.

We must reconsider our dependence on incarceration and fix the glaring funding disparities which hold families and young people back.

Thank you,
Carl Nelson
Tivoli Resident
--
Carl Nelson

Morris, Carolyn

From: Alexandra Piirimae <alexipiirimae@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 27, 2020 12:20 AM
To: County Legislators
Subject: Personal Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Hello,

I am writing to you to demand that you rescind funding for the proposed prison to be built in Dutchess County. The construction of new prisons upholds mass incarceration in the US, irreparably damaging the lives of thousands of Americans--particularly Black and brown Americans--contributing to the issue of voter suppression and unpaid labor in the US. In order to uplift Americans and protect our most vulnerable communities, you must reject any efforts to build new prisons in Dutchess County.

Signed,
Alexi Piirimae

Morris, Carolyn

From: Kai Parcher-Charles <kai.parchercharles@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 27, 2020 7:14 AM
To: County Legislators
Subject: Public comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Do not go ahead with plans to construct a new jail in Dutches County. Instead spend the $200 million on schools and organizing in community's! We should be spending to uplift empower and educate not imprison! Support your people!

Morris, Carolyn

From: Camille LaBossier <camillelabossier@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 27, 2020 10:12 AM
To: CountyLegislature; Morris, Carolyn
Subject: Public comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

It seems like it's always been common knowledge to me that people in power will never do the thing that helps other human beings live the best lives they can. Why is that? I'm sure you understand that prison is unhelpful for the majority of people put in the system, yet you still think that more people deserve to have their lives thrown away. Every single life is so valuable and should be treated as such. It's crazy to me that some people still don't believe that defunding the police is our only option. Before we take even more money from taxpayers for this jail, shouldn't we at least try to focus our money to programs that prevent the police from being called in the first place? If we give people the resources they need to cope and survive without enacting harm on others, wouldn't we have less people in the prison system? So why are we spending almost 200 MILLION DOLLARS on a jail. Mental health spending has decreased by millions of dollars since 2006. Spending on beneficial youth programs rests at $1.65 million. Rescinding funding for construction of the jail would be a simple task for you, if you cared about the well being of all people. But do you?

Morris, Carolyn

From: Patrick O'Shea <pfoshea@buffalo.edu>
Sent: Saturday, June 27, 2020 11:02 AM
To: Morris, Carolyn; County Legislators
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Good morning,

I am Patrick O'Shea a resident of Red Hook and I am very concerned by Dutchess County's decision to go through with the construction of an unnecessary 200 million dollar prison.

Aside from the political climate being in the completely wrong place for this new development we won't even have enough prisoners for it on opening day. It is an investment in long term incarceration in the county which is not sending the right message.

I notice in my community of Red Hook and nearby in Rhinebeck so many places these funds could be allocated to create positive change by nurturing our community. For instance we have dropped our mental health funding significantly over the years 13$ million in last year alone. Shouldn't we be raising good community members rather than incarcerating them? What does that say about our society?

At the same time the sheriff's office has swollen from 21 million around when I was born in 1999 to nearly 54 million today! This has not caused positive change either as crime rates haven't seen a significant dip. Stopping crime starts with an equitable education and mental health platform.

To that note our youth program funding hasn't at all improved from 1.68 mil 15 years ago to 1.65 mil today.

I would like to make it abundantly clear that me and others like me in the community see the action of investing in this new prison as demeaning and unnecessary and we will take notice on your further action. A county legislature which supports this nonsense community damaging and costly endeavour will lose my support and the support of those like me.

We will raise awareness and we will seek new leadership in the next election. So I hope you take the word of us- your constituency, very seriously.

Thank you,

Patrick

Morris, Carolyn

From: Gina Santorelli <stassi.g@icloud.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 27, 2020 11:12 AM
To: CountyLegislature
Subject: Dutchess Responds Assistance Request

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Hi Good morning!

I was recruited to your division of the MRC even though I live in Long Beach on Long Island in Nassau County. I see Nassau County is extremely slow in their efforts to establish anything close to the wonderful work you have done. I applied in March to join Nassau County MRC. I am STILL awaiting a response. They emailed me as well as postal mailed I me letters informing me they are working on my application. Is there anyway you could help speed up their process. I think they need help as they are way behind and I am willing to assist them. If there is anything you could do please let me know. I would appreciate anything you could do. I have been working with Trish from Duchess and she even referred me to the Nassau County website where nothing is being done. She was trying to help me get involved closer to my home and I assume she has no knowledge that they aren't able to get anything done possibly because they don't have the man-power? I don't know but I would love to help them. Please contact me I appreciate your help!

Best,

Gina Marie Santorelli
631.721.3121 | m
stassi.g@icloud.com | e

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Sent from my iPhone

Morris, Carolyn

From: Barbara Gonzales <dancebilly@icloud.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 27, 2020 12:45 PM
To: Morris, Carolyn; County Legislators
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

In light of recent events, our unstable politics and a questionable government, funding a new jail is so far off the mark of what, we the people need. Taking nearly 200 million in funding that could go to better use does nothing to restore our faith in our county, state, country and government officials.

I am an educator begging you not to build a new jail.

Bobbie
Sent from my iPhone

Morris, Carolyn

From: Sereene Kurzum <skurzum@fordham.edu>
Sent: Saturday, June 27, 2020 12:58 PM
To: County Legislators
Cc: Morris, Carolyn
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Hello Dutchess County Legislators and County Executive Molinaro,

I am writing as a taxpayer and voter who resides in Dutchess County, District 18, to demand that the Legislature drop its plans for a new jail. I ask you to vote to rescind the hundreds of millions of dollars set to go towards constructing a new jail. How is this an acceptable priority, especially now during a pandemic where physical and mental health, job security, and housing are so crucial? Additionally, we must recognize the function of jails in systemic racism in this country. To build another jail is to put more innocent Black and brown lives at risk, when this same money could be put into investing in our communities - this is what prevents crime. We need more investment into youth programs, libraries, and mental health services. Our priorities must change.

Best,
Sereene Kurzum

Morris, Carolyn

From: Tilly Barickman <tb2041@bard.edu>
Sent: Saturday, June 27, 2020 1:23 PM
To: Morris, Carolyn; County Legislators
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Good Afternoon,

I am writing to express my displeasure that Dutchess County plans to invest in a new jail when funds could be more productively allocated to public transport, aid to those suffering due to Covid-19, and alleviating county debt.

Our current social and political environment in which the oppression of black people by the police is becoming obvious to all onlookers demands that we take action to change the justice systems in our communities. Building a new jail and funnelling money into sheriffs departments will harm citizens who are targeted by law enforcement.

You, the leaders of our community have the opportunity to create positive change during this tumultuous time. Do not build a new jail. Instead of building a jail consider what you can do to prevent anyone from ever ending up in jail. Use funds to provide resources to educators and students which will enhance online learning. Use funds to create shelters for people who are homeless. Put money into justice reform, create committees who can reconfigure county law enforcement.

Sincerely,

Tilly Barickman

--
Tilly Barickman

Morris, Carolyn

From: Joshua Multer <jomulter@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 27, 2020 1:23 PM
To: Morris, Carolyn; County Legislators
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dutchess County should not build a new jail. More prisons never solved anything. Decades of research have shown that prison is the least effective place to rehabilitate offenders. Studies have indicated that a stint in prison increases the likelihood that inmates will reoffend.
So whom does a new prison actually benefit? Put all those millions back into health and youth programs specifically aimed at empowering POC in the community if you actually want to see less crimes. None of this is new. The fact that this is even up for debate is shameful.

Joshua Multer
Poughkeepsie Resident

Morris, Carolyn

From: Thomas Bloxham <tom.v.bloxham@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 27, 2020 1:24 PM
To: Morris, Carolyn; County Legislators
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Hello,

My name is Thomas Bloxham and I am a resident of Red Hook, NY. I'm writing to you today to stand against the $200 million being allocated to the construction of a new prison in Dutchess County. There are several reasons this prison should NOT BE BUILT, including:

- Dutchess County only has around 150 people incarcerated in the current prison. A prison with a capacity for over 300 is unnecessary and a waste of taxpayer money.
- The $200 million would cost taxpayers an average of $10 million a year for the foreseeable future, which is an outrage, considering no one in the county is even ASKING for a new prison.
- Our youth programs are criminally underfunded and the $1.6 million a year allocated to them has remained stagnant for nearly fifteen years.
- Our current prison system incarcerates people of color at a much higher rate than white offenders, and considering our county is over 80% white, this would lead to less diversity in our population.

Overall, I blatantly oppose the construction of this prison. It is a disgusting waste of taxpayer dollars and its progress needs to be halted immediately.

Thomas Bloxham

Morris, Carolyn

From: cambot@riseup.net
Sent: Saturday, June 27, 2020 3:39 PM
To: CountyLegislature; Llaverias, Giancarlo; Sagliano, Don; Polasek, Michael; Black, Hannah; Keith, Thomas L.; Edwards, Rebecca; Truitt, Will; Brendli, Craig; Johnson, Randy; jeterb@hvc.rr.com; Kearney, Brennan; Metzger, John D.; Bolner, Donna; Paoloni, Lisa; Cavaccini, Joseph; Zernike, Frits; McHoul, Douglas A.; Page, Nick; Pulver, Gregg; Munn, Kristofer; Caswell, Stephen; Garito, Faye; Hauser, Edward; Surman, Alan; Houston, Deirdre; countyexec; Morris, Carolyn
Subject: IN RESPONSE TO PROPOSED COUNTY JAIL

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Hi, my name is Cameron Orr and I am a resident of Red Hook. I am asking you to reallocate money away from the Dutchess County Sheriff's Department, which disproportionately targets Black residents. From traffic stops, to arrests, to the use of lethal force, Dutchess County Sheriff's Department targets nonwhite residents at a rate far exceeding their share of the population. Much scholarship shows that a living wage, access to health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at promoting community safety than policing and prisons.

Dutchess County is currently allocating $54,665,818 of its budget to the Sheriff and Jail, $18,041,128 to Probation and $1,312,183 to Juvenile Detention, totaling $74,304,402 (14.5%) toward programs that have little benefit to the community. All the while only allocating $49,520,574
(9.6%) toward public education from Pre-School through Community College, $46,379,552 (9%) to the Department of Behavioral & Community Health, and $11,668,951 (0.02%) to our already inadequate Public Transportation system. Additionally, only $1,215,670 (0.002%) was allocated to the Agency Partner Grant Program which includes many of the programs that support the community in meaningful ways such as housing, restorative justice, food access, literacy, and much more. This means that Dutchess County is allocating nearly the same amount of funding to policing and incarceration as it is to all of these other programs combined.

This is an unacceptable disparity in funding. It stands to reason that a greater number of residents can benefit from access to healthcare, education, and transportation in their communities than they can from police presence and incarceration. As such, I demand a meaningful reallocation of these funds towards healthcare and social programs that truly benefit the community.

Sincerely,
Cameron Orr
Red Hook NY
cambot@riseup.net
9176157721

Morris, Carolyn

From: Lafe Cantrall <lafecantrall@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 27, 2020 4:25 PM
To: County Legislators
Cc: Morris, Carolyn
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

To the Dutchess County Legislature,

My name is Lafe Cantrall and I am a Dutchess County resident (since 2013). I am writing to express publicly my objection to the county's plans to build a new jail in September of this year. My reasons are as follows:

--The plan for this jail would cost over $132 million dollars; an unprecedented expense for a capital project in our county. The expense of this project would throw Dutchess County into a deep debt for the next 2 **decades**, with the interest of this debt accruing millions of dollars in additional cost during these next 2 decades.

--The USA is currently entering an economic recession due to the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic. Now is not a wise time for Dutchess County to take on such a large and unprecedented debt.

--These funds need to be reallocated to mental health, addiction, and education services, and to the aid of homeless members of our community. Jails do not protect individuals or communities and this project would have a direct negative impact on the amount of resources available to our community.

--Our county's focus should not be on building a new jail, thereby engaging in a carceral system that **stems directly from the historical enslavement of Black individuals,** a system that perpetuates **violence, dehumanization, and racism** towards Black individuals and communities.

I object to the construction of this jail based on the above economic and moral reasons. Any theoretical profit made by Dutchess County from the completion of this jail would be the county directly benefiting from institutional racism, carceral punishment, and the system of exploited labor of incarcerated individuals.

Before this jail is approved I request answers to the following questions:
--Why is homelessness increasing in Dutchess County? How are you going to decrease homelessness? (There was an 18% increase from 2018 to 2019.)
--How are you going to decrease addiction overdose related deaths in Dutchess County? (There have been 379 reported over the last 5 years.)
--Why has the county budget for health & mental health resources decreased over the past several years?
--Why has the county budget for youth programs decreased over the past several years?

I urge you to focus on these deeply human needs before putting our county in debt with the construction of this new jail.

Sincerely,
Lafe Cantrall
Constituent from Red Hook, NY 12571

Morris, Carolyn

From: Miriam Anastasi <miriam.j.anastasi@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 27, 2020 4:41 PM
To: County Legislators
Cc: Morris, Carolyn
Subject: Public comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County Legislature,

I am writing to say that I strongly oppose the proposed construction of a new jail in Dutchess County in September. Allocating $132 million dollars for the construction of a new prison while our county is still in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic is an exceptionally abhorrent decision that prioritizes the expansion of mass incarceration over the lives of the citizens of Dutchess County. Prisons do not make our society safer. We can not afford to continue pretending that locking people away solves our problems as a community. We can not spend more of our taxpayers' resources on perpetuating a system that we know disproportionately targets Black people and other people of color, a violent system that ruins lives, depletes communities, and fractures families. The proposed $132 million dollar budget for the new prison is nearly ***three times*** the proposed budget for health and mental health services this year, which has fallen from $59.3 million in 2006 to $46.4 million this year. For those of you in support of the new jail: Why do you think it is acceptable to spend three times as much money constructing human cages than what you invest in the physical health and mental wellbeing of your constituents during a global pandemic?

I am eager to hear your thoughts and hope you will act for the good of your constituents. Thank you,
Miriam Anastasi
240-723-9884
20 Church St
Red Hook, NY
12571

Morris, Carolyn

From: Emma Hancox <eh6414@bard.edu>
Sent: Saturday, June 27, 2020 7:48 PM
To: Morris, Carolyn
Subject: Public Comment DO NOT DELETE

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

The youth and those affected by mental illnesses should be prioritized in Dutchess County. My question is why fund another prison when you don't need to? The prison system already is a multi billion dollar system that not only incarcerates people unjustly but doesn't rehabilitate those put into jail which can be seen by the reincarceration rates. Use this money for better, by educating the youth and helping marginalized civilians by a system that has oppressed, silenced, discriminated them for centuries. Do the right thing here, do not build another prison.
-Emma Hancox

Morris, Carolyn

From: Alex Gros <alexander.p.gros@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 28, 2020 7:47 AM
To: Morris, Carolyn; County Legislators
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear County Legislators,

As a four year resident of Dutchess County, I am writing to express my disapproval of plans to build a new jail in Dutchess. Money dedicated to the planned jail (as well as the Sheriff's Department budget) should instead be put toward improvements in public transit and rail, public health services (including for drug addiction and homelessness), youth services and community programming, and job training.

The difficulties resulting from COVID-19 will require substantial investments to ensure a strong, vibrant Dutchess County in the 2020s and building a new jail is a waste of resources. .

Thank you for your time.
Alexander Gros

Morris, Carolyn

From: Sarah Matthews <cheekymomo@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 28, 2020 10:23 AM
Subject: Reallocating Funds Away from the Police

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County Legislature,

Hello, my name is Sarah Matthews and I am a resident of Tivoli, New York. I am a senior at Bard college and have been a resident of Dutchess county for about a year. I am asking you to reallocate money away from the Dutchess County Sheriff's Department, which disproportionately targets Black residents. From traffic stops, to arrests, to the use of lethal force, Dutchess County Sheriff's Department targets nonwhite residents at a rate far exceeding their share of the population. I have seen firsthand the ways that my black friends are disproportionately followed and harassed by police in this county. Much scholarship shows that a living wage, access to health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at promoting community safety than policing and prisons.

Dutchess County is currently allocating $54,665,818 of its budget to the Sheriff and Jail, $18,041,128 to Probation and $1,312,183 to Juvenile Detention, totaling $74,304,402 (14.5%) toward programs that have little benefit to the community. All the while only allocating $49,520,574 (9.6%) toward public education from Pre-School through Community College, $46,379,552 (9%) to the Department of Behavioral & Community Health, and $11,668,951 (0.02%) to our already inadequate Public Transportation system. Additionally, only $1,215,670 (0.002%) was allocated to the Agency Partner Grant Program which includes many of the programs that support the community in meaningful ways such as housing, restorative justice, food access, literacy, and much more. This means that Dutchess County is allocating nearly the same amount of funding to policing and incarceration as it is to all of these other programs combined.

This is an unacceptable disparity in funding. It stands to reason that a greater number of residents can benefit from access to healthcare, education, and transportation in their communities than they can from police presence and incarceration. As such, I demand a meaningful reallocation of these funds towards healthcare and social programs that truly benefit the community.

Sincerely,
Sarah Matthews
214-926-3446

Sent from my iPhone

Morris, Carolyn

From: Sam Lozoff <sam.lozoff@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 28, 2020 2:17 PM
To: County Legislators
Subject: Opposition to County Jail

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Legislators,
I am Sam Lozoff, a Beacon resident at 30 Dinan Street.
I am writing today to express my unequivocal opposition to the $132 million dollar county jail project, slated to begin construction this fall.

How can we feel it is right - in light of new pre-trail bail reforms in New York State that will greatly reduce the dependence on pre-trial incarceration, in light of a massive budget shortfall due to the Covid-19 pandemic - to make this massive expenditure? It is our moral duty to decarcerate our county, set up alternatives to incarceration and diversion programs, and not set up more infrastructure for more intensive policing to fill up more beds.

What illogical knots will the budget hawks tie themselves into to justify this insane expenditure? They better not say this is an issue of public safety, since there is zero correlation between increased incarceration and increased safety. The Equal Justice Initiative does a good job summarizing:

"Incarceration is not only "an expensive way to achieve less public safety," but it may actually increase crime by breaking down the social and family bonds that guide individuals away from crime, removing adults who would otherwise nurture children, depriving communities of income, reducing future income potential, and engendering a deep resentment toward the legal system."

Thank you,
Sam Lozoff

Morris, Carolyn

From: Michael Kiel <michaeldkiel@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 28, 2020 2:27 PM
To: County Legislators
Subject: Please End Construction of Dutchess County Jail

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear County Legislators,

I want to ask the council what our values are? If we value equity, freedom, and justice, then we cannot build a new jail, for jails serve to remove working people from their communities and to destroy families.

I went to Vassar College and know I am not a constituent of Dutchess County any more, but I absolutely love the Hudson Valley with all my heart. My favorite memories at Vassar were Geography excursions: hiking in the region, doing research for Clearwater, and learning about the history of city planning in Poughkeepsie, as highways tore apart a thriving, multicultural community.

As a four year resident of Dutchess County, I do not approve a new jail. Money dedicated to the jail and Sheriff's Department should be invested in public transportation, public services, youth services, community programming, and job training, as well as programs to help people experiencing homelessness and drug addiction.

COVID-19 will require substantial investments to ensure a strong, vibrant Dutchess in the 2020s and a new jail is not only a waste of resources but a negative stain on the county's fabric.

If jails were 'hospitals' that were supposed to cure a person of a sickness, why are those with arrest-records more likely to enter jail and prisons throughout their lives? Wouldn't we close hospitals that makes people sick for the rest of their lives?

Thank you for your time,

Michael Kiel
--
The University of Texas at Austin '22
Master of Global Policy Studies | LBJ School of Public Affairs
Master of Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies | College of Liberal Arts
michaeldkiel@utexas.edu | (832) 444-1219
Pronouns: he, him, his

Hussing, Laura

From: countyexec
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 4:49 PM
To: Alexandra Winsby; County Legislators; Morris, Carolyn
Subject: RE: Please stop the $200 Million Jail Now!

Dear Alexandra,

Thank you for your email . Addressing the mental health and social problems that drive incarceration remains our priority. The County has heavily invested in access to mental health services with the building of the Stabilization Center, a 24/7 walk-in facility providing a single point of access where individuals can receive crisis counseling, mental health assessments, and peer advocacy. In addition to the Stabilization Center, the Department of Behavioral and Community Health operates other 24/7 crisis services including our call or text service HELPLINE and our Mobile Crisis Intervention Team, which can go directly into the community to aid individuals in crisis.

The County partners with local school districts to incorporate Second Step, a social-emotional learning program that focuses on empathy and communication skills, bullying prevention, problem-solving, and substance-abuse prevention – all of which are protective factors against future criminal justice system involvement. We have also dedicated resources to family stability by increasing family-based foster care placements, offering parent coaching, and providing home-visiting to high-risk families. A strong, stable, and reliable family structure supports positive social-emotional development and can reduce the likelihood of future incarceration.

Additionally, we remain committed to our Path to Promise initiative, which identifies the critical components, needed resources, and effective programs to start our children on a path to stability, security, and success. In 2019 the County began implementing the first set of initiatives, including a Foster Care Mentoring program and expanding youth employment programs beyond the summer. We have also supported the youth services through our Agency Partner Grant. Over the past eight years, over $7 million has been allocated to critical programs and services in our community through this program. Nearly 75 percent of the funding goes to youth programs – anti-bullying, workforce development, literacy, and more.

These are only some of the important initiatives, resources, and programs we have invested in to support young people and reduce the reliance on the criminal justice system. However, Section 217 of the New York State County Law still mandates that a county maintain a jail. Further, we believe that those who are incarcerated and those who provide services to this population deserve a modern facility designed for the purpose of rehabilitation, safety, and efficiency. The new Justice and Transition Center will provide:

- greater staffing efficiency and productivity, enhancing overall functionality and safety as well as providing cost savings;
- the opportunity to deliver more and better programming, in a light-filled and safe environment that is more conducive to positive behavioral change; and
- the flexibility of design to accommodate the potential for fluctuating population size, with the potential to decommission areas or units, as needed, and the ability to repurpose designated areas for other uses (ex. transitional housing).

These benefits have considerable positive financial impacts, resulting in annual operational savings of nearly $4.1 million. Cost-savings primarily come in the form of the reductions to required staff and increases in the inmate to correctional officer ratio resulting from efficient design elements on the planned facility. The capital costs are an investment in future annualized operational savings allowing us to save money and focus spending in other areas. Additionally, ending the Justice and Transition Center project would require significant investment in the current jail facility, specifically the 1995 and 1984 sections. Further, with $60 million already bonded for the project, over $3 million in debt service will still need to be paid annually.

Bail reform was signed into law in 2019 and went into effect on January 1, 2020. The legislation significantly impacted the size and composition of the population served within the Dutchess County Jail. Additionally, before the implementation of the 2019 criminal justice reform, Dutchess County had reduced our jail population by 30 percent over a five year period through initiatives designed to divert lower risk and/or mentally ill defendants from jail, including building our Stabilization Center; providing Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) to law enforcement; and utilizing a sophisticated array of evidenced-based pretrial diversion practices as alternatives to incarceration (ATIs). This work has become the model for many of the counties of which you write about. Given these factors, the design of the new Justice and Transition Center was reduced by over 200 beds.

We recognize the changing dimensions of our criminal justice system, but we continue to have not only a legal obligation, but a moral one as well, to provide a safe, efficient, and effective facility capable of housing incarcerated individuals and providing rehabilitative programming shown to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes. The Justice and Transition Center will meet these needs while also providing millions in annualized cost savings.

I appreciate your interest in this topic, and I hope I have addressed some, if not all, of your concerns.

Marcus J. Molinaro
Dutchess County Executive
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
845-486-2000 phone
845-486-2021 fax
Email: countyexec@dutchessny.gov

www.dutchessny.gov

-----Original Message-----
From: Alexandra Winsby <alix.winsby@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 5, 2020 10:40 PM
To: countyexec <countyexec@dutchessny.gov>; County Legislators <CountyLegislators@dutchessny.gov>; Morris, Carolyn <cmorris@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Please stop the $200 Million Jail Now!

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County Legislators and County Executive Molinaro:

I am writing as a taxpayer and voter residing in Dutchess County to call for the Legislature to drop its plans for a new jail. The jail would be the most expensive capital project the County has ever undertaken, costing more than all other county capital spending combined, with bond repayment extending into the 2040s. Post-Covid, the county's financial situation is dire—the fund balance is being quickly depleted, and unless direct federal aid arrives, the county will need to borrow later this year to cover basic operations. Layoffs and cuts to essential services seem inevitable.

This is the worst possible time to invest huge sums in a new jail and divert money from other urgent priorities. For example, we know overdose deaths are spiking sharply amid the Covid-19 pandemic, and that alcoholism and mental health needs are also on the rise. Yet, the current budget has reduced in spending on these services, as well as on much-needed youth programs.

Moreover, the need for a new jail is no longer there. New York's bail and discovery reform laws have dramatically reduced pretrial incarceration and thus the jail population (around 130 now; two years ago, over 400). More people charged with misdemeanors are being diverted to community-based treatment for addiction and mental-health diagnoses. Other New York counties are making plans to convert jail cells into homeless shelters and expand alternatives to incarceration. Dutchess County should join their ranks and reimagine public safety.

For these reasons, we support the resolutions the Democratic caucus has submitted for consideration in July:
* rescind the remaining portion of the legislature's 2017 bond appropriation for jail construction
* recommend a commission to research alternatives to construction of the proposed jail, including renovation of part of the current space, jail-sharing with other counties, or other possibilities.

Respectfully submitted,

Alix Winsby
Sent from my iPhone

Morris, Carolyn

From: Amelia Van Donsel <amelia.vandonsel@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 28, 2020 3:22 PM
To: Morris, Carolyn; County Legislators
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear legislatures,

I am writing to express my concern over the construction of a new jail in Dutchess County.

As a student living in the area, I am appalled by the County's interest in moving forward with this project despite a global outcry for social reform; it is shameful that we expect the worst of our citizens. I am young, but it seems so obvious to me that we would have funds for better preventative measures if we did not see incarceration as a default solution. 200 million dollars—think of where that money could go instead. Building yet another jail only adds to America's repulsive reputation of deeply-flawed mass incarceration and does not benefit its citizens. Decades of research have proven that imprisonment is the least effective method to rehabilitate offenders and instead increases recidivism. Incarceration was meant to punish and target members of a particular group rather than rehabilitate them.

Don't ignore the stats on this. Incarceration fails people.

Sincerely,
Amelia

Morris, Carolyn

From: Sandra Goldberg <sajgold@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 28, 2020 5:34 PM
To: County Legislators
Cc: cmorris@dutchess.ny.gov; Morris, Carolyn
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT
Attachments: Letter to Legislature 6-20.docx

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Attached is a letter for public comment at the Legislature's July meeting.

Thank you for your help.

Sandy Goldberg
Former Dutchess County Legislator

June 29, 2020

Dutchess County Legislature, 22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Dear Honorable Legislators:

I am urging you to support the resolutions on your July agenda that would rescind the remaining portion of the legislature's 2017 bond appropriation for jail reconstruction and the resolution recommending a commission to research alternatives to construction of the proposed jail.

Things clearly have changed over the last several years. I know you have reduced the number of cells, but that still does not address the reduced jail population.

The Governor has asked each police/sheriff organization in the state of NY to rethink how they handle criminal justice in their jurisdictions. It seems to me that before continuing with the current jail construction plans, that it would make financial sense to wait until those studies are completed. Their conclusions may point the County in a very different direction.

Currently because of the impacts of the Covid 19 pandemic, finances in the county clearly are under stress. This alone would be a reason pause the construction plans. Additionally, New York's bail and discovery reform laws have greatly reduced pre-trial incarceration and we are diverting people to community based treatment.

Budget priorities should now focus on a more just and equitable Dutchess County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sandra Goldberg, former Dutchess County Legislator

Morris, Carolyn

From: gylanni carrington <gylannic@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 28, 2020 6:43 PM
Subject: Defund the PoughkeepsiePolice

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

To Poughkeepsie Officials:

My name is Gylanni Carrington and I am a resident of Duchess County.

Given the historic, social, and political origins of police and policing, in conjunction with the recent nationwide protests reflecting the police murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Tony McDade I am contacting you because I am demanding you to redirect money away Poughkeepsie policing and prioritize community services that will help improve the economic conditions, health, and wellbeing of Poughkeepsie residents, especially our Black communities.

Teachers are at serious risk of losing their positions as well the youth losing the essential human right to learn and receive a sound education. As such, the Poughkeepsie City School District has stated the following:

The Poughkeepsie City School District is proposing to eliminate 48 positions, including teachers, administrators and support staff, as it attempts to erase a $2.6 million deficit for its 2020-21 budget. The board voted Wednesday to eliminate positions for elementary assistant principals, the Poughkeepsie High School dean of students, the assistant to the superintendent and a position that had yet to be filled for the director of grants and advancement.

Superintendent Eric Rosser said the cuts, most of which have yet to be voted on, are necessary to overcome financial challenges that include decreases in state aid, the loss of building aid, increases in operating costs, and other financial obligations. Some, but not all, of those losses are related to hardships created by the coronavirus pandemic.

He said as the administration continues to finalize its budget he may have to consider more eliminations. School budget votes, which were to take place May 19, were delayed until a date to be determined after June 1.

"Of course in this district we are not looking to take away valuable members of our organization that support student learning, but it is our hope that we would be able to retain our staff members, because each member is in the position to meet the varying needs of our children," Rosser said to the district board of education Wednesday. "Unfortunately, given our budgetary situation we are forced to move in this direction, it is not a good direction that I, as a superintendent, or even as an educator, would recommend. However, when you don't have the ability to meet people's payroll or salary you have to move in the direction of a budget that we will be able to meet the payroll."

When contacted by the Journal, Board President Felicia Watson declined to answer questions regarding the moves, but said "The board awaits the presentation of the final budget that the superintendent will be holistically presenting soon."

The layoffs, if approved, would include 27 teacher positions, 11 administrator positions, and 10 support staff positions, as well as the restructuring of some central office positions. Rosser noted the eliminations do not necessarily mean 48 staff members will be laid off, given some positions are vacant due to retirements and other transitions.

Administrative positions eliminated would include the P-Tech program principal, the PACE (Poughkeepsie Academic and Career Excellence) program principal, the PACE assistant principal, the high school dean of students, five elementary assistant principals, the assistant to the superintendent, and the director of grants and advancement.

The proposed layoffs would result in around $3 million of savings. Rosser said the eliminations are likely to happen given the economic uncertainty amid the pandemic, and the district could see more eliminations as the budget is finalized.

When asked by the board at the meeting how the schools will continue to provide services, Rosser did not have an answer.

In addition to the lack of funding in schools, County Executive Marc Molinaro has reported that 2019 was a strong "fiscal" year, in particular response to the COVID-19 pandemic, stating:

"Expenses totaled $471.2 million, while revenue added up to $472.6 million. Additionally, sales tax revenue increased by $9.1 million, a 4.6% increase over 2018. The county also ended the fiscal year with $56.9 million in its general fund balance."

Moreover, "...[r]evenues increased in 2019, even as expenditures also increased in several areas. That included a $7.6 million cost increase to the Dutchess County Sheriff's Employee Association for union contract settlements, positions, employee benefits and debt service."

Ultimately, the allocation of funds to the Poughkeepsie Police Department in contrast to the funding towards schools, is telling and disgraceful. I yearn to know what you will do to protect Black lives and prevent further instances of police-state-sanctioned violence, and support the emotional, social, and educational well-being of your Black constituents. I urge you to condemn police brutality, racial profiling, and the use of excessive force by police on oppressed communities, and show with your budget priorities that you actually care about a safe and healthy community.

Sincerely,
Gylanni Carrington

Morris, Carolyn

From: Yuval Elbaz <yuvalelbaz4@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 28, 2020 8:08 PM
To: CountyLegislature; Llaverias, Giancarlo; Sagliano, Don; Polasek, Michael; Black, Hannah; Keith, Thomas L.; Edwards, Rebecca; Truitt, Will; Brendli, Craig; Johnson, Randy; jeterb@hvc.rr.com; Kearney, Brennan; Metzger, John D.; Bolner, Donna; Paoloni, Lisa; Cavaccini, Joseph; Zernike, Frits; McHoul, Douglas A.; Page, Nick; Pulver, Gregg; Munn, Kristofer; Caswell, Stephen; Garito, Faye; Hauser, Edward; Surman, Alan; Houston, Deirdre; countyexec; Morris, Carolyn
Subject: Necessary Action to Defund DC Sheriff's Dep.

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County Legislature,

Hi, my name is Yuval Elbaz and I am a resident of Tivoli. I am asking you to reallocate money away from the Dutchess County Sheriff's Department, which disproportionately targets Black residents. From traffic stops, to arrests, to the use of lethal force, Dutchess County Sheriff's Department targets nonwhite residents at a rate far exceeding their share of the population. Much scholarship shows that a living wage, access to health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at promoting community safety than policing and prisons.

Dutchess County is currently allocating $54,665,818 of its budget to the Sheriff and Jail, $18,041,128 to Probation and $1,312,183 to Juvenile Detention, totaling $74,304,402 (14.5%) toward programs that have little benefit to the community. All the while only allocating $49,520,574 (9.6%) toward public education from Pre-School through Community College, $46,379,552 (9%) to the Department of Behavioral & Community Health, and $11,668,951 (0.02%) to our already inadequate Public Transportation system. Additionally, only $1,215,670 (0.002%) was allocated to the Agency Partner Grant Program which includes many of the programs that support the community in meaningful ways such as housing, restorative justice, food access, literacy, and much more. This means that Dutchess County is allocating nearly the same amount of funding to policing and incarceration as it is to all of these other programs combined.

This is an unacceptable disparity in funding. It stands to reason that a greater number of residents can benefit from access to healthcare, education, and transportation in their communities than they can from police presence and incarceration. As such, I demand a meaningful reallocation of these funds towards healthcare and social programs that truly benefit the community.

Sincerely,
Yuval Elbaz

Morris, Carolyn

From: Jamie Reeves <jamie.j.reeves@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2020 3:27 AM
To: Jamie.
Subject: Specialization and Domestic Violence

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Greetings,

In a study of abused women, over 80% said they would not call the police again because they were scared that their abuser would only get a "slap on the wrist," and that they would come back and hurt them. Seeing that abused women do not feel safe calling the police to help them escape situations of domestic violence, should we cater to these women and create a new task force? The answer is yes.

We need specialized teams to respond to issues of domestic violence, that are not police. Police simply do not have, and cannot receive the extensive, rigorous training that specialized experts on deescalating domestically violent situations and helping victims escape their abuser require. This takes years of training and education, it's one of many issues that police are simply not fit to handle, like they are expected to today. And I don't just want to see woman officers respond to these calls, because they are still police officers who are not fit to deal with these situations, in terms of the training and education they have.

Defunding the police is about more than the safety of our Black neighbors, which is absolutely vital in itself. It is about making women more safe by ensuring their issues are cared for in a specialized way by trained professionals.

Are you willing to help victims of domestic violence?

Thanks,
Jamie

Morris, Carolyn

From: Parvaneh Jefferson <pjefferson@vassar.edu>
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2020 12:48 PM
To: Morris, Carolyn; County Legislators
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Please stop the construction of the Dutchess County Jail. We need to be taking care of each other in times like these, not building structures that will separate people from their friends and family and punish them for crimes that could have been prevented by dedicating more resources and time to safeguarding communities by keeping them fed, clothed and given resources to address trauma that they might have faced possibly by seeing a loved one jailed or imprisoned. Protecting communities does not have to be reactive, it can and should be preventative. When someone acts out most of the time it is because they are in pain. They are unable to process the hurt they are feeling and giving them another reason to feel hurt and angry by locking them up instead of giving them the love and care they desperately need is short sighted. When a little kid in a classroom acts out and shoves his classmate or is rude to the teacher, you could handle it two ways. You can punish the kid and get him suspended, or you could ask him what's wrong. Punishing is a bandaid to the problem, addressing what is at the root of the problem is the only way to stop the cycle. Throwing someone in jail causes a huge disruption to their lives, although one would hope that the process of hearing someone's case is a matter of days, in reality is a number of months. If you take an individual and keep them from their job for a month and a half until their trial is heard, you are doing irreparable damage to their well being. They might have kids or family members at home that either depend on their income or care to survive. How beneficial are jails that when we look at the community consequences of locking someone up we think, this is worth it. It is also no secret that jailing and imprisonment disproportionately affect communities of color, and this harm and hurt I have been discussing throughout is felt most heavily by these same populations. We need to be focused on healing everyone, especially communities of color that are consistently being harmed by the state, whether it be through removing children from their homes through social services, starving them through a low wage economy, or violently attacking them through police brutality, we need to be healing. I am still young and want to believe in this country's ability to care for one another. Please reconsider building another jail and push the money into social services. We need better mental health services, we need better wages, we need better education in schools. Thank you for considering this entry.

Parvaneh Jefferson
Dutchess County Resident

Morris, Carolyn

From: Quentin Wise <qwise@vassar.edu>
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2020 12:51 PM
To: County Legislators
Subject: Public comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

I do not support the building of a new prison in the Hudson Valley. There are better ways of rebranding and revamping Poughkeepsie, like building a new school or hospital. I don't see how a new prison will better the community, and this money could be used much more efficiently to better the local community. In addition, the construction of a new prison in this community is essentially a middle finger in the face of social justice in the midst of the Black Lives Matter movement to end police violence and killing of black bodies.

Quentin Wise
Dutchess county resident

Morris, Carolyn

From: Finley Bomer-Lawson <finley.bomerlawson@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2020 12:57 PM
To: County Legislators
Subject: A new jail? Really?

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear County Legislators,

As a four year resident of Dutchess County, I am writing to express my disapproval of plans to build a new jail in Dutchess. Money dedicated to the planned jail (as well as the Sheriff's Department budget) should instead be put toward improvements in public transit and rail, public health services (including for drug addiction and people experiencing homelessness), youth services and community programming, and job training.

The difficulties resulting from COVID-19 will require substantial investments to ensure a strong, vibrant Dutchess County in the 2020s and building a new jail is a waste of resources.

Sincerely,
Finley Bomer-Lawson

Morris, Carolyn

From: Ines Barquet <ib4587@bard.edu>
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2020 1:38 PM
To: CountyLegislature
Subject: Dutchess County Funds

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County Legislature,

Hi, my name is Ines Barquet and I am a resident of Tivoli, NY. I am asking you to reallocate money away from the Dutchess County Sheriff's Department, which disproportionately targets Black residents. From traffic stops, to arrests, to the use of lethal force, Dutchess County Sheriff's Department targets nonwhite residents at a rate far exceeding their share of the population. Much scholarship shows that a living wage, access to health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at promoting community safety than policing and prisons.

Dutchess County is currently allocating $54,665,818 of its budget to the Sheriff and Jail, $18,041,128 to Probation and $1,312,183 to Juvenile Detention, totaling $74,304,402 (14.5%) toward programs that have little benefit to the community. All the while only allocating $49,520,574 (9.6%) toward public education from Pre-School through Community College, $46,379,552 (9%) to the Department of Behavioral & Community Health, and $11,668,951 (0.02%) to our already inadequate Public Transportation system. Additionally, only $1,215,670 (0.002%) was allocated to the Agency Partner Grant Program which includes many of the programs that support the community in meaningful ways such as housing, restorative justice, food access, literacy, and much more. This means that Dutchess County is allocating nearly the same amount of funding to policing and incarceration as it is to all of these other programs combined.

This is an unacceptable disparity in funding. It stands to reason that a greater number of residents can benefit from access to healthcare, education, and transportation in their communities than they can from police presence and incarceration. As such, I demand a meaningful reallocation of these funds towards healthcare and social programs that truly benefit the community.

Sincerely,
Ines Barquet
91 Broadway, Tivoli, NY, 12583
ib4587@bard.edu
9178380268

Morris, Carolyn

From: Vicki Fox <vicki831@earthlink.net>
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2020 3:22 PM
To: County Legislators
Subject: Don't build a new jail

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County Legislators and County Executive Molinaro:

Please drop your plans to use my tax money for a new Dutchess County jail.

This jail would be the most expensive capital project the County has ever undertaken, costing more than all other county capital spending combined, with bond repayment extending into the 2040s. Because of COVID-19, the county's financial situation is dire—the fund balance is being quickly depleted, and unless direct federal aid arrives, the county will need to borrow later this year to cover basic operations.

This is clearly the worst possible time to invest huge sums in a new jail and divert money from other urgent priorities. Overdose deaths are now spiking sharply, and many mental health needs are also on the rise. Yet the current budget has reduced spending on these services, as well as on much-needed youth programs.

Moreover, the need for a new jail is no longer there. New York's bail and discovery reform laws have dramatically reduced pretrial incarceration and thus the jail population (around 130 now; two years ago, over 400). More people charged with misdemeanors are being diverted to community-based treatment for addiction and mental-health diagnoses.

Other New York counties are making plans to convert jail cells into homeless shelters and expand alternatives to incarceration; Dutchess County should also re-imagine public safety.

For these reasons, I support the resolutions the Democratic caucus has submitted for consideration in July:

• rescind the remaining portion of the legislature's 2017 bond appropriation for jail construction

• recommend a commission to research alternatives to construction of the proposed jail, including renovation of part of the current space, jail-sharing with other counties, or other possibilities.

Yours,

Vicki Fox

Beacon Resident, public schoolteacher

Morris, Carolyn

From: Lauren Brady <lmbrady97@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2020 3:56 PM
To: County Legislators
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Hello,

I am a Dutchess County resident who strongly opposes the funding and construction of a new jail in this county. As a taxpayer, I oppose contributing to the already swollen budget for the sheriff's department and the creation of a new jail. I suggest that this money be redistributed to support underfunded communities in our area. This money could be better used for education, healthcare, mental health aid, infrastructure, or a number of things that would directly serve our community members. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Lauren Brady

Morris, Carolyn

From: Angela Katinas <angelakatinas@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2020 4:00 PM
To: Morris, Carolyn; County Legislators
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

I am a current resident of Dutchess County, and I demand that Dutchess County votes to rescind the $200,000,000 from constructing a new jail. Pouring funding into incarceration, instead of into other community resources is a step in the wrong direction towards community building and community safety. The Prison Industrial Complex is not something I support at all, as it upholds the anti-black and racist structures created in this nation to oppress Black people and POC. I demand that the money proposed for this new jail be spent on Health and Mental Health spending instead.

In Solidarity with the Black Community in Dutchess County,
Angela Katinas

Morris, Carolyn

From: Alexandra Moon <alexandratmoon@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2020 8:01 PM
To: Morris, Carolyn; County Legislators
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

"Hello, my name is Alexandra Moon. I attended Vassar College and graduated in 2016. I am writing in regards to Dutchess County's plans to construct a $200M jail this September and express my support in favor of the Dutchess County Democrats legislation to rescind funding for its construction. As you hear opposition to the jail's construction, I ask that you remain creative in reimagining alternatives. Jails and prisons have long been a part of America's punitive justice system. However, all processes, no matter how ingrained, should be reevaluated for their efficacy. It has been proven time and again that our punitive justice system has glaring holes. Allowing construction for this jail is lazy. Those that find themselves at risk of jail or prison are generally misguided and by opposing construction you'll be introducing compassion. Be a part of the change and remain creative. I'd be happy to discuss alternatives and continue to be a resource during these conversations. Thank you for your time."

Morris, Carolyn

From: Robin Licari <robinlicari427@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2020 8:11 PM
To: County Legislators; Bolner, Donna
Cc: Morris, Carolyn
Subject: Defund the Overbuilt Jail - Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Donna Bolner and County Legislators,

I am requesting defunding the jail for the following reasons, increasing financial pressures due to COVID-19, reduction in need due to new bail reforms, need to reimagine how to deal effectively with the causes of crime and the new emphasis on police reform. Also, I strongly oppose decreasing funding for much needed mental health programs and addiction treatment programs when these problems are on the rise due to COVID-19. We need to focus on funding where there is a need. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Robin and John Licari
15 Red Hawk Hollow Road
Wappingers Falls, N.Y. 12590

Morris, Carolyn

From: Bridget <bridgetcgt@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2020 8:14 PM
To: County Legislators
Subject: Defunding the County Jail

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Lisa Paoloni and County Legislators,

I fully support defunding our County Jail.
I am requesting defunding the jail for the following reasons, increasing financial pressures due to COVID-19, reduction of need due to new bail reforms, the need for a new approach on how to deal with the problems causing crimes and the new emphasis on police reforms. I strongly oppose decreasing funding for much needed mental health programs and addiction treatment programs when these problems are on the rise due to COVID-19. We need to focus on funding where there is a need

Bridget Gannon
24 West Academy Street
Wappingers Falls NY 12590
914-204-3659

Morris, Carolyn

From: Jenna Misra <jenna.misra@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2020 10:13 PM
To: Morris, Carolyn; County Legislators
Subject: Public Comment - The Proposed Dutchess County Jail

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Hi, my name is Jenna Misra. I live in Rhinebeck and I grew up in Hyde Park.

I'm writing to urge you to rescind the planned $200,000,000 to construct a new jail. Taxpayer money should be spent on things to help those in our communities live better lives: healthcare, mental health services, affordable housing, youth & aging services, disability services, economic assistance, recreation, etc.

These services will guarantee support for those in need and allow them to live purposeful lives, which will keep people from stealing, using drugs; it will ensure that they do not get put in desperate circumstances leading to jail time.

In the past 20 years, police spending has more than doubled in Dutchess County, while health/mental health spending has decreased. Do not move ahead with this plan! It's incredibly harmful for the community at large.

Thank you for your time.

Morris, Carolyn

From: Vigil Brandon <wilmanns95@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2020 10:59 PM
To: County Legislators
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

To whom it may concern,

I'm a student at Bard College in Dutchess County, NY, and I wanted to express my opposition to the construction of a new jail. I'm a firm believer in the deeply ingrained issues that our country faces as a result of our mass incarceration system - I think building a new jail is the OPPOSITE of what needs to happen if mass incarceration (as well as the facet of systemic racism that it represents) is to end. We should be minimizing our prison system, putting our money into our communities and citizens actual welfare.

Best regards,

Vigilance Brandon

Best regards,

Vigilance Brandon

Morris, Carolyn

From: Alwin Joseph <alwin.joseph@stonybrook.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 2:49 AM
To: CountyLegislature; Llaverias, Giancarlo; Sagliano, Don; Polasek, Michael; Black, Hannah; Keith, Thomas L.; Edwards, Rebecca; Truitt, Will; Brendli, Craig; Johnson, Randy; jeterb@hvc.rr.com; Kearney, Brennan; Metzger, John D.; Bolner, Donna; Paoloni, Lisa; Cavaccini, Joseph; Zernike, Frits; McHoul, Douglas A.; Page, Nick; Pulver, Gregg; Munn, Kristofer; Caswell, Stephen; Garito, Faye; Hauser, Edward; Surman, Alan; Houston, Deirdre; countyexec; Morris, Carolyn
Subject: Urgent request to defund the Sheriff's Department

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County Legislature,

I am a proud resident of Poughkeepsie, NY. I am contacting you today to ask that you reallocate money away from the Dutchess County Sheriff's Department, which has disproportionately targeted Black residents for years. From traffic stops, to arrests, to the unnecessary use of lethal force, Dutchess County Sheriff's Department targets nonwhite residents at a rate far exceeding their share of the population.

Many studies shows that a living wage, access to health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at promoting community safety than policing and prisons.

Dutchess County is currently allocating $54,665,818 of its budget to the Sheriff and Jail, $18,041,128 to Probation and $1,312,183 to Juvenile Detention, totaling $74,304,402 (14.5%) toward programs that have little benefit to the community. All the while only allocating $49,520,574 (9.6%) toward public education from Pre-School through Community College, $46,379,552 (9%) to the Department of Behavioral & Community Health, and $11,668,951 (0.02%) to our already inadequate Public Transportation system. Additionally, only $1,215,670 (0.002%) was allocated to the Agency Partner Grant Program which includes many of the programs that support the community in meaningful ways such as housing, restorative justice, food access, literacy, and much more. This means that Dutchess County is allocating nearly the same amount of funding to policing and incarceration as it is to all of these other programs combined.

This is an unacceptable disparity in funding. It stands to reason that a greater number of residents can benefit from access to healthcare, education, and transportation in their communities than they can from police presence and incarceration. As such, I demand a meaningful reallocation of these funds towards healthcare and social programs that truly benefit the community.

I urge you to hear the calls of those you represent. Hear the voices of those who demand change and be the positive change you want to see in the world.

Sincerely,

Alwin J.
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

Morris, Carolyn

From: Abigail Toomey <at5771@bard.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 6:33 AM
To: County Legislators
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Good morning,
I am writing today to shed light on the disgrace that is the new Dutchess county jail project. Building a jail only perpetuates systemic racism and inequalities and is a clear indication that we have our priorities wrong. The money that would be going into the project could fund mental health, rehabilitation centres, education, and many other public programs that would benefit our community. I hope you consider the harm that a new project of this scale would cause and decide to invest in helpful solutions to inequality in our county.
Best,
Abigail Toomey

Morris, Carolyn

From: Walter Beebe <whbeebe@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 10:47 AM
To: County Legislators; Morris, Carolyn
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear county legislators,

I strongly oppose the bond appropriation for jail construction at this time. You, and we taxpayers, are faced with a Trifecta of reasons to rescind the remaining portion of the legislature's 2017 bond appropriation for jail construction:

First, it would add enormously to the debt and the resultant cost to service that debt for years, to be paid by current and future taxpayers.

Second, the hidden racial discrimination that still penalizes people of color more than a century after the Civil War has resulted in many minorities being jailed for extended periods of time, and is now being corrected. Righting this imbalance will further reduce the county jail population.

Third, the Caronavirus has been ruinous for the county's finances. It's the worst time to add to our debt and raise taxes, leaving us even more at the mercy of future calamities.

Sincerely yours,
Walter Beebe
1359 Bulls Head Rd,
Stanford, NY 12514.

Morris, Carolyn

From: Mary Curley <marycurley@rocketmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 12:01 PM
To: Morris, Carolyn
Cc: County Legislators
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

My name is Mary Curley
I am a resident of Poughkeepsie New York
It has come to my attention that the building of the new jail is back in place and should be in motion by September 2020

1st note: why is this budget $132,150,000 Million dollars? I feel as if this money could go to things that are much more important and useful in the community.

We could give 17million to 7 diffrent organizations and still have some left for other things. Let that sit in.

2nd note: by doing this you're taking from many other needed resorses here in Dutches county.

So that's education you're neglecting
Public transport you're neglecting
Healthcare for residents you're neglecting
Highways and bridge repairs you're neglecting
Programs for the youth you're neglecting
Parks and recreations you're neglecting
Rehabilitation and mental health you're neglecting
And so much MORE.

We do not need a new jail in Dutchess County
We need this money to go into the community
Not into a jail where many of people of color will end up living their lives in due to zero resources in the community. We need to build up this place with all live in, not build a new jail.

Thank you.

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Morris, Carolyn

From: Olivia Schwartz <olivia.schwartz@wagner.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 2:51 PM
Subject: Defund the police

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County Legislature,

Hi, my name is Olivia and I am a resident of Staten Island, NY. I am asking you to reallocate money away from the Dutchess County Sheriff's Department, which disproportionately targets Black residents. From traffic stops, to arrests, to the use of lethal force, Dutchess County Sheriff's Department targets nonwhite residents at a rate far exceeding their share of the population. Much scholarship shows that a living wage, access to health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at promoting community safety than policing and prisons.

Dutchess County is currently allocating $54,665,818 of its budget to the Sheriff and Jail, $18,041,128 to Probation and $1,312,183 to Juvenile Detention, totaling $74,304,402 (14.5%) toward programs that have little benefit to the community. All the while only allocating $49,520,574 (9.6%) toward public education from Pre-School through Community College, $46,379,552 (9%) to the Department of Behavioral & Community Health, and $11,668,951 (0.02%) to our already inadequate Public Transportation system. Additionally, only $1,215,670 (0.002%) was allocated to the Agency Partner Grant Program which includes many of the programs that support the community in meaningful ways such as housing, restorative justice, food access, literacy, and much more. This means that Dutchess County is allocating nearly the same amount of funding to policing and incarceration as it is to all of these other programs combined.

This is an unacceptable disparity in funding. It stands to reason that a greater number of residents can benefit from access to healthcare, education, and transportation in their communities than they can from police presence and incarceration. As such, I demand a meaningful reallocation of these funds towards healthcare and social programs that truly benefit the community.

Sincerely,
Olivia

Morris, Carolyn

From: Zabara Films <zabarafilms@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 4:32 PM
To: County Legislators
Cc: Morris, Carolyn
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

To the Dutchess County Legislature,

My name is Masha and I am a Dutchess County resident. I am writing to express publicly my strong objection to the county's plans to build a new jail in September of this year. My reasons are as follows:

--The plan for this jail would cost over $132 million dollars; an unprecedented expense for a capital project in our county. The expense of this project would throw Dutchess County into a deep debt for the next 2 **decades**, with the interest of this debt accruing millions of dollars in additional cost during these next 2 decades.

--The USA is currently entering an economic recession due to the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic. Now is not a wise time for Dutchess County to take on such a large and unprecedented debt.

--These funds need to be reallocated to mental health, addiction, and education services, and to the aid of homeless members of our community. Jails do not protect individuals or communities and this project would have a direct negative impact on the amount of resources available to our community.

--Our county's focus should not be on building a new jail, thereby engaging in a carceral system that **stems directly from the historical enslavement of Black individuals,** a system that perpetuates **violence, dehumanization, and racism** towards Black individuals and communities.

I object to the construction of this jail based on the above economic and moral reasons. Any theoretical profit made by Dutchess County from the completion of this jail would be the county directly benefiting from institutional racism, carceral punishment, and the system of exploited labor of incarcerated individuals.

Before this jail is approved I request answers to the following questions:
--Why is homelessness increasing in Dutchess County? How are you going to decrease homelessness? (There was an 18% increase from 2018 to 2019.)
--How are you going to decrease addiction overdose related deaths in Dutchess County? (There have been 379 reported over the last 5 years.)
--Why has the county budget for health & mental health resources decreased over the past several years?
--Why has the county budget for youth programs decreased over the past several years?

I urge you to focus on these deeply human needs before putting our county in debt with the construction of this new jail. You can reach me at this email address, by mail, or by phone (below).

Sincerely,
Masha Zabara
75 Broadway, Tivoli NY 12583
(845) 616-0947

Morris, Carolyn

From: Mariya Zabara <zabara.mariya@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 4:33 PM
To: County Legislators
Cc: Morris, Carolyn
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

To the Dutchess County Legislature,

My name is Mariya and I am a Dutchess County resident. I am writing to express publicly my strong objection to the county's plans to build a new jail in September of this year. My reasons are as follows:

--The plan for this jail would cost over $132 million dollars; an unprecedented expense for a capital project in our county. The expense of this project would throw Dutchess County into a deep debt for the next 2 **decades**, with the interest of this debt accruing millions of dollars in additional cost during these next 2 decades.

--The USA is currently entering an economic recession due to the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic. Now is not a wise time for Dutchess County to take on such a large and unprecedented debt.

--These funds need to be reallocated to mental health, addiction, and education services, and to the aid of homeless members of our community. Jails do not protect individuals or communities and this project would have a direct negative impact on the amount of resources available to our community.

--Our county's focus should not be on building a new jail, thereby engaging in a carceral system that **stems directly from the historical enslavement of Black individuals,** a system that perpetuates **violence, dehumanization, and racism** towards Black individuals and communities.

I object to the construction of this jail based on the above economic and moral reasons. Any theoretical profit made by Dutchess County from the completion of this jail would be the county directly benefiting from institutional racism, carceral punishment, and the system of exploited labor of incarcerated individuals.

Before this jail is approved I request answers to the following questions:
--Why is homelessness increasing in Dutchess County? How are you going to decrease homelessness? (There was an 18% increase from 2018 to 2019.)
--How are you going to decrease addiction overdose related deaths in Dutchess County? (There have been 379 reported over the last 5 years.)
--Why has the county budget for health & mental health resources decreased over the past several years?
--Why has the county budget for youth programs decreased over the past several years?

I urge you to focus on these deeply human needs before putting our county in debt with the construction of this new jail. You can reach me at this email address, by mail, or by phone (below).

Sincerely,
Mariya Zabara
75 Broadway, Tivoli NY 12583
(845) 616-0947

Morris, Carolyn

From: Verity O'Connell <oconn22v@mtholyoke.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 10:51 AM
To: Morris, Carolyn; County Legislators
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County Representatives,

My name is Verity O'Connell and I am a resident of Millbrook, NY. Growing up in Beacon, I attended high school right next the prison- a constant reminder of the privilege I had to be able to receive an education why there were so many people next door to us who were trapped inside of the jail. In this country mass incarceration is focused on stealing way Black and POC people away from their families because of the racist systems that continue to control bodies that are not wanted in a White Supremacist society. The prison situation in the US is evil and disgusting, people are in prisons for years for minor offenses or because of racial profiling. This is why I am asking you to not build the new jail in September that will cost $200 million dollars. This money can be given to other resources, like schools, that will give people opportunities and support systems. That the county is willing to spend that much money on a jail, but not libraries, shows what is wrong with this country. We need to put money back to the people, and not continue to support the prison industrial system. I am demanding that you do the right thing.

Thank you.

Best,

Verity O'Connell

Morris, Carolyn

From: John Hay JR. <jdaltonhay@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 11:09 AM
To: County Legislators
Cc: Morris, Carolyn
Subject: Public Comment: Oppose the building of a new Jail in Dutchess County

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Hello,

My name is John Hay and I am a resident of Ulster County. Although this comment is from an Ulster County resident I believe that this will greatly impact us across the water as well.

I am concerned and against the building of a new jail in Dutchess County. At a time when the world is waking up to the consistent injustices faced by minority groups (particularly Black and Brown people), the decision or thought to bring about another literal cage is appalling.

The one thing that should be obvious and clear is that more incarceration is not what we need in this area. I know it is tempting to want to be a part of this grand system of control or "the war on drugs" but it is simply a war on people and it cannot stand.

I propose the money that would be spent, by the taxpayers, would serve them much better if it actually went toward the community, not toward a warehouse to store people.

Sincerely,

John Hay
347-817-0559 / 89 Lucas Avenue, Kingston, NY 12401

--
John D. Hay Jr.
347-817-0559

Morris, Carolyn

From: Me <carolbeebe1@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 11:04 AM
To: County Legislators; Morris, Carolyn
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear county legislators,
I strongly oppose the bond appropriation for jail construction at this time. There are so many reasons to rescind the remaining portion of the legislature's 2017 bond appropriation for jail construction:

First, it would add enormously to the debt and the resultant cost to service that debt for years, to be paid by current and future taxpayers.

Second, the hidden racial discrimination that still penalizes people of color more than a century after the Civil War has resulted in many minorities being jailed for extended periods of time, and is now being corrected. Righting this imbalance will further reduce the county jail population.

Third, the Caronavirus has been ruinous for the county's finances. It's the worst time to add to our debt and raise taxes, leaving us even more at the mercy of future calamities.

Sincerely yours,
Carol McDaniel Beebe
1359 Bulls Head Rd,
Stanford, NY 12514.

Morris, Carolyn

From: Chloe Engel <chlochloengel@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 1:02 PM
To: CountyLegislature; Llaverias, Giancarlo; Sagliano, Don; Polasek, Michael; Black, Hannah; Keith, Thomas L.; Edwards, Rebecca; Truitt, Will; Brendli, Craig; Johnson, Randy; jeterb@hvc.rr.com; Kearney, Brennan; Metzger, John D.; Bolner, Donna; Paoloni, Lisa; Cavaccini, Joseph; Zernike, Frits; McHoul, Douglas A.; Page, Nick; Pulver, Gregg; Munn, Kristofer; Caswell, Stephen; Garito, Faye; Hauser, Edward; Surman, Alan; Houston, Deirdre; countyexec; Morris, Carolyn
Subject: Defunding the police in Dutchess county

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County Legislature,

Hi, my name is Chloë Engel and I am a resident of Highland, NY. I am asking you to reallocate money away from the Dutchess County Sheriff's Department, which disproportionately targets Black residents. From traffic stops, to arrests, to the use of lethal force, Dutchess County Sheriff's Department targets nonwhite residents at a rate far exceeding their share of the population. Much scholarship shows that a living wage, access to health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at promoting community safety than policing and prisons.

Dutchess County is currently allocating $54,665,818 of its budget to the Sheriff and Jail, $18,041,128 to Probation and $1,312,183 to Juvenile Detention, totaling $74,304,402 (14.5%) toward programs that have little benefit to the community. All the while only allocating $49,520,574 (9.6%) toward public education from Pre-School through Community College, $46,379,552 (9%) to the Department of Behavioral & Community Health, and $11,668,951 (0.02%) to our already inadequate Public Transportation system. Additionally, only $1,215,670 (0.002%) was allocated to the Agency Partner Grant Program which includes many of the programs that support the community in meaningful ways such as housing, restorative justice, food access, literacy, and much more. This means that Dutchess County is allocating nearly the same amount of funding to policing and incarceration as it is to all of these other programs combined. This is an unacceptable disparity in funding. It stands to reason that a greater number of residents can benefit from access to healthcare, education, and transportation in their communities than they can from police presence and incarceration.

As such, I demand a meaningful reallocation of these funds towards healthcare and social programs that truly benefit the community.

Sincerely,

Chloë Engel
445 Plutarch rd. Highland, NY 12528
chlochloengel@gmail.com
2039889063

*The 2020 Adopted Budget Appropriations document for Dutchess County is publicly available at https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/County-Legislature/Docs/2020-Adopted-Budget.pdf O

Morris, Carolyn

From: Meghan Jones <meghan.jones2017@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 2:34 PM
To: Morris, Carolyn
Cc: County Legislators
Subject: No new Dutchess County prison

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Hello,

My name is Meghan Jones and I am a resident of White Plains, New York who attended college in Dutchess County. I am asking you to reconsider the plans to build a new prison in the county. The enormous amounts of money being funneled into this prison project could be much better spent on improving education, mental health services, and other critical resources, especially while so many are struggling due to COVID-19. I hope you will consider investing in communities instead of strengthening the grip of the punitive system.

Thank you,

Meghan Jones

Morris, Carolyn

From: Alison Messina <alisonmessina@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 3:27 PM
To: CountyLegislature; Llaverias, Giancarlo; Sagliano, Don; Polasek, Michael; Black, Hannah; Keith, Thomas L.; Edwards, Rebecca; Truitt, Will; Brendli, Craig; Johnson, Randy; jeterb@hvc.rr.com; Kearney, Brennan; Metzger, John D.; Bolner, Donna; Paoloni, Lisa; Cavaccini, Joseph; Zernike, Frits; McHoul, Douglas A.; Page, Nick; Pulver, Gregg; Munn, Kristofer; Caswell, Stephen; Garito, Faye; Hauser, Edward; Surman, Alan; Houston, Deirdre; countyexec; Morris, Carolyn
Subject: Please fund communities not police

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County Legislature,

Hi, my name is Alison Messina and I am a resident of red hook. I am asking you to reallocate money away from the Dutchess County Sheriff's Department, which disproportionately targets Black residents. From traffic stops, to arrests, to the use of lethal force, Dutchess County Sheriff's Department targets nonwhite residents at a rate far exceeding their share of the population. Much scholarship shows that a living wage, access to health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at promoting community safety than policing and prisons.

Dutchess County is currently allocating $54,665,818 of its budget to the Sheriff and Jail, $18,041,128 to Probation and $1,312,183 to Juvenile Detention, totaling $74,304,402 (14.5%) toward programs that have little benefit to the community. All the while only allocating $49,520,574 (9.6%) toward public education from Pre-School through Community College, $46,379,552 (9%) to the Department of Behavioral & Community Health, and $11,668,951 (0.02%) to our already inadequate Public Transportation system. Additionally, only $1,215,670 (0.002%) was allocated to the Agency Partner Grant Program which includes many of the programs that support the community in meaningful ways such as housing, restorative justice, food access, literacy, and much more. This means that Dutchess County is allocating nearly the same amount of funding to policing and incarceration as it is to all of these other programs combined.

This is an unacceptable disparity in funding. It stands to reason that a greater number of residents can benefit from access to healthcare, education, and transportation in their communities than they can from police presence and incarceration. As such, I demand a meaningful reallocation of these funds towards healthcare and social programs that truly benefit the community.

Sincerely,
Alison Messina
72 East lake lane
Alisonmessina@gmail.com
917-916-0407

*The 2020 Adopted Budget Appropriations document for Dutchess County is publicly available at https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/County-Legislature/Docs/2020-Adopted-Budget.pdf

Morris, Carolyn

From: Henry Ziegler <hqz1021@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 4:04 PM
To: Morris, Carolyn; County Legislators
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

I implore you to not build the proposed jail. There are so many more important places this money should go, not to mention that jails and prisons are ineffective and extremely inhumane institutions. Mass incarceration is an undeniable evil of this country, and you--the municipal government of Dutchess County--would be totally complicit in the destruction of families and communities if you agree to fund and build this 'detention center'. Be on the right side of history.
-Henry Ziegler

Morris, Carolyn

From: Simone Teague <simone.oziebel@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 7:14 PM
To: Morris, Carolyn
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Carolyn,

My name is Simone Teague and I have lived in the city of Poughkeepsie since I was two years old. Let me preface this by stating the following: please, please, please DO NOT let Dutchess County spend two million dollars on a new jail.

As a child, I frequently switched between public and private education because my family couldn't really afford private schools, but my parents wanted better for me than what the public schools had to offer. In first grade, science was taken away as a punishment because of the way a few students behaved, and shortly after, I left the district to attend my first private school. I spent all four years of high school at Poughkeepsie High and I hated every second of it. I was an honors and AP student, and I even ended up as the salutatorian of my graduating class, but that was due to my own merit, not the support of the school. During my time at the high school (I graduated in 2016) assemblies were frequently held telling us to stop failing, but never how to succeed. I didn't know schools that weren't SUNY weren't out of my reach because no one told me I had the capacity to do more. I didn't even know grad school was for more than just lawyers, teachers, and doctors until after I got to college. The treatment of students as failures and criminals went far beyond the police presence, metal detectors, and ridiculous rule that kept bathrooms locked during portions of the day in an effort to deter skipping (this resulted in one poor student peeing himself in class during our freshman year). The way the administration speaks to the students (I was once yelled at for holding hands with my then boyfriend on our way to our lunch period) and the lack of music and art programming is truly detrimental. Might I also add that come graduation time, the administration had an issue with a transgender boy wearing a blue cap and gown and having his preferred name announced on graduation day, something that no student openly opposed. Rather than honor the validity of his existence by complying with his requests, the school made everyone wear blue that year to avoid the issue entirely.

I STRONGLY suggest that rather than spend two million dollars on a jail, Dutchess County pour that money into our broken schools, our homeless shelters, our mental health resources and our youth programming. It is ridiculous that we don't have a YMCA or equivalent community center. It is upsetting that our graduation rate is so low. And it is truly disturbing that Dutchess County believes building a jail will better our community. I urge you to spend that money on literally anything else.

Best,
Simone Teague

Morris, Carolyn

From: Ilene Friedman <ilenefriedman2@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 5:00 PM
To: Morris, Carolyn
Cc: County Legislators
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Decisions around taxpayer dollars need to be steeped in current community priorities and simultaneously be fiscally sound. Current data points to a decreased need for jail expansion. The significant drop in the number of people currently housed in jail, approximately 130, no longer aligns with the earlier projections of more than 400. Additionally, declining county revenues, research on criminal justice programs that are more cost effective and better serve non-violent offenders than housing them in jail, and the current call for systemic reform necessitate the rescinding of the remaining portion of the legislature's 2017 bond appropriation for jail construction. We need to direct taxpayer dollars to just causes that address current community priorities, equitably support all community members and seek alternatives to incarceration.

Ilene Friedman

Beacon, NY

Morris, Carolyn

From: Dan Doniger <danbasho@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 2, 2020 12:31 AM
To: Morris, Carolyn
Cc: County Legislators; Page, Nick
Subject: public comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Legislature Clerk, Dear County Legislators,

Please rescind funding for the big, new Dutchess County jail, which is no longer needed and is completely out-of-step with positive actions taking place in New York State with criminal justice reform legislation, and, please, redirect use of our tax money to more constructive and humane projects. Please, repeal the bond for the $132 million county jail expansion.

Has Dutchess County ever undertaken a more expensive capital project? No. In the next four years, the jail would cost more than all other county capital spending combined, and bond repayment would extend into the 2040s. Of all the life-affirming projects possible under the sky, why this and why now? It comes at the worst possible time, when the people of this State, and the country, are suffering more intensely than in several generations. Some of the consequences of the COVID-19 lockdown are increased mental health needs and increased reliance on alcohol and drugs, and it is likely there will be a surge in homelessness, adding to an already unimaginable problem. How compassionate, humane and constructive would it be to convert jails to homeless shelters and to construct community mental health infrastructure.

With the evil construct of mass incarceration being exposed, we are seeing a decrease in the local population in jails. New York's bail and discovery reform laws have dramatically reduced pre-trial incarceration and thus the jail population.More people charged with misdemeanors are being diverted to community-based treatment for addiction and mental-health diagnoses. Other New York counties are making plans to convert jail cells into homeless shelters and expand alternatives to incarceration. A new jail should not be Dutchess County's priority.

The prison-industrial complex in the USA is at once profit-driven, oppressive against people who are poor, fixed to control people who are brown and black, and it is producing deep, deep-rooted misery for both the punisher and the punished. Jails are the biggest provider of mental health care in this country. This is not the outcome of planning, rather it is one of control and misdirection, and it has been traumatic and ineffective on the poor people who find themselves stuck in the nightmare of USA and NY State jails. The County Legislators, as our public servants, who have the responsibility "to provide efficient, effective, and reliable resources to enhance the health, safety , and quality of life of the citizens of Dutchess County," must break out of the old habit pattern of building jails for the purpose of fabricating jobs, when it comes at the expense of perpetuating centuries of oppression and mistreating people with mental health needs.

The U.S. incarcerates more people than any other country. Although our level of crime is comparable to those of other stable, internally secure, industrialized nations, our rate of incarceration is more than five times higher than most of the countries in the world.

If we compare the incarceration rates of individual U.S. states and territories with that of other nations, we see New York State having higher incarceration rates than just four other countries. To state this again using other words: If New York State were a country, it's incarceration rate would rank fifth out of all the other countries on Earth. This

includes unstable countries, those with severe internal strife, social traumas and those suffering in the aftermath of genocide. https://www.prisonpolicy.org/global/2018.html

Many of you, if not all of you, have heard it said, jails are good for the local economy and they provide jobs in places where there may be no other apparent vehicle for work. I contend building jails and caging and enslaving people for the purpose of providing jobs leads to pressure to arrest people and fill prison cells. This pressure leads to the creation of crimes where no harm has been done--some historical examples include loitering and possession of marijuana--and, it exacerbates systemic racism and violence against humans who are poor and have dark skin colors. It is inhumane, lazy and cruel to imprison people for the purpose of creating jobs. Building jails for profit strikes me as being against the law of Nature. Most humans, and certainly most New Yorkers, are creative enough and caring enough to develop projects which can create jobs and livelihoods which helps heal people and without caging or enslaving people.

With warm regards,

Dan Doniger
Beacon, NY

cell: 917-736-6802

Morris, Carolyn

From: Kanako Kawabe <kkawabe@vassar.edu>
Sent: Thursday, July 2, 2020 1:48 AM
To: Morris, Carolyn; County Legislators
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Hello,

My name is Kanako Kawabe and I am a student at Vassar College. I am writing to voice my concern regarding Dutchess County's plans to construct a $200 million jail this September. I believe that Dutchess County does not need a new jail, and that county legislators should terminate these plans. The fact that the incarcerated population has decreased in recent years shows that there is absolutely no need for a new jail in Dutchess County. Furthermore, multiple instances of police brutality and injustices within our criminal justice system across the nation (including recent events within our own community, such as the incident of police brutality against Julissa Dawkins and Jamelia Barnett, as well as the case of Nicole Addminado) have shown that we as a community must reevaluate how we are conceptualizing community safety. Instead of funnelling money towards an unnecessary new jail, Dutchess County should reallocate funds towards programs that strengthen our community, such as mental health services and youth programs. Please use your power to prioritize and invest in the safety of our community members and vote to rescind funding for the new jail.

Best,
Kanako Kawabe

Hussing, Laura

From: Morris, Carolyn
Sent: Thursday, July 2, 2020 9:50 AM
To: Hussing, Laura
Cc: Wager, Leigh
Subject: FW: Public Comment

Laura

I will forward all emails I receive on the jail to you as I get them today so that you won't have to go to my inbox and search. See the email below.

Carolyn Morris
Clerk
Dutchess County Legislature
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, New York 12601
Tel: (845) 486-2100 • Fax: (845) 486-2113

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From: Zachary Vogel <zacharyjvogel@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 2, 2020 9:12 AM
To: Morris, Carolyn <cmorris@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Public Comment

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Spending $200 million dollars on the construction of a new jail in Dutchess county New York would be an unbelievable waste of tax payers money, especially when that same $200 million can be put towards funding education, infrastructure, and public healthcare.

Thank you,
Zachary Vogel

Hussing, Laura

From: Morris, Carolyn
Sent: Thursday, July 2, 2020 11:51 AM
To: Hussing, Laura
Cc: Wager, Leigh
Subject: FW: Public Comment

Carolyn Morris
Clerk
Dutchess County Legislature
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, New York 12601
Tel: (845) 486-2100 • Fax: (845) 486-2113

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From: Isabel Levey-Swain <ileveysw@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 2, 2020 10:34 AM
To: Morris, Carolyn <cmorris@dutchessny.gov>; County Legislators <CountyLegislators@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

My name is Isabel Levey-Swain and I grew up in and around Dutchess County and went to school there for 12 years. I am deeply connected to this place and have seen the harm that things like policing and jails have had on the communities that live here. Building a new jail will perpetuate the racial and economic injustices that already run deep in this county and I, as a citizen of this place, would be horrified if this were to happen. We do not need a new jail here. We need funding for schools and more care given to our students, especially black and brown students who, on average, do not get the same support as white students. We need good public transit and housing support and arts programming and better highways and bridges and mental health services and support for sexual assault survivors and investment in locally-owned businesses and drug rehabilitation services and so much more that will lift the people of this county up,

rather than tear them down. Note that nothing on this list should indicate rerouting of funds to enforcing the police. If you spend almost $200 million to build this jail instead of investing in black and brown communities, you will be making a very conscious decision to continue criminalizing your citizens rather than advocating for them.

Best,
Isabel Levey-Swain

Hussing, Laura

From: avssoccer@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, July 2, 2020 11:15 PM
To: CountyLegislature; Llaverias, Giancarlo; Sagliano, Don; Polasek, Michael; Black, Hannah; Keith, Thomas L.; Edwards, Rebecca; Truitt, Will; Brendli, Craig; Johnson, Randy; jeterb@hvc.rr.com; Kearney, Brennan; Metzger, John D.; Bolner, Donna; Paoloni, Lisa; Cavaccini, Joseph; Zernike, Frits; McHoul, Douglas A.; Page, Nick; Pulver, Gregg; Munn, Kristofer; Caswell, Stephen; Garito, Faye; Hauser, Edward; Surman, Alan; Houston, Deirdre; countyexec; Morris, Carolyn
Subject: DIVEST IN POLICE. INVEST IN NY

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County Legislature,

Hi, my name is Allie Von and I am a resident of Brooklyn. I am asking you to reallocate money away from the Dutchess County Sheriff's Department, which disproportionately targets Black residents. From traffic stops, to arrests, to the use of lethal force, Dutchess County Sheriff's Department targets nonwhite residents at a rate far exceeding their share of the population. Much scholarship shows that a living wage, access to health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at promoting community safety than policing and prisons.

Dutchess County is currently allocating $54,665,818 of its budget to the Sheriff and Jail, $18,041,128 to Probation and $1,312,183 to Juvenile Detention, totaling $74,304,402 (14.5%) toward programs that only harm the community. All the while only allocating $49,520,574 (9.6%) toward public education from Pre-School through Community College, $46,379,552 (9%) to the Department of Behavioral & Community Health, and $11,668,951 (0.02%) to our already inadequate Public Transportation system. Additionally, only $1,215,670 (0.002%) was allocated to the Agency Partner Grant Program which includes many of the programs that support the community in meaningful ways such as housing, restorative justice, food access, literacy, and much more. This means that Dutchess County is allocating nearly the same amount of funding to policing and incarceration as it is to all of these other programs combined.

This is an unacceptable disparity in funding. A greater number of residents can benefit from access to healthcare, education, and transportation in their communities than they can from police presence and incarceration. As such, I demand a meaningful reallocation of these funds towards healthcare and social programs that truly benefit the community.

Sincerely,
Allie Von
47 dean st, BKLYN, NY 11201
917-224-0063

*The 2020 Adopted Budget Appropriations document for Dutchess County is publicly available at https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/County-Legislature/Docs/2020-Adopted-Budget.pdf

Sent from my iPhone

Hussing, Laura

From: Morris, Carolyn
Sent: Thursday, July 2, 2020 11:52 AM
To: Hussing, Laura
Cc: Wager, Leigh
Subject: FW: public comment

Carolyn Morris
Clerk
Dutchess County Legislature
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, New York 12601
Tel: (845) 486-2100 • Fax: (845) 486-2113

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From: Jenny Teague <jennyhusseyteague@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 2, 2020 11:26 AM
To: County Legislators <CountyLegislators@dutchessny.gov>
Cc: Morris, Carolyn <cmorris@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: public comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear All,

Here's something concrete, useful, and simple we can do locally on the issue of reimagining public safety in the wake of George Floyd's murder: as a taxpayer, I don't want a new jail built in Dutchess County.
The money for its cost was not justifiable to begin with. Now with repercussions of the COVID pandemic and the call for defunding the police, this money can be used to pay for community needs.

Please reconsider the use of funds allocated for a new jail, and support a vision for a better society, starting with measures here at home.

Thank you.

Regards,
Jenny

Jenny Teague
59 South Grand Ave
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603
914.204.3768 direct

Hussing, Laura

From: Morris, Carolyn on behalf of CountyLegislature
Sent: Thursday, July 2, 2020 12:26 PM
To: Hussing, Laura
Cc: Wager, Leigh
Subject: FW: Defund Police in Poughkeepsie and Fund Schools Instead

Carolyn Morris
Clerk
Dutchess County Legislature
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, New York 12601
Tel: (845) 486-2100 • Fax: (845) 486-2113

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-----Original Message-----
From: Rafaella Spielberg <rafaellaspielberg@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 2, 2020 12:03 PM
Subject: Defund Police in Poughkeepsie and Fund Schools Instead

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

To Poughkeepsie Officials:

My name is Rafaella and I am a resident of Poughkeepsie.

Given the historic, social, and political origins of police and policing, in conjunction with the recent nationwide protests reflecting the police murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Tony McDade I am contacting you because I am demanding you to redirect money away Poughkeepsie policing and prioritize community services that will help improve the economic conditions, health, and wellbeing of Poughkeepsie residents, especially our Black communities.

Teachers are at serious risk of losing their positions as well the youth losing the essential human right to learn and receive a sound education. As such, the Poughkeepsie City School District has stated the following:

The Poughkeepsie City School District is proposing to eliminate 48 positions, including teachers, administrators and support staff, as it attempts to erase a $2.6 million deficit for its 2020-21 budget. The board voted Wednesday to eliminate positions for elementary assistant principals, the Poughkeepsie High School dean of students, the assistant to the superintendent and a position that had yet to be filled for the director of grants and advancement.

Superintendent Eric Rosser said the cuts, most of which have yet to be voted on, are necessary to overcome financial challenges that include decreases in state aid, the loss of building aid, increases in operating costs, and other financial obligations. Some, but not all, of those losses are related to hardships created by the coronavirus pandemic.

He said as the administration continues to finalize its budget he may have to consider more eliminations. School budget votes, which were to take place May 19, were delayed until a date to be determined after June 1.

"Of course in this district we are not looking to take away valuable members of our organization that support student learning, but it is our hope that we would be able to retain our staff members, because each member is in the position to meet the varying needs of our children," Rosser said to the district board of education Wednesday. "Unfortunately, given our budgetary situation we are forced to move in this direction, it is not a good direction that I, as a superintendent, or even as an educator, would recommend. However, when you don't have the ability to meet people's payroll or salary you have to move in the direction of a budget that we will be able to meet the payroll."

When contacted by the Journal, Board President Felicia Watson declined to answer questions regarding the moves, but said "The board awaits the presentation of the final budget that the superintendent will be holistically presenting soon."

The layoffs, if approved, would include 27 teacher positions, 11 administrator positions, and 10 support staff positions, as well as the restructuring of some central office positions. Rosser noted the eliminations do not necessarily mean 48 staff members will be laid off, given some positions are vacant due to retirements and other transitions.

Administrative positions eliminated would include the P-Tech program principal, the PACE (Poughkeepsie Academic and Career Excellence) program principal, the PACE assistant principal, the high school dean of students, five elementary assistant principals, the assistant to the superintendent, and the director of grants and advancement.

The proposed layoffs would result in around $3 million of savings. Rosser said the eliminations are likely to happen given the economic uncertainty amid the pandemic, and the district could see more eliminations as the budget is finalized.

When asked by the board at the meeting how the schools will continue to provide services, Rosser did not have an answer.

In addition to the lack of funding in schools, County Executive Marc Molinaro has reported that 2019 was a strong "fiscal" year, in particular response to the COVID-19 pandemic, stating:

"Expenses totaled $471.2 million, while revenue added up to $472.6 million. Additionally, sales tax revenue increased by $9.1 million, a 4.6% increase over 2018. The county also ended the fiscal year with $56.9 million in its general fund balance."

Moreover, "...[r]evenues increased in 2019, even as expenditures also increased in several areas. That included a $7.6 million cost increase to the Dutchess County Sheriff's Employee Association for union contract settlements, positions, employee benefits and debt service."

Ultimately, the allocation of funds to the Poughkeepsie Police Department in contrast to the funding towards schools, is telling and disgraceful. I yearn to know what you will do to protect Black lives and prevent further instances of police-state-sanctioned violence, and support the emotional, social, and educational well-being of your Black constituents. I urge you to condemn police brutality, racial profiling, and the use of excessive force by police on oppressed communities, and show with your budget priorities that you actually care about a safe and healthy community.

Sincerely,
Rafaella Spielberg
rafaellaspielberg@gmail.com

Hussing, Laura

From: Wager, Leigh
Sent: Thursday, July 2, 2020 3:55 PM
To: Hussing, Laura
Cc: Morris, Carolyn
Subject: FW: Public Comment

Leigh Wager
Deputy Clerk
Dutchess County Legislature
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, New York 12601
Tel: (845) 486-2100 • Fax: (845) 486-2113
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From: Ashwini Sukthankar <ashwini.sukthankar@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 2, 2020 3:23 PM
To: Morris, Carolyn <cmorris@dutchessny.gov>; County Legislators <CountyLegislators@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear all,

I have been a resident of Dutchess County for almost 10 years. During this time, I have been so inspired by the work of Black leaders in our community, especially in Poughkeepsie, challenging the school to prison pipeline and demanding deep reforms to policing and incarceration in our communities.

Today I join my voice with the many others demanding that Dutchess County revisit its plans for the so-called "Justice and Transition Center." This project is unconscionable at the level of the debt burden it would place on us. It is unconscionable in the ways in which it prioritizes incarceration over much-needed alternatives, as well as services to ensure that community members never have to enter the criminal justice system in the first place. We need the funding of community centers, programming for at-risk youth, mental health services, drug treatment facilities.

Today, the world is watching. Dutchess County can do better -- let's not be the shame of our state.

Ashwini Sukthankar
Rhinecliff NY 12574
646-725-9924

Hussing, Laura

From: Rafaella Spielberg <rafaellaspielberg@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 2, 2020 3:28 PM
To: County Legislators
Cc: Morris, Carolyn
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Hello,

My name is Rafaella and I'm a student at Vassar College. As a member of the Poughkeepsie community I urge the Legislature Board to vote against the construction of a $2,000,000 jail. Building a new jail will inevitably lock more people up unnecessarily and occupy much needed funds. It will further systemic oppression, racism, and police violence in Dutchess County. Additionally, paying back the construction bond will cost county taxpayers nearly $10 million per year for the foreseeable future. As we are experiencing national and local calls to shift legislative funding and priorities towards community needs, Dutchess County must follow suite. $2 million must be put towards areas such as health/mental health spending and funding youth programs, both of which have dropped in the past 14 years. While there were over 400 people being housed in the jail two years ago, the population is down to around 130. The new jail is being built to accommodate 328. A new jail should not be Duchess County's priority. Homelessnness in Dutchess County is up by 18% since 2018 and 379 Dutchess residents died deaths from addiction overdoses over the past five years. I implore the legislature board to prioritize the needs of the community and to vote against the new jail.

Thank you,
Rafaella Spielberg

Hussing, Laura

From: Clara Francesca <actorclarafrancesca@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 2, 2020 3:59 PM
To: sheriffbutch@gmail.com; countyexec; CountyLegislature; Kendall, Bradford; comptroller; DistrictAttorney@dutchessny.gov; jbaisley@townofpoughkeepsie-ny.gov; jrenihan@townofpoughkeepsie-ny.gov; bill.carlos@aol.com; jlopez@townofpoughkeepsie-ny.gov; Michaelcifone@aol.com; mwoolever@townofpoughkeepsie-ny.gov; ashershin@yahoo.com; fsalvatore@townofpoughkeepsie-ny.gov; mayor@cityofpoughkeepsie.com; CommonCouncilMembers@cityofpoughkeepsie.com; TPape@cityofpoughkeepsie.com; superintendent@poughkeepsieschools.org; boe@poughkeepsieschools.org
Subject: Defund The Police - Invest in Health, Housing & Education

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

To Poughkeepsie Officials:

My name is Clara and I am a resident at West 56th Street, New York City, NY, 10019.

Given the historic, social, and political origins of police and policing, in conjunction with the recent nationwide protests reflecting the police murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Tony McDade I am contacting you because I am demanding you to redirect money away Poughkeepsie policing and prioritize community services that will help improve the economic conditions, health, and wellbeing of Poughkeepsie residents, especially our Black communities.

Teachers are at serious risk of losing their positions as well the youth losing the essential human right to learn and receive a sound education. As such, the Poughkeepsie City School District has stated the following:

The Poughkeepsie City School District is proposing to eliminate 48 positions, including teachers, administrators and support staff, as it attempts to erase a $2.6 million deficit for its 2020-21 budget. The board voted Wednesday to eliminate positions for elementary assistant principals, the Poughkeepsie High School dean of students, the assistant to the superintendent and a position that had yet to be filled for the director of grants and advancement.

Superintendent Eric Rosser said the cuts, most of which have yet to be voted on, are necessary to overcome financial challenges that include decreases in state aid, the loss of building aid, increases in operating costs, and other financial obligations. Some, but not all, of those losses are related to hardships created by the coronavirus pandemic.

He said as the administration continues to finalize its budget he may have to consider more eliminations. School budget votes, which were to take place May 19, were delayed until a date to be determined after June 1.

"Of course in this district we are not looking to take away valuable members of our organization that support student learning, but it is our hope that we would be able to retain our staff members, because each member is in the position to meet the varying needs of our children," Rosser said to the district board of education Wednesday. "Unfortunately, given our budgetary situation we are forced to move in this direction, it is not a good direction that I, as a superintendent, or even as an educator, would recommend. However, when you don't have the ability to meet people's payroll or salary you have to move in the direction of a budget that we will be able to meet the payroll."

When contacted by the Journal, Board President Felicia Watson declined to answer questions regarding the moves, but said "The board awaits the presentation of the final budget that the superintendent will be holistically presenting soon."

The layoffs, if approved, would include 27 teacher positions, 11 administrator positions, and 10 support staff positions, as well as the restructuring of some central office positions. Rosser noted the eliminations do not necessarily mean 48 staff members will be laid off, given some positions are vacant due to retirements and other transitions.

Administrative positions eliminated would include the P-Tech program principal, the PACE (Poughkeepsie Academic and Career Excellence) program principal, the PACE assistant principal, the high school dean of students, five elementary assistant principals, the assistant to the superintendent, and the director of grants and advancement.

The proposed layoffs would result in around $3 million of savings. Rosser said the eliminations are likely to happen given the

economic uncertainty amid the pandemic, and the district could see more eliminations as the budget is finalized.

When asked by the board at the meeting how the schools will continue to provide services, Rosser did not have an answer.

In addition to the lack of funding in schools, County Executive Marc Molinaro has reported that 2019 was a strong "fiscal" year, in particular response to the COVID-19 pandemic, stating:

"Expenses totaled $471.2 million, while revenue added up to $472.6 million. Additionally, sales tax revenue increased by $9.1 million, a 4.6% increase over 2018. The county also ended the fiscal year with $56.9 million in its general fund balance."

Moreover, "...[r]evenues increased in 2019, even as expenditures also increased in several areas. That included a $7.6 million cost increase to the Dutchess County Sheriff's Employee Association for union contract settlements, positions, employee benefits and debt service."

Ultimately, the allocation of funds to the Poughkeepsie Police Department in contrast to the funding towards schools, is telling and disgraceful. I yearn to know what you will do to protect Black lives and prevent further instances of police-state-sanctioned violence, and support the emotional, social, and educational well-being of your Black constituents. I urge you to condemn police brutality, racial profiling, and the use of excessive force by police on oppressed communities, and show with your budget priorities that you actually care about a safe and healthy community.

Sincerely,
Clara Francesca (she/they)
Benjamin Franklin Drive, Lido Key, Sarasota, Florida
actorclarafrancesca@gmail.com
Cell. +1 512 937 3567

Hussing, Laura

From: Morris, Carolyn
Sent: Thursday, July 2, 2020 4:03 PM
To: Hussing, Laura
Cc: Wager, Leigh
Subject: FW: Defund The Police - Invest in Health, Housing & Education

Carolyn Morris
Clerk
Dutchess County Legislature
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, New York 12601
Tel: (845) 486-2100 • Fax: (845) 486-2113

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From: Clara Francesca <actorclarafrancesca@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 2, 2020 4:02 PM
To: CountyLegislature <CountyLegislature@dutchessny.gov>; Llaverias, Giancarlo <gllaverias@dutchessny.gov>; Sagliano, Don <dsagliano@dutchessny.gov>; Polasek, Michael <mpolasek@dutchessny.gov>; Black, Hannah <hblackdc4@gmail.com>; Keith, Thomas L. <tkeith@dutchessny.gov>; Edwards, Rebecca <redutchess6@gmail.com>; Truitt, Will <wtruitt@dutchessny.gov>; Brendli, Craig <cbrendli@dutchessny.gov>; Johnson, Randy <rjohnson@dutchessny.gov>; jeterb@hvc.rr.com; Kearney, Brennan <bkearney@dutchessny.gov>; Metzger, John D. <metzger4dc@gmail.com>; Bolner, Donna <dbolner@dutchessny.gov>; Paoloni, Lisa <lpaoloni@dutchessny.gov>; Cavaccini, Joseph <jcavaccini@dutchessny.gov>; Zernike, Frits <fzernike@dutchessny.gov>; McHoul, Douglas A. <dmchoul@dutchessny.gov>; Page, Nick <npage@dutchessny.gov>; Pulver, Gregg <gpulver@dutchessny.gov>; Munn, Kristofer <kmunn@dutchessny.gov>; Caswell, Stephen <scaswell@dutchessny.gov>; Garito, Faye <fgarito@dutchessny.gov>; Hauser, Edward <ehauser@dutchessny.gov>; Surman, Alan <alansurman@optimum.net>; Houston, Deirdre <dhouston@dutchessny.gov>; countyexec <countyexec@dutchessny.gov>; Morris, Carolyn <cmorris@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Defund The Police - Invest in Health, Housing & Education

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County Legislature,

My name is Clara and I am a resident at West 56th Street, New York City, NY, 10019. I am writing today asking you to reallocate money away from the Dutchess County Sheriff's Department, which disproportionately targets Black residents. From traffic stops, to arrests, to the use of lethal force, Dutchess County Sheriff's Department targets nonwhite residents at a rate far exceeding their share of the population. Much scholarship shows that a living wage, access to health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at promoting community safety than policing and prisons.

Dutchess County is currently allocating $54,665,818 of its budget to the Sheriff and Jail, $18,041,128 to Probation and $1,312,183 to Juvenile Detention, totaling $74,304,402 (14.5%) toward programs that have little benefit to the community. All the while only allocating $49,520,574 (9.6%) toward public education from Pre-School through Community College, $46,379,552 (9%) to the Department of Behavioral & Community Health, and $11,668,951 (0.02%) to our already inadequate Public Transportation system. Additionally, only $1,215,670 (0.002%) was allocated to the Agency Partner Grant Program which includes many of the programs that support the community in meaningful ways such as housing, restorative justice, food access, literacy, and much more. This means that Dutchess County is allocating nearly the same amount of funding to policing and incarceration as it is to all of these other programs combined.

This is an unacceptable disparity in funding. It stands to reason that a greater number of residents can benefit from access to healthcare, education, and transportation in their communities than they can from police presence and incarceration. As such, I demand a meaningful reallocation of these funds towards healthcare and social programs that truly benefit the community.

Sincerely,
Clara Francesca (she/they)
Benjamin Franklin Drive, Lido Key, Sarasota, Florida
actorclarafrancesca@gmail.com
Cell. +1 512 937 3567

Hussing, Laura

From: Samirah Aziz <saziz@vassar.edu>
Sent: Thursday, July 2, 2020 5:19 PM
To: County Legislators
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

There is absolutely no need for the construction of a new jail in Dutchess County for a number of reasons. The primary reason is that the millions of taxpayer dollars that are required for the construction of the jail will take years to pay back. At the same time, the health, mental health, and youth programs of the county continue to be largely unavailable to those who rely on such services due to sharp decreases in the annual budget of Dutchess County toward these often life-saving services. I urge you to reconsider your priorities for the sake of Dutchess County residents who desperately depend on the aforementioned underfunded services.

Hussing, Laura

From: Kari Steeves <karikes@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, July 3, 2020 9:23 AM
To: CountyLegislature; Llaverias, Giancarlo; Sagliano, Don; Polasek, Michael; Black, Hannah; Keith, Thomas L.; Edwards, Rebecca; Truitt, Will; Brendli, Craig; Johnson, Randy; jeterb@hvc.rr.com; Kearney, Brennan; Metzger, John D.; Bolner, Donna; Paoloni, Lisa; Cavaccini, Joseph; Zernike, Frits; McHoul, Douglas A.; Page, Nick; Pulver, Gregg; Munn, Kristofer; Caswell, Stephen; Garito, Faye; Hauser, Edward; Surman, Alan; Houston, Deirdre; countyexec; Morris, Carolyn
Subject: You have the power to defund the police. Use it.

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County Legislature,

Hi, my name is Arden Sklar and I am a part time resident of Red Hook.

Being a person of color in America is knowing that even when their innocent, to the cops, their skin color is a crime. As a white person, I can be afraid of snakes or the dark or even serial killers, but I am not afraid of the people who are supposed to protect me, because I don't have to be. And for that I am extremely privileged.

There are many black and brown people in our beautiful county. And for all of those people of color, living here they carry more fear around with them that I do. A fear that I never worry about. It's the fear of being stopped by a police officer. It's the fear of the police officer not listening to their plea of innocence. Calling backup. Getting out the pepper spray, the baton, the taser, and the gun. It's the fear that they would be another case, crying out for their mom, screaming that they can't breathe. Dead. All of a sudden they are no longer living and making choices but rather they are in the news or being chanted at protests. And that's best case scenario. A lot of the time, people's names go unheard.

I am asking you to reallocate money away from the Dutchess County Sheriff's Department, which disproportionately targets Black residents. From traffic stops, to arrests, to the use of lethal force, Dutchess County Sheriff's Department targets nonwhite residents at a rate far exceeding their share of the population. Much scholarship shows that a living wage, access to health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at promoting community safety than policing and prisons.

Dutchess County is currently allocating $54,665,818 of its budget to the Sheriff and Jail, $18,041,128 to Probation and $1,312,183 to Juvenile Detention, totaling $74,304,402 (14.5%) toward programs that have little benefit to the community. All the while only allocating $49,520,574 (9.6%) toward public education from Pre-School through Community College, $46,379,552 (9%) to the Department of Behavioral & Community Health, and $11,668,951 (0.02%) to our already inadequate Public Transportation system. Additionally, only $1,215,670 (0.002%) was allocated to the Agency Partner Grant Program which includes many of the programs that support the community in meaningful ways such as housing, restorative justice, food access, literacy, and much more. This means that Dutchess County is allocating nearly the same amount of funding to policing and incarceration as it is to all of these other programs combined.

This is an unacceptable disparity in funding. It stands to reason that a greater number of residents can benefit from access to healthcare, education, and transportation in their communities than they can from police

presence and incarceration. As such, I demand a meaningful reallocation of these funds towards healthcare and social programs that truly benefit the community.

Sincerely,
Arden Sklar

*The 2020 Adopted Budget Appropriations document for Dutchess County is publicly available at https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/County-Legislature/Docs/2020-Adopted-Budget.pdf

Sent from my iPhone

Hussing, Laura

From: Joseph Augulis <joeaugulis@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 3, 2020 10:06 AM
To: County Legislators
Subject: public comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

To the Dutchess County Legislature,

I have been a Dutchess county resident for over fifteen years. I am writing to express my opposition to the construction of the new jail. When the project was approved in 2016, no one could have foresaw the financial crisis we are currently facing today, nor its severity. Millions of people around the country, including so many in the Hudson Valley, are facing unemployment, eviction, loss of health care, and food scarcity, as a result of this ongoing pandemic and through no fault of their own. At the same time, state and local governments are facing budget shortfalls, requiring deep cuts to much-needed services. To invest in jails and incarcerating people at a time of such scarcity and suffering is not just an obscene misuse of funds, it is wholly unconscionable. What resources are available should be used to help people through this crisis, not make it easier to lock them up. I ask all those in position of authority to oppose the construction of the new jail. Thank you for your time.

- Joseph Augulis

Hussing, Laura

From: Nicole Giambastiani <nicolegiambastiani@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 3, 2020 11:16 AM
Subject: A Step in the Right Direction

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County Legislature,

Hi, my name is Nicole Giambastiani and I am asking you to reallocate money away from the Dutchess County Sheriff's Department, which disproportionately targets Black residents. From traffic stops, to arrests, to the use of lethal force, Dutchess County Sheriff's Department targets nonwhite residents at a rate far exceeding their share of the population. Much scholarship shows that a living wage, access to health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at promoting community safety than policing and prisons.

Dutchess County is currently allocating $54,665,818 of its budget to the Sheriff and Jail, $18,041,128 to Probation and $1,312,183 to Juvenile Detention, totaling $74,304,402 (14.5%) toward programs that have little benefit to the community. All the while only allocating $49,520,574 (9.6%) toward public education from Pre-School through Community College, $46,379,552 (9%) to the Department of Behavioral & Community Health, and $11,668,951 (0.02%) to our already inadequate Public Transportation system. Additionally, only $1,215,670 (0.002%) was allocated to the Agency Partner Grant Program which includes many of the programs that support the community in meaningful ways such as housing, restorative justice, food access, literacy, and much more. This means that Dutchess County is allocating nearly the same amount of funding to policing and incarceration as it is to all of these other programs combined.

This is an unacceptable disparity in funding. It stands to reason that a greater number of residents can benefit from access to healthcare, education, and transportation in their communities than they can from police presence and incarceration. As such, I demand a meaningful reallocation of these funds towards healthcare and social programs that truly benefit the community.

Sincerely,
Nicole Giambastiani

845-200-9007

Hussing, Laura

From: Isabel Schneck <isabel.schneck97@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 3, 2020 11:26 AM
To: Morris, Carolyn; County Legislators
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dutchess County Legislators,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed new jail for Dutchess County. For four years, I was a resident of Poughkeepsie during my studies at Vassar College. I am honored to have built relationships with many strong, generous, and deeply resilient residents of Dutchess County. I am writing today to implore all of you to halt the planned construction of the Dutchess County jail.

During my time in Poughkeepsie, I was fortunate enough to work with middle and high school students and to support them in their personal and academic growth. I saw firsthand how vital these programs are in the lives of low-income Black and Latinx youth in Dutchess County.

Regardless of their race, location, or income, we know that all people benefit from programs designed for their well-being: youth development programs, health and mental health services, affordable housing, and more. These are the programs that should be funded by our tax dollars.

Yet throughout the nation, we see local governments allotting astronomical amounts of funding to prisons, policing, and confinement. We see the relationship between building new jails, seeking people to fill those jails, and targeting low-income people of color based on low-level offenses or false convictions. We see how prisons wreak havoc on our communities, tearing families apart and widening the racial and economic inequalities in our society.

As legislators for Dutchess County, you hold the responsibility to serve the public and to ensure that taxpayers are funding projects that support our communities. To build a new jail would be to sponsor violence against the residents of Dutchess County. It would provoke an increase in policing, surveillance, and imprisonment, leading the public to live in fear of false accusations and government violence.

By funding programs that actually help people succeed, you would create life-saving alternatives to expanded policing and imprisonment. You have the potential to help residents of Dutchess County to thrive and to actually feel safe. The funding proposed for this jail **must** be reinvested in health and mental health services, youth development programs, affordable housing, new jobs, and more. I call upon you to cancel the construction of this jail, and to invest in the Dutchess County community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Isabel Schneck

--
Isabel Schneck
she/her

Hussing, Laura

From: Kaitlin Doolittle <kaitlindoolittle@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 3, 2020 11:56 AM
Subject: DEFUND DUTCHESS COUNTY PD NOW!

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County Legislature,

Hi, my name is Kaitlin and I am a resident of Dutchess County. I am asking you to reallocate money away from the Dutchess County Sheriff's Department, which disproportionately targets Black residents. From traffic stops, to arrests, to the use of lethal force, Dutchess County Sheriff's Department targets nonwhite residents at a rate far exceeding their share of the population. Much scholarship shows that a living wage, access to health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at promoting community safety than policing and prisons.

Dutchess County is currently allocating $54,665,818 of its budget to the Sheriff and Jail, $18,041,128 to Probation and $1,312,183 to Juvenile Detention, totaling $74,304,402 (14.5%) toward programs that have little benefit to the community. All the while only allocating $49,520,574 (9.6%) toward public education from Pre-School through Community College, $46,379,552 (9%) to the Department of Behavioral & Community Health, and $11,668,951 (0.02%) to our already inadequate Public Transportation system. Additionally, only $1,215,670 (0.002%) was allocated to the Agency Partner Grant Program which includes many of the programs that support the community in meaningful ways such as housing, restorative justice, food access, literacy, and much more. This means that Dutchess County is allocating nearly the same amount of funding to policing and incarceration as it is to all of these other programs combined.

This is an unacceptable disparity in funding. It stands to reason that a greater number of residents can benefit from access to healthcare, education, and transportation in their communities than they can from police presence and incarceration. As such, I demand a meaningful reallocation of these funds towards healthcare and social programs that truly benefit the community.

Sincerely,
Kaitlin D.

Hussing, Laura

From: Kaitlin Doolittle <kaitlindoolittle@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 3, 2020 12:13 PM
Subject: DEFUND POUGHKEEPSIE PD NOW!

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

To Poughkeepsie Officials:

My name is Kaitlin and I am a resident of Poughkeepsie.

Given the historic, social, and political origins of police and policing, in conjunction with the recent nationwide protests reflecting the police murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Tony McDade I am contacting you because I am demanding you to redirect money away Poughkeepsie policing and prioritize community services that will help improve the economic conditions, health, and wellbeing of Poughkeepsie residents, especially our Black communities.

Teachers are at serious risk of losing their positions as well the youth losing the essential human right to learn and receive a sound education. As such, the Poughkeepsie City School District has stated the following:

The Poughkeepsie City School District is proposing to eliminate 48 positions, including teachers, administrators and support staff, as it attempts to erase a $2.6 million deficit for its 2020-21 budget. The board voted Wednesday to eliminate positions for elementary assistant principals, the Poughkeepsie High School dean of students, the assistant to the superintendent and a position that had yet to be filled for the director of grants and advancement.

Superintendent Eric Rosser said the cuts, most of which have yet to be voted on, are necessary to overcome financial challenges that include decreases in state aid, the loss of building aid, increases in operating costs, and other financial obligations. Some, but not all, of those losses are related to hardships created by the coronavirus pandemic.

He said as the administration continues to finalize its budget he may have to consider more eliminations. School budget votes, which were to take place May 19, were delayed until a date to be determined after June 1.

"Of course in this district we are not looking to take away valuable members of our organization that support student learning, but it is our hope that we would be able to retain our staff members, because each member is in the position to meet the varying needs of our children," Rosser said to the district board of education Wednesday. "Unfortunately, given our budgetary situation we are forced to move in this direction, it is not a good direction that I, as a superintendent, or even as an educator, would recommend. However, when you don't have the ability to meet people's payroll or salary you have to move in the direction of a budget that we will be able to meet the payroll."

When contacted by the Journal, Board President Felicia Watson declined to answer questions regarding the moves, but said "The board awaits the presentation of the final budget that the superintendent will be holistically presenting soon."

The layoffs, if approved, would include 27 teacher positions, 11 administrator positions, and 10 support staff positions, as well as the restructuring of some central office positions. Rosser noted the eliminations do not necessarily mean 48 staff members will be laid off, given some positions are vacant due to retirements and other transitions.

Administrative positions eliminated would include the P-Tech program principal, the PACE (Poughkeepsie Academic and Career Excellence) program principal, the PACE assistant principal, the high school dean of students, five elementary assistant principals, the assistant to the superintendent, and the director of grants and advancement.

The proposed layoffs would result in around $3 million of savings. Rosser said the eliminations are likely to happen given the economic uncertainty amid the pandemic, and the district could see more eliminations as the budget is finalized.

When asked by the board at the meeting how the schools will continue to provide services, Rosser did not have an answer.

In addition to the lack of funding in schools, County Executive Marc Molinaro has reported that 2019 was a strong "fiscal" year, in particular response to the COVID-19 pandemic, stating:

"Expenses totaled $471.2 million, while revenue added up to $472.6 million. Additionally, sales tax revenue increased by $9.1 million, a 4.6% increase over 2018. The county also ended the fiscal year with $56.9 million in its general fund balance."

Moreover, "...[r]evenues increased in 2019, even as expenditures also increased in several areas. That included a $7.6 million cost increase to the Dutchess County Sheriff's Employee Association for union contract settlements, positions, employee benefits and debt service."

Ultimately, the allocation of funds to the Poughkeepsie Police Department in contrast to the funding towards schools, is telling and disgraceful. I yearn to know what you will do to protect Black lives and prevent further instances of police-state-sanctioned violence, and support the emotional, social, and educational well-being of your Black constituents. I urge you to condemn police brutality, racial profiling, and the use of excessive force by police on oppressed communities, and show with your budget priorities that you actually care about a safe and healthy community.

Sincerely,
Kaitlin D.

Hussing, Laura

From: Martin Burstein <mburstein@vassar.edu>
Sent: Friday, July 3, 2020 1:37 PM
To: County Legislators
Cc: Morris, Carolyn
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Hello County Legislators,

My name is Martin Burstein and I am a sophomore at Vassar College. I am firmly against Dutchess County constructing a $200 million jail.

The county could use $200 million dollars in so many better ways than contributing to a industry who targets the working class and minorities to ruin their lives. How about public transportation or initiatives to reduce our carbon footprint? How about better stipends for fresh produce to protect our farmers? What if we invested in our education system and avoided sending people to prison in the first place?

This is not even mentioning that because of bail reform in New York, those who cannot afford bail who committed a nonviolent crime will not be held in jail and populations will see record lows. According to Rebecca Edwards in the Daily Freeman, this has the potential to reduce jail capacity in Dutchess County by the thousands: “Last year, Dutchess jail admissions for violent felony charges numbered 212; those based on nonviolent charges totaled 2,535.”

I want the County Legislators to reject funding for this prison immediately to avoid having stranded assets for a new building that we will not need in the near future.

Thank you for your time,

Martin

Hussing, Laura

From: Phoebe O'Connell <po0208@bard.edu>
Sent: Friday, July 3, 2020 4:20 PM
To: Morris, Carolyn; County Legislators
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

I am emailing you regarding the proposed budget that would allocate 200,000,000 $ to construct a new prison in Dutchess County. I am calling on you to take a stand and recognize the demands and concerns of the people that make up this county. I call on you to ask yourself who would benefit from the construction of this prison? And then ask yourself who would benefit from potentially reallocated funds that could instead feed educational and recreational programs RATHER THAN A PRISON. Programs such as these have the potential to give back to communities that have a higher chance of becoming the population that would fill Dutchess County prison. Why can you not understand that there would be no need for prisons of this scale if there was a larger amount of money being distributed to virtually almost any other program such as public transportation or community centers. The answer seems clear to me, but maybe you have some billionaires feeding money into your back pocket making you an offer you can't refuse? Be brave, you have the chance to make a change and stand on the right side of history, and if you do not then shame on you!

-Phoebe O'Connell

Hussing, Laura

From: Rainer Turim <rt6644@bard.edu>
Sent: Friday, July 3, 2020 5:30 PM
To: cmorris@duny.gov; County Legislators
Subject: Public Comment Dutchess County Jail

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Carolyn,

Here is my statement I'd like to be read at the upcoming hearing for the investment into the Dutchess County Jail:

" In 2014, the night before Thanksgiving, 23-year old Kaseem Pankey hung himself in his Dutchess County cell. Four years later in February 2018, a settlement was made with his estate for $50,000. 10 months later, 33-year old Nicholas J. Salfelder hung himself in his cell in the same jail. We should've learned that we failed the community by the time Kaseem killed himself, but we ignored his cry for help and Nicholas was a sad reminder that we failed the community again. Our concern should be providing folks like Kaseem and Nicholas the care and attention they should've had before they found themselves at the doors to the county jail. Had we acted sooner and showed love, compassion, and hospitality to these young people, perhaps they wouldn't find themselves in crime, nonetheless depressed with the unthinkable thought of taking one's life. A $200 million dollar investment into a system that was called the worst of the state by the New York State of Corrections in 2018 is a slap in the face to the people who've felt dishonored by our attempt to rehabilitate them in this county jail. We failed these inmates in providing eligible youth proper education. We failed them in providing decent daily outdoor exercise time. We failed them in providing decent food, proper life, and a standard pursuit to happiness. How many more inmates must prove to us that we've failed them before we fund their resources to succeed, not the institutions that have pushed them to fail. Thank you. "

Thank you and take care,

Rainer

Hussing, Laura

From: Livia Bernstein <liviaray@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 3, 2020 9:39 PM
To: CountyLegislature; Llaverias, Giancarlo; Sagliano, Don; Polasek, Michael; Black, Hannah; Keith, Thomas L.; Edwards, Rebecca; Truitt, Will; Brendli, Craig; Johnson, Randy; jeterb@hvc.rr.com; Kearney, Brennan; Metzger, John D.; Bolner, Donna; Paoloni, Lisa; Cavaccini, Joseph; Zernike, Frits; McHoul, Douglas A.; Page, Nick; Pulver, Gregg; Munn, Kristofer; Caswell, Stephen; Garito, Faye; Hauser, Edward; Surman, Alan; Houston, Deirdre; countyexec; Morris, Carolyn
Subject: Defund the police:)

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County Legislature,

Hi, my name is Livia and I am a resident of Brooklyn. I am asking you to reallocate money away from the Dutchess County Sheriff's Department, which disproportionately targets Black residents. From traffic stops, to arrests, to the use of lethal force, Dutchess County Sheriff's Department targets nonwhite residents at a rate far exceeding their share of the population. Much scholarship shows that a living wage, access to health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at promoting community safety than policing and prisons.

Dutchess County is currently allocating $54,665,818 of its budget to the Sheriff and Jail, $18,041,128 to Probation and $1,312,183 to Juvenile Detention, totaling $74,304,402 (14.5%) toward programs that have little benefit to the community. All the while only allocating $49,520,574 (9.6%) toward public education from Pre-School through Community College, $46,379,552 (9%) to the Department of Behavioral & Community Health, and $11,668,951 (0.02%) to our already inadequate Public Transportation system. Additionally, only $1,215,670 (0.002%) was allocated to the Agency Partner Grant Program which includes many of the programs that support the community in meaningful ways such as housing, restorative justice, food access, literacy, and much more. This means that Dutchess County is allocating nearly the same amount of funding to policing and incarceration as it is to all of these other programs combined.

This is an unacceptable disparity in funding. It stands to reason that a greater number of residents can benefit from access to healthcare, education, and transportation in their communities than they can from police presence and incarceration. As such, I demand a meaningful reallocation of these funds towards healthcare and social programs that truly benefit the community.

Sincerely,
Livia

*The 2020 Adopted Budget Appropriations document for Dutchess County is publicly available at https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/County-Legislature/Docs/2020-Adopted-Budget.pdf

Sent from my iPhone

Hussing, Laura

From: kur uop <thenshewentwoah@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 3, 2020 10:47 PM
To: CountyLegislature; Llaverias, Giancarlo; Sagliano, Don; Polasek, Michael; Black, Hannah; Keith, Thomas L.; Edwards, Rebecca; Truitt, Will; Brendli, Craig; Johnson, Randy; jeterb@hvc.rr.com; Kearney, Brennan; Metzger, John D.; Bolner, Donna; Paoloni, Lisa; Cavaccini, Joseph; Zernike, Frits; McHoul, Douglas A.; Page, Nick; Pulver, Gregg; Munn, Kristofer; Caswell, Stephen; Garito, Faye; Hauser, Edward; Surman, Alan; Houston, Deirdre; countyexec; Morris, Carolyn
Subject: An urgent message to Duchess County.

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County Legislature,

I am asking you to reallocate money away from the Dutchess County Sheriff's Department, which disproportionately targets Black residents. From traffic stops, to arrests, to the use of lethal force, Dutchess County Sheriff's Department targets nonwhite residents at a rate far exceeding their share of the population. Much scholarship shows that a living wage, access to health services and treatment, educational opportunity, and stable housing are far more successful at promoting community safety than policing and prisons.

Dutchess County is currently allocating $54,665,818 of its budget to the Sheriff and Jail, $18,041,128 to Probation and $1,312,183 to Juvenile Detention, totaling $74,304,402 (14.5%) toward programs that have little benefit to the community. All the while only allocating $49,520,574 (9.6%) toward public education from Pre-School through Community College, $46,379,552 (9%) to the Department of Behavioral & Community Health, and $11,668,951 (0.02%) to our already inadequate Public Transportation system. Additionally, only $1,215,670 (0.002%) was allocated to the Agency Partner Grant Program which includes many of the programs that support the community in meaningful ways such as housing, restorative justice, food access, literacy, and much more. This means that Dutchess County is allocating nearly the same amount of funding to policing and incarceration as it is to all of these other programs combined.

This is an unacceptable disparity in funding. It stands to reason that a greater number of residents can benefit from access to healthcare, education, and transportation in their communities than they can from police presence and incarceration. As such, I demand a meaningful reallocation of these funds towards healthcare and social programs that truly benefit the community.

Sincerely,
A citizen who's tired of seeing violence being taken priority over our community.

Hussing, Laura

From: Liz Ertner <lizertner@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 4, 2020 11:42 AM
To: County Legislators
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Liz Ertner** <lizertner@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Jun 17, 2020 at 8:59 PM
Subject: Public Comment
To: <cmorris@dutchessny.gov>
CC: <countylegislators@dutchess.gov>

Hello,

I am writing because I believe it's critical to STOP funding on the $200 million dollar jail planned for this September. You must stop investing in the prison system - mass incarceration in this country is deeply problematic and racist. The system is unjust and ineffective. Dutchess County should not spend millions on supporting a racist, unjust system that does not work. It does not actually reduce or prevent crime.

For this particular prison, taxpayers would pay almost $10 million per year for the forseeable future to pay back the construction bond. For a jail that is meant to house a population of only 130 people. Instead of spending $200 million on a new building, I urge those in charge to look into releasing non-violent offenders to reduce the prison population further. Then propose a fraction of that budget to be used to improve living conditions and quality of life for the remaining inmates.

Our county's largest expenses should be focused on on investing in education and in social services for residents - especially to support those most vulnerable from the pandemic. Do not spend $200 million on this prison. You should also reduce the enormous sheriff department and jail budget of $54.7 million in 2020. Instead, increase funding for health and mental health services and youth programs.

Thank you,
Elizabeth Ertner
Beacon, New York

Hussing, Laura

From: Jaya <ermabom@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 4, 2020 12:20 PM
To: County Legislators; Morris, Carolyn
Subject: Dutchess County Jail

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Lisa Paoloni and other county legislators,
I am astonished that the County is planning to continue with the construction of the new jail. Given the bail-reform measures passed by the State Legislature, the pandemic (which has reduced County revenues), the fact that even Executive staff have downsized the needed capacity to half of the original while the costs have only shrunk by 3%, and finally, that the debt service on the additional bond money is going to be with us for many, many years, it is time to rethink this extravagant and unnecessary expenditure.

The conditions that led to this jail being needed are no longer prevalent. The jail population has gone down since NY State required Dutchess County to build a new jail.

The County Executive also appears to be doing some weird kind of new math where such a large expenditure is going to save us money in staff reductions. Maybe this math does not include the debt service on the bond?

Jails are expensive things. It is far better to spend the money on alternatives like drug stabilization centers, mobile crisis intervention and other things that work in the community to prevent incarceration.

Let's be realistic and smart about our expenditures when we know the economy is hurting and recovery may be slow. Defund the jail and cut the bond amount to what has been already spent.

Thank you
Yours sincerely

--
Jaya Srikrishnan
Wappingers Falls

Hussing, Laura

From: Morris, Carolyn on behalf of CountyLegislature
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 12:16 PM
To: Wager, Leigh
Cc: Hussing, Laura
Subject: FW: Defend the Police, Don't Defund the Police

Upload

Carolyn Morris
Clerk
Dutchess County Legislature
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, New York 12601
Tel: (845) 486-2100 • Fax: (845) 486-2113

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From: jincoronato@verizon.net <jincoronato@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 11:27 AM
To: Tamkjr@gmail.com
Cc: CountyLegislature <CountyLegislature@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Re: Defend the Police, Don't Defund the Police

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Mr. Kraus: I absolutely share your opinion about supporting the police in general, but the need to use federal resources to take down domestic terrorists who have embedded themselves in legitimate protests.

Although I retired from the County Legislature last year, I will gladly forward your correspondence to them.

Joe Incoronato

-----Original Message-----
From: Thomas Kraus <Tamkjr@gmail.com>
To: jincoronato@verizon.net
Sent: Sat, Jul 4, 2020 2:11 pm
Subject: Defend the Police, Don't Defund the Police

Thomas Kraus
14 Sun up rd
Stormville, NY 12582

July 4, 2020

Dear Legislator Incoronato,

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am reaching out to your office as one of your local constituents with a very important issue.

I want you to know that I stand 100% with my local police officers and do not want to see any budget cuts to their department.

All police officers are not perfect, but I know that the vast majority of police officers put their lives on the line to protect us. Do not cut their budget or punish them because of the tragedy that took place in Minneapolis.

We need to work with our local police department to improve their practices, not defund them.

Defend the police, don't defund them.

Sincerely,
Thomas Kraus

Hussing, Laura

From: kur uop <thenshewentwoah@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 4, 2020 2:56 PM
To: sheriffbutch@gmail.com; countyexec; CountyLegislature; Kendall, Bradford; comptroller; DistrictAttorney@dutchessny.gov; jbaisley@townofpoughkeepsie-ny.gov; jrenihan@townofpoughkeepsie-ny.gov; bill.carlos@aol.com; jlopez@townofpoughkeepsie-ny.gov; Michaelcifone@aol.com; mwoolever@townofpoughkeepsie-ny.gov; ashershin@yahoo.com; fsalvatore@townofpoughkeepsie-ny.gov; mayor@cityofpoughkeepsie.com; CommonCouncilMembers@cityofpoughkeepsie.com; TPape@cityofpoughkeepsie.com; superintendent@poughkeepsieschools.org; boe@poughkeepsieschools.org
Subject: An urgent message to Poughkeepsie.

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

To Poughkeepsie Officials:

Given the historic, social, and political origins of police and policing, in conjunction with the recent nationwide protests reflecting the police murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Tony McDade I am contacting you because I am demanding you to redirect money away Poughkeepsie policing and prioritize community services that will help improve the economic conditions, health, and wellbeing of Poughkeepsie residents, especially our Black communities.

Teachers are at serious risk of losing their positions as well the youth losing the essential human right to learn and receive a sound education. As such, the Poughkeepsie City School District has stated the following:

The Poughkeepsie City School District is proposing to eliminate 48 positions, including teachers, administrators and support staff, as it attempts to erase a $2.6 million deficit for its 2020-21 budget. The board voted Wednesday to eliminate positions for elementary assistant principals, the Poughkeepsie High School dean of students, the assistant to the superintendent and a position that had yet to be filled for the director of grants and advancement.

Superintendent Eric Rosser said the cuts, most of which have yet to be voted on, are necessary to overcome financial challenges that include decreases in state aid, the loss of building aid, increases in operating costs, and other financial obligations. Some, but not all, of those losses are related to hardships created by the coronavirus pandemic.

He said as the administration continues to finalize its budget he may have to consider more eliminations. School budget votes, which were to take place May 19, were delayed until a date to be determined after June 1.

"Of course in this district we are not looking to take away valuable members of our organization that support student learning, but it is our hope that we would be able to retain our staff members, because each member is in the position to meet the varying needs of our children," Rosser said to the district board of education Wednesday. "Unfortunately, given our budgetary situation we are forced to move in this direction, it is not a good direction that I, as a superintendent, or even as an educator, would

recommend. However, when you don't have the ability to meet people's payroll or salary you have to move in the direction of a budget that we will be able to meet the payroll."

When contacted by the Journal, Board President Felicia Watson declined to answer questions regarding the moves, but said "The board awaits the presentation of the final budget that the superintendent will be holistically presenting soon."

The layoffs, if approved, would include 27 teacher positions, 11 administrator positions, and 10 support staff positions, as well as the restructuring of some central office positions. Rosser noted the eliminations do not necessarily mean 48 staff members will be laid off, given some positions are vacant due to retirements and other transitions.

Administrative positions eliminated would include the P-Tech program principal, the PACE (Poughkeepsie Academic and Career Excellence) program principal, the PACE assistant principal, the high school dean of students, five elementary assistant principals, the assistant to the superintendent, and the director of grants and advancement.

The proposed layoffs would result in around $3 million of savings. Rosser said the eliminations are likely to happen given the economic uncertainty amid the pandemic, and the district could see more eliminations as the budget is finalized.

When asked by the board at the meeting how the schools will continue to provide services, Rosser did not have an answer.

In addition to the lack of funding in schools, County Executive Marc Molinaro has reported that 2019 was a strong "fiscal" year, in particular response to the COVID-19 pandemic, stating:

"Expenses totaled $471.2 million, while revenue added up to $472.6 million. Additionally, sales tax revenue increased by $9.1 million, a 4.6% increase over 2018. The county also ended the fiscal year with $56.9 million in its general fund balance."

Moreover, "...[r]evenues increased in 2019, even as expenditures also increased in several areas. That included a $7.6 million cost increase to the Dutchess County Sheriff's Employee Association for union contract settlements, positions, employee benefits and debt service."

Ultimately, the allocation of funds to the Poughkeepsie Police Department in contrast to the funding towards schools, is telling and disgraceful. I yearn to know what you will do to protect Black lives and prevent further instances of police-state-sanctioned violence, and support the emotional, social, and educational well-being of your Black constituents. I urge you to condemn police brutality, racial profiling, and the use of excessive force by police on oppressed communities, and show with your budget priorities that you actually care about a safe and healthy community.

Sincerely,
A citizen who’s tired of seeing violence being taken priority over our community.

Hussing, Laura

From: Anna Brady Marcus <annabradynuse@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 4, 2020 4:58 PM
To: Morris, Carolyn
Cc: County Legislators
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear County Legislators,

As a Dutchess County voter and taxpayer from Beacon, I urge you to rescind the bond on the new county jail. Spending $10 Million per year on a new jail is fiscally irresponsible, especially when the inmate population is decreasing and the county budget is facing severe cuts due to the economic impacts of the coronavirus pandemic.

At this time, with so few inmates being detained at the county jail, we do not need to make more beds for more inmates, and if anything, we should aim to keep incarceration levels low, especially now to prevent the further spread of COVID in our communities. I urge you to consider using some of this money to fund urgently needed social, public health, and mental health services in the county, which we will have to rely upon to get through this pandemic, and to aid our citizens in rebounding the economy when the threat has passed.

While the County sheriff's budget has doubled, mental health and child services have been cut to almost nothing. With many people out of work, sick, and suffering from the mental stress of prolonged isolation, we need to invest in programs that will help our community to recover and rebuild. We can't police our way out of these problems.

Furthermore, the major reason why our county jail was overcrowded in the first place was due to the outrageously long time inmates were being detained there awaiting their trials. On average, prisoners wait in the Dutchess county jail for 56 days, almost triple the national average. This issue needs to be addressed, not by building a new, larger jail, but by focusing on reducing the number of detainees, and pursuing solutions like centralized arraignment, a bond fund, and investing in youth programs committed to keeping young people out of trouble.

Please rescind the bond, and reinvest in the programs that will best serve our county to emerge from this crisis stronger and with better prospects to grow and renew our economy.

Thank you,

Anna Marcus
295 E Main Street
Beacon, NY 12508

Hussing, Laura

From: Naomi Canaan <ncanaan@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 4, 2020 7:55 PM
To: County Legislators
Cc: Morris, Carolyn
Subject: No 200million$ Jail

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess Legislators:

I am adding my voice to the millions of other voices protesting your continued plan to build an unnecessary and outrageously expensive new jail.
Please rescind the remaining bond and put all your efforts into alternatives to targeted incarceration and the inevitable injustices.

thank you,
N Canaan
Beacon NY

Hussing, Laura

From: Allegra DeNooyer <allegradenooyer@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 4, 2020 9:58 PM
To: Morris, Carolyn; County Legislators
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Hi,

Dutchess County should not build a new jail because jails are overcrowded, violent, and inhuman. Additionally, millions of Americans are incarcerated and do not receive appropriate treatment, education, or rehabilitation. This perpetuates a cycle of incarceration that traps Americans and removes their humanity. Prisoners are at risk of assault, beatings, and stabbings. A new jail would be extremely harmful for Dutchess County.

Hussing, Laura

From: Sarah Imboden <s.d.imboden@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 5, 2020 11:44 AM
To: County Legislators; Morris, Carolyn
Cc: Kristofer Munn
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Legislators,
Thank you for your service on behalf of Dutchess County residents. I write to join others in requesting that the legislature reconsider the current jail project.

- With the current economic realities, and many unknowns ahead, due to COVID-19, this is not the time to be borrowing more money for this project
- Dutchess should be a leader in alternatives to incarceration, rather than building a monument to our military industrial complex of an incarceration system
- As a taxpayer, I want to see my tax dollars invested in jobs programs that help our most in need residents, NOT in a new jail
- Dutchess should be a leader in racial justice, starting with our courts and our jails, rather than buying further into the damaging systems of inequality our country currently upholds

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sarah Imboden
37 Colonial Drive, Red Hook, NY 12571

Hussing, Laura

From: countyexec
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 4:53 PM
To: Layla Saif; County Legislators; Morris, Carolyn
Subject: RE: Stop the $200 Million Jail Now!

Dear Layla,

Thank you for your email. Addressing the mental health and social problems that drive incarceration remains our priority. The County has heavily invested in access to mental health services with the building of the Stabilization Center, a 24/7 walk-in facility providing a single point of access where individuals can receive crisis counseling, mental health assessments, and peer advocacy. In addition to the Stabilization Center, the Department of Behavioral and Community Health operates other 24/7 crisis services including our call or text service HELPLINE and our Mobile Crisis Intervention Team, which can go directly into the community to aid individuals in crisis.

The County partners with local school districts to incorporate Second Step, a social-emotional learning program that focuses on empathy and communication skills, bullying prevention, problem-solving, and substance-abuse prevention – all of which are protective factors against future criminal justice system involvement. We have also dedicated resources to family stability by increasing family-based foster care placements, offering parent coaching, and providing home-visiting to high-risk families. A strong, stable, and reliable family structure supports positive social-emotional development and can reduce the likelihood of future incarceration.

Additionally, we remain committed to our Path to Promise initiative, which identifies the critical components, needed resources, and effective programs to start our children on a path to stability, security, and success. In 2019 the County began implementing the first set of initiatives, including a Foster Care Mentoring program and expanding youth employment programs beyond the summer. We have also supported the youth services through our Agency Partner Grant. Over the past eight years, over $7 million has been allocated to critical programs and services in our community through this program. Nearly 75 percent of the funding goes to youth programs – anti-bullying, workforce development, literacy, and more.

These are only some of the important initiatives, resources, and programs we have invested in to support young people and reduce the reliance on the criminal justice system. However, Section 217 of the New York State County Law still mandates that a county maintain a jail. Further, we believe that those who are incarcerated and those who provide services to this population deserve a modern facility designed for the purpose of rehabilitation, safety, and efficiency. The new Justice and Transition Center will provide:

- greater staffing efficiency and productivity, enhancing overall functionality and safety as well as providing cost savings;
- the opportunity to deliver more and better programming, in a light-filled and safe environment that is more conducive to positive behavioral change; and
- the flexibility of design to accommodate the potential for fluctuating population size, with the potential to decommission areas or units, as needed, and the ability to repurpose designated areas for other uses (ex. transitional housing).

These benefits have considerable positive financial impacts, resulting in annual operational savings of nearly $4.1 million. Cost-savings primarily come in the form of the reductions to required staff and increases in the inmate to correctional officer ratio resulting from efficient design elements on the planned facility. The capital costs are an investment in future annualized operational savings allowing us to save money and focus spending in other areas. Additionally, ending the Justice and Transition Center project would require significant investment in the current jail facility, specifically the 1995 and 1984 sections. Further, with $60 million already bonded for the project, over $3 million in debt service will still need to be paid annually.

Bail reform was signed into law in 2019 and went into effect on January 1, 2020. The legislation significantly impacted the size and composition of the population served within the Dutchess County Jail. Additionally, before the implementation of the 2019 criminal justice reform, Dutchess County had reduced our jail population by 30 percent over a five year period through initiatives designed to divert lower risk and/or mentally ill defendants from jail, including building our Stabilization Center; providing Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) to law enforcement; and utilizing a sophisticated array of evidenced-based pretrial diversion practices as alternatives to incarceration (ATIs). This work has become the model for many of the counties of which you write about. Given these factors, the design of the new Justice and Transition Center was reduced by over 200 beds.

We recognize the changing dimensions of our criminal justice system, but we continue to have not only a legal obligation, but a moral one as well, to provide a safe, efficient, and effective facility capable of housing incarcerated individuals and providing rehabilitative programming shown to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes. The Justice and Transition Center will meet these needs while also providing millions in annualized cost savings.

I appreciate your interest in this topic, and I hope I have addressed some, if not all, of your concerns.

Marcus J. Molinaro
Dutchess County Executive
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
845-486-2000 phone
845-486-2021 fax
Email: countyexec@dutchessny.gov

www.dutchessny.gov

-----Original Message-----
From: Layla Saif <layla.w.saif@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 5, 2020 11:59 AM
To: countyexec <countyexec@dutchessny.gov>; County Legislators <CountyLegislators@dutchessny.gov>; Morris, Carolyn <cmorris@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Stop the $200 Million Jail Now!

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County Legislators and County Executive Molinaro:

I am writing as a taxpayer and voter residing in Dutchess County to call for the Legislature to drop its plans for a new jail. The jail would be the most expensive capital project the County has ever undertaken, costing more than all other county capital spending combined, with bond repayment extending into the 2040s. Post-Covid, the county's financial situation is dire—the fund balance is being quickly depleted, and unless direct federal aid arrives, the county will need to borrow later this year to cover basic operations. Layoffs and cuts to essential services seem inevitable.

This is the worst possible time to invest huge sums in a new jail and divert money from other urgent priorities. For example, we know overdose deaths are spiking sharply amid the Covid-19 pandemic, and that alcoholism and mental health needs are also on the rise. Yet, the current budget has reduced in spending on these services, as well as on much-needed youth programs.

Moreover, the need for a new jail is no longer there. New York's bail and discovery reform laws have dramatically reduced pretrial incarceration and thus the jail population (around 130 now; two years ago, over 400). More people charged with misdemeanors are being diverted to community-based treatment for addiction and mental-health diagnoses. Other New York counties are making plans to convert jail cells into homeless shelters and expand alternatives to incarceration. Dutchess County should join their ranks and reimagine public safety.

For these reasons, we support the resolutions the Democratic caucus has submitted for consideration in July:
* rescind the remaining portion of the legislature's 2017 bond appropriation for jail construction
* recommend a commission to research alternatives to construction of the proposed jail, including renovation of part of the current space, jail-sharing with other counties, or other possibilities.

Respectfully submitted,
Layla Saif
446 Main St.
Beacon, NY 12508

Hussing, Laura

From: Maggie Dickinson <maggie.dickinson@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 5, 2020 3:10 PM
To: County Legislators
Subject: Rescinding the New Jail Bond

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear County Legislators,
I am a Dutchess County resident. I am writing to urge you to rescind the bond for the proposed new jail to be built in Dutchess County. I work closely with local organizations in Beacon and Wappingers working to address hunger - which has become a crisis in this pandemic. I've seen firsthand the very real struggles our residents are facing right now. A new jail is the last thing we need. Issuing a bond for a new jail is a slap in the face to our residents. We are told there is always money for police and prisons but nothing to meet the real needs of people living in Dutchess County - especially our Black, brown and low-income residents. This has to change.

We need to invest in Dutchess County residents' basic needs - to make sure people have food, affordable housing, education, healthcare, and mental health resources. The economic crisis we are facing has already caused incredible hardship in the form of hunger and lost jobs. We are going to be faced with a wave of evictions and homelessness if people aren't able to pay their rent. I do support increased spending on these issues.

Take care,
Maggie Dickinson
55 Sargent Ave.
Beacon, NY

--
Maggie Dickinson, PhD
Assistant Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies
Stella and Charles Guttman Community College
City University of New York
Author of *Feeding the Crisis: Care and Abandonment in America's Food Safety Net*

Hussing, Laura

From: Kelly Ellenwood <kellyellenwood@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 5, 2020 3:15 PM
To: County Legislators
Cc: Morris, Carolyn
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County Legislators,

My name is Kelly Ellenwood, I am a resident of Beacon, and I support the bills to rescind the jail bond and form a commission to research alternatives to this ridiculously expensive plan. Our County has myriad issues which badly need adequate funding: higher education, medical care, mental health services, substance abuse treatment, public transportation, and food & shelter insecurity to name only a few. As we all know, those needs have only grown with the COVID pandemic.

The fact that this body would even CONSIDER going forward with this project at this time is shocking to me -- $132 million put on the shoulders of Dutchess County taxpayers with $5 to $10 million in yearly debt service would be a mistake we would regret for decades to come.

Let's find better solutions that meet this moment before spending taxpayer money. The world has moved on, and a $132 million county jail expansion is no longer - if it ever was - an urgent necessity.

--

Kelly Ellenwood
(845) 863-9964

Hussing, Laura

From: countyexec
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 4:53 PM
To: joe robitaille; County Legislators; Morris, Carolyn
Subject: RE: Stop the $200 Million Jail Now!

Dear Joe,

Thank you for your email. ddressing the mental health and social problems that drive incarceration remains our priority. The County has heavily invested in access to mental health services with the building of the Stabilization Center, a 24/7 walk-in facility providing a single point of access where individuals can receive crisis counseling, mental health assessments, and peer advocacy. In addition to the Stabilization Center, the Department of Behavioral and Community Health operates other 24/7 crisis services including our call or text service HELPLINE and our Mobile Crisis Intervention Team, which can go directly into the community to aid individuals in crisis.

The County partners with local school districts to incorporate Second Step, a social-emotional learning program that focuses on empathy and communication skills, bullying prevention, problem-solving, and substance-abuse prevention – all of which are protective factors against future criminal justice system involvement. We have also dedicated resources to family stability by increasing family-based foster care placements, offering parent coaching, and providing home-visiting to high-risk families. A strong, stable, and reliable family structure supports positive social-emotional development and can reduce the likelihood of future incarceration.

Additionally, we remain committed to our Path to Promise initiative, which identifies the critical components, needed resources, and effective programs to start our children on a path to stability, security, and success. In 2019 the County began implementing the first set of initiatives, including a Foster Care Mentoring program and expanding youth employment programs beyond the summer. We have also supported the youth services through our Agency Partner Grant. Over the past eight years, over $7 million has been allocated to critical programs and services in our community through this program. Nearly 75 percent of the funding goes to youth programs – anti-bullying, workforce development, literacy, and more.

These are only some of the important initiatives, resources, and programs we have invested in to support young people and reduce the reliance on the criminal justice system. However, Section 217 of the New York State County Law still mandates that a county maintain a jail. Further, we believe that those who are incarcerated and those who provide services to this population deserve a modern facility designed for the purpose of rehabilitation, safety, and efficiency. The new Justice and Transition Center will provide:

- greater staffing efficiency and productivity, enhancing overall functionality and safety as well as providing cost savings;
- the opportunity to deliver more and better programming, in a light-filled and safe environment that is more conducive to positive behavioral change; and
- the flexibility of design to accommodate the potential for fluctuating population size, with the potential to decommission areas or units, as needed, and the ability to repurpose designated areas for other uses (ex. transitional housing).

These benefits have considerable positive financial impacts, resulting in annual operational savings of nearly $4.1 million. Cost-savings primarily come in the form of the reductions to required staff and increases in the inmate to correctional officer ratio resulting from efficient design elements on the planned facility. The capital costs are an investment in future annualized operational savings allowing us to save money and focus spending in other areas. Additionally, ending the Justice and Transition Center project would require significant investment in the current jail facility, specifically the 1995 and 1984 sections. Further, with $60 million already bonded for the project, over $3 million in debt service will still need to be paid annually.

Bail reform was signed into law in 2019 and went into effect on January 1, 2020. The legislation significantly impacted the size and composition of the population served within the Dutchess County Jail. Additionally, before the implementation of the 2019 criminal justice reform, Dutchess County had reduced our jail population by 30 percent over a five year period through initiatives designed to divert lower risk and/or mentally ill defendants from jail, including building our Stabilization Center; providing Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) to law enforcement; and utilizing a sophisticated array of evidenced-based pretrial diversion practices as alternatives to incarceration (ATIs). This work has become the model for many of the counties of which you write about. Given these factors, the design of the new Justice and Transition Center was reduced by over 200 beds.

We recognize the changing dimensions of our criminal justice system, but we continue to have not only a legal obligation, but a moral one as well, to provide a safe, efficient, and effective facility capable of housing incarcerated individuals and providing rehabilitative programming shown to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes. The Justice and Transition Center will meet these needs while also providing millions in annualized cost savings.

I appreciate your interest in this topic, and I hope I have addressed some, if not all, of your concerns.

Marcus J. Molinaro
Dutchess County Executive
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
845-486-2000 phone
845-486-2021 fax
Email: countyexec@dutchessny.gov

www.dutchessny.gov

-----Original Message-----
From: joe robitaille <jdrobitaille@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 5, 2020 4:22 PM
To: countyexec <countyexec@dutchessny.gov>; County Legislators <CountyLegislators@dutchessny.gov>; Morris, Carolyn <cmorris@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Stop the $200 Million Jail Now!

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County Legislators and County Executive Molinaro:

I am writing as a taxpayer and voter residing in Dutchess County to call for the Legislature to drop its plans for a new jail. The jail would be the most expensive capital project the County has ever undertaken, costing more than all other county capital spending combined, with bond repayment extending into the 2040s. Post-Covid, the county's financial situation is dire—the fund balance is being quickly depleted, and unless direct federal aid arrives, the county will need to borrow later this year to cover basic operations. Layoffs and cuts to essential services seem inevitable.

This is the worst possible time to invest huge sums in a new jail and divert money from other urgent priorities. For example, we know overdose deaths are spiking sharply amid the Covid-19 pandemic, and that alcoholism and mental health needs are also on the rise. Yet, the current budget has reduced in spending on these services, as well as on much-needed youth programs.

Moreover, the need for a new jail is no longer there. New York's bail and discovery reform laws have dramatically reduced pretrial incarceration and thus the jail population (around 130 now; two years ago, over 400). More people charged with misdemeanors are being diverted to community-based treatment for addiction and mental-health diagnoses. Other New York counties are making plans to convert jail cells into homeless shelters and expand alternatives to incarceration. Dutchess County should join their ranks and reimagine public safety.

For these reasons, we support the resolutions the Democratic caucus has submitted for consideration in July:
* rescind the remaining portion of the legislature's 2017 bond appropriation for jail construction
* recommend a commission to research alternatives to construction of the proposed jail, including renovation of part of the current space, jail-sharing with other counties, or other possibilities.

Respectfully submitted,

Sent from my iPhone

Hussing, Laura

From: countyexec
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 11:03 AM
To: Sara Blackwell; County Legislators; Morris, Carolyn
Subject: RE: Stop the $200 Million Jail Project in Dutchess County!

Dear Sara,

Thank you for your email. Addressing the mental health and social problems that drive incarceration remains our priority. The County has heavily invested in access to mental health services with the building of the Stabilization Center, a 24/7 walk-in facility providing a single point of access where individuals can receive crisis counseling, mental health assessments, and peer advocacy. In addition to the Stabilization Center, the Department of Behavioral and Community Health operates other 24/7 crisis services including our call or text service HELPLINE and our Mobile Crisis Intervention Team, which can go directly into the community to aid individuals in crisis.

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We recognize the changing dimensions of our criminal justice system, but we continue to have not only a legal obligation, but a moral one as well, to provide a safe, efficient, and effective facility capable of housing incarcerated individuals and providing rehabilitative programming shown to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes. The Justice and Transition Center will meet these needs while also providing millions in annualized cost savings.

I appreciate your interest in this topic, and I hope I have addressed some, if not all, of your concerns.

Marcus J. Molinaro
Dutchess County Executive
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
845-486-2000 phone
845-486-2021 fax
Email: countyexec@dutchessny.gov

www.dutchessny.gov

-----Original Message-----
From: Sara Blackwell <sarasblackwell@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 5, 2020 5:41 PM
To: countyexec <countyexec@dutchessny.gov>; County Legislators <CountyLegislators@dutchessny.gov>; Morris, Carolyn <cmorris@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Stop the $200 Million Jail Project in Dutchess County!

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County Legislators and County Executive Molinaro:

I am writing as a taxpayer and voter residing in Dutchess County to call for the Legislature to drop its plans for a new jail.

THIS IS NOT WHERE WE SHOULD BE SPENDING MONEY!

The jail would be the most expensive capital project the County has ever undertaken, costing more than all other county capital spending combined, with bond repayment extending into the 2040s.

Post-Covid, the county's financial situation is dire—the fund balance is being quickly depleted, and unless direct federal aid arrives, the county will need to borrow later this year to cover basic operations. Layoffs and cuts to essential services seem inevitable.

This is the worst possible time to invest huge sums in a new jail and divert money from other urgent priorities. For example, we know overdose deaths are spiking sharply amid the Covid-19 pandemic, and that alcoholism and mental health needs are also on the rise. Yet, the current budget has reduced in spending on these services, as well as on much-needed youth programs.

Moreover, the need for a new jail is no longer there. New York's bail and discovery reform laws have dramatically reduced pretrial incarceration and thus the jail population (around 130 now; two years ago, over 400). More people charged with misdemeanors are being diverted to community-based treatment for addiction and mental-health diagnoses.

THIS IS A GOOD THING!

Other New York counties are making plans to convert jail cells into homeless shelters and expand alternatives to incarceration. Dutchess County should join their ranks and reimagine public safety.

For these reasons, we support the resolutions the Democratic caucus has submitted for consideration in July:
* rescind the remaining portion of the legislature's 2017 bond appropriation for jail construction
* recommend a commission to research alternatives to construction of the proposed jail, including renovation of part of the current space, jail-sharing with other counties, or other possibilities.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Blackwell

Beacon, NY

Hussing, Laura

From: Yali Lewis <yali.lewis@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 5, 2020 5:49 PM
To: countyexec; County Legislators; Morris, Carolyn
Subject: Stop the $200 Million Jail Now!

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County Legislators and County Executive Molinaro:

I am writing as a taxpayer and voter residing in Dutchess County to call for the Legislature to drop its plans for a new jail. The jail would be the most expensive capital project the County has ever undertaken, costing more than all other county capital spending combined, with bond repayment extending into the 2040s. Post-Covid, the county's financial situation is dire—the fund balance is being quickly depleted, and unless direct federal aid arrives, the county will need to borrow later this year to cover basic operations. Layoffs and cuts to essential services seem inevitable.

This is the worst possible time to invest huge sums in a new jail and divert money from other urgent priorities. For example, we know overdose deaths are spiking sharply amid the Covid-19 pandemic, and that alcoholism and mental health needs are also on the rise. Yet, the current budget has reduced in spending on these services, as well as on much-needed youth programs.

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* recommend a commission to research alternatives to construction of the proposed jail, including renovation of part of the current space, jail-sharing with other counties, or other possibilities.

Respectfully submitted,

Ayala Lewis

Hussing, Laura

From: Sofia Rao <sofiarao@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 5, 2020 5:55 PM
To: County Legislators
Cc: Morris, Carolyn
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing as an Education and International Studies student of Vassar College and young woman of color. Having lived in the area for multiple years now, I am incredibly disappointed to hear about Dutchess County's plan to build a new jail. I am privileged enough to have received an education in the county that has taught me much about prisons and justice and inspired me to want to pursue public defense law — which motivates me to urge you against this action.

As it is the most expensive capital project the county has ever undertaken, I urge you to consider using the money for other causes. With my background in Education, I truly believe that funding for schools is needed now more than ever to ensure communities feel supported and are given the means to uplift themselves — with more counselors available to students and more resources for each classroom. Within Vassar, we have very few students from Dutchess county itself. It is sad that us students from outside the county get to reap the benefits of a prestigious Vassar education while the surrounding public schools within walking distance suffer from lack of public funding.

Amidst national and global discussions of how the U.S. can do better to uplift its Black and brown communities, a new prison (that will cost almost $200 million despite free-falling county revenue) is the last thing our county needs. I ask that, instead, the county uses this money to invest in things used and valued by these communities — like education. Moreover, a new prison is simply not needed as there is no demand for one based on the current supply of inmates in this county. The project is a waste of the county's money, when these funds would be much more valued in fixing our public infrastructure and bettering education.

Thank you,
Sofia Rao

Hussing, Laura

From: countyexec
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 11:02 AM
To: Arielle Sachar; County Legislators; Morris, Carolyn
Subject: RE: No 200 Million Jail!

Dear Arielle,

Thank you for your email. Addressing the mental health and social problems that drive incarceration remains our priority. The County has heavily invested in access to mental health services with the building of the Stabilization Center, a 24/7 walk-in facility providing a single point of access where individuals can receive crisis counseling, mental health assessments, and peer advocacy. In addition to the Stabilization Center, the Department of Behavioral and Community Health operates other 24/7 crisis services including our call or text service HELPLINE and our Mobile Crisis Intervention Team, which can go directly into the community to aid individuals in crisis.

The County partners with local school districts to incorporate Second Step, a social-emotional learning program that focuses on empathy and communication skills, bullying prevention, problem-solving, and substance-abuse prevention – all of which are protective factors against future criminal justice system involvement. We have also dedicated resources to family stability by increasing family-based foster care placements, offering parent coaching, and providing home-visiting to high-risk families. A strong, stable, and reliable family structure supports positive social-emotional development and can reduce the likelihood of future incarceration.

Additionally, we remain committed to our Path to Promise initiative, which identifies the critical components, needed resources, and effective programs to start our children on a path to stability, security, and success. In 2019 the County began implementing the first set of initiatives, including a Foster Care Mentoring program and expanding youth employment programs beyond the summer. We have also supported the youth services through our Agency Partner Grant. Over the past eight years, over $7 million has been allocated to critical programs and services in our community through this program. Nearly 75 percent of the funding goes to youth programs – anti-bullying, workforce development, literacy, and more.

These are only some of the important initiatives, resources, and programs we have invested in to support young people and reduce the reliance on the criminal justice system. However, Section 217 of the New York State County Law still mandates that a county maintain a jail. Further, we believe that those who are incarcerated and those who provide services to this population deserve a modern facility designed for the purpose of rehabilitation, safety, and efficiency. The new Justice and Transition Center will provide:

- greater staffing efficiency and productivity, enhancing overall functionality and safety as well as providing cost savings;
- the opportunity to deliver more and better programming, in a light-filled and safe environment that is more conducive to positive behavioral change; and
- the flexibility of design to accommodate the potential for fluctuating population size, with the potential to decommission areas or units, as needed, and the ability to repurpose designated areas for other uses (ex. transitional housing).

These benefits have considerable positive financial impacts, resulting in annual operational savings of nearly $4.1 million. Cost-savings primarily come in the form of the reductions to required staff and increases in the inmate to correctional officer ratio resulting from efficient design elements on the planned facility. The capital costs are an investment in future annualized operational savings allowing us to save money and focus spending in other areas. Additionally, ending the Justice and Transition Center project would require significant investment in the current jail facility, specifically the 1995 and 1984 sections. Further, with $60 million already bonded for the project, over $3 million in debt service will still need to be paid annually.

Bail reform was signed into law in 2019 and went into effect on January 1, 2020. The legislation significantly impacted the size and composition of the population served within the Dutchess County Jail. Additionally, before the implementation of the 2019 criminal justice reform, Dutchess County had reduced our jail population by 30 percent over a five year period through initiatives designed to divert lower risk and/or mentally ill defendants from jail, including building our Stabilization Center; providing Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) to law enforcement; and utilizing a sophisticated array of evidenced-based pretrial diversion practices as alternatives to incarceration (ATIs). This work has become the model for many of the counties of which you write about. Given these factors, the design of the new Justice and Transition Center was reduced by over 200 beds.

We recognize the changing dimensions of our criminal justice system, but we continue to have not only a legal obligation, but a moral one as well, to provide a safe, efficient, and effective facility capable of housing incarcerated individuals and providing rehabilitative programming shown to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes. The Justice and Transition Center will meet these needs while also providing millions in annualized cost savings.

I appreciate your interest in this topic, and I hope I have addressed some, if not all, of your concerns.

Marcus J. Molinaro
Dutchess County Executive
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
845-486-2000 phone
845-486-2021 fax
Email: countyexec@dutchessny.gov

www.dutchessny.gov

-----Original Message-----
From: Arielle Sachar <arsachar@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 5, 2020 6:06 PM
To: countyexec <countyexec@dutchessny.gov>; County Legislators <CountyLegislators@dutchessny.gov>; Morris, Carolyn <cmorris@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: No 200 Million Jail!

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Dear Dutchess County Legislators and County Executive Molinaro:

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Moreover, the need for a new jail is no longer there. New York's bail and discovery reform laws have dramatically reduced pretrial incarceration and thus the jail population (around 130 now; two years ago, over 400). More people charged with misdemeanors are being diverted to community-based treatment for addiction and mental-health diagnoses. Other New York counties are making plans to convert jail cells into homeless shelters and expand alternatives to incarceration. Dutchess County should join their ranks and reimagine public safety.

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Respectfully submitted,

Arielle Sachar

Sent from my iPhone

Hussing, Laura

From: countyexec
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 11:01 AM
To: Meghan Goria; County Legislators; Morris, Carolyn
Subject: RE: Absolutely not.

Dear Meghan,

Thank you for your email. Addressing the mental health and social problems that drive incarceration remains our priority. The County has heavily invested in access to mental health services with the building of the Stabilization Center, a 24/7 walk-in facility providing a single point of access where individuals can receive crisis counseling, mental health assessments, and peer advocacy. In addition to the Stabilization Center, the Department of Behavioral and Community Health operates other 24/7 crisis services including our call or text service HELPLINE and our Mobile Crisis Intervention Team, which can go directly into the community to aid individuals in crisis.

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We recognize the changing dimensions of our criminal justice system, but we continue to have not only a legal obligation, but a moral one as well, to provide a safe, efficient, and effective facility capable of housing incarcerated individuals and providing rehabilitative programming shown to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes. The Justice and Transition Center will meet these needs while also providing millions in annualized cost savings.

I appreciate your interest in this topic, and I hope I have addressed some, if not all, of your concerns.

Marcus J. Molinaro
Dutchess County Executive
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
845-486-2000 phone
845-486-2021 fax
Email: countyexec@dutchessny.gov

www.dutchessny.gov

-----Original Message-----
From: Meghan Goria <megoceleste@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 5, 2020 7:33 PM
To: countyexec <countyexec@dutchessny.gov>; County Legislators <CountyLegislators@dutchessny.gov>; Morris, Carolyn <cmorris@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Absolutely not.

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County Legislators and County Executive Molinaro:

I am writing as a taxpayer and voter residing in Dutchess County to call for the Legislature to drop its plans for a new jail. The jail would be the most expensive capital project the County has ever undertaken, costing more than all other county capital spending combined, with bond repayment extending into the 2040s. Post-Covid, the county's financial situation is dire—the fund balance is being quickly depleted, and unless direct federal aid arrives, the county will need to borrow later this year to cover basic operations. Layoffs and cuts to essential services seem inevitable.

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For these reasons, we support the resolutions the Democratic caucus has submitted for consideration in July:
* rescind the remaining portion of the legislature's 2017 bond appropriation for jail construction
* recommend a commission to research alternatives to construction of the proposed jail, including renovation of part of the current space, jail-sharing with other counties, or other possibilities.

Respectfully submitted,
Meghan Goria

Hussing, Laura

From: countyexec
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 11:00 AM
To: Emma C. Thomas; Morris, Carolyn; County Legislators
Subject: RE: Call to end new jail project

Dear Emma,

Thank you for your email. Addressing the mental health and social problems that drive incarceration remains our priority. The County has heavily invested in access to mental health services with the building of the Stabilization Center, a 24/7 walk-in facility providing a single point of access where individuals can receive crisis counseling, mental health assessments, and peer advocacy. In addition to the Stabilization Center, the Department of Behavioral and Community Health operates other 24/7 crisis services including our call or text service HELPLINE and our Mobile Crisis Intervention Team, which can go directly into the community to aid individuals in crisis.

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Bail reform was signed into law in 2019 and went into effect on January 1, 2020. The legislation significantly impacted the size and composition of the population served within the Dutchess County Jail. Additionally, before the

implementation of the 2019 criminal justice reform, Dutchess County had reduced our jail population by 30 percent over a five year period through initiatives designed to divert lower risk and/or mentally ill defendants from jail, including building our Stabilization Center; providing Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) to law enforcement; and utilizing a sophisticated array of evidenced-based pretrial diversion practices as alternatives to incarceration (ATIs). This work has become the model for many of the counties of which you write about. Given these factors, the design of the new Justice and Transition Center was reduced by over 200 beds.
We recognize the changing dimensions of our criminal justice system, but we continue to have not only a legal obligation, but a moral one as well, to provide a safe, efficient, and effective facility capable of housing incarcerated individuals and providing rehabilitative programming shown to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes. The Justice and Transition Center will meet these needs while also providing millions in annualized cost savings.
I appreciate your interest in this topic, and I hope I have addressed some, if not all, of your concerns.

Marcus J. Molinaro
Dutchess County Executive
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
845-486-2000 phone
845-486-2021 fax
Email: countyexec@dutchessny.gov

www.dutchessny.gov

From: Emma C. Thomas <emma.thomas523@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 5, 2020 7:49 PM
To: Morris, Carolyn <cmorris@dutchessny.gov>; countyexec <countyexec@dutchessny.gov>; County Legislators <CountyLegislators@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Call to end new jail project

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County Legislators and County Executive Molinaro:

I am writing to call for the Legislature to drop its plans for a new jail. The jail would be the most expensive capital project the County has ever undertaken, costing more than all other county capital spending combined, with bond repayment extending into the 2040s. Post-Covid, the county's financial situation is dire—the fund balance is being quickly depleted, and unless direct federal aid arrives, the county will need to borrow later this year to cover basic operations. Layoffs and cuts to essential services seem inevitable.

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Moreover, the need for a new jail is no longer there. New York's bail and discovery reform laws have

dramatically reduced pretrial incarceration and thus the jail population (around 130 now; two years ago, over 400). More people charged with misdemeanors are being diverted to community-based treatment for addiction and mental-health diagnoses. Other New York counties are making plans to convert jail cells into homeless shelters and expand alternatives to incarceration. Dutchess County should join their ranks and reimagine public safety.

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Respectfully submitted,

Emma Thomas
Poughkeepsie, NY

--
Sent from my iPhone

Hussing, Laura

From: Anna Siftar <annasiftar@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 5, 2020 8:00 PM
To: Morris, Carolyn; County Legislators
Subject: Calling on you as a resident of Dutchess County

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

To the Legislators of Dutchess County,

I'm a resident of Tivoli, NY, a voter in your county, and a very concerned member of your community. I'm writing to you to voice my objection to the plans to build a new jail in our county.

A few months ago I probably wouldn't have had the understanding, the words, or the awareness to object to this project, but in the wake of George Floyd's death and the uprising on behalf of racial justice that has swept our nation, I have begun to better educate myself about the role prisons play in our society.

It's possible that you have been thinking about prisons as a necessary, permanent, and helpful part of our modern nation. I have to admit, that while my view was not so totally rosy, a few months ago I would have thought what we needed was reform. And I do still think we need reform--but of a radically different style. A complete reimagining of what justice and community means.

This starts with bringing an end to building new prisons.

We need to stop pouring money into the carceral system. The "justice" system is fueled by and shaped by racist motivations cloaked in ideas of keeping communities safe. But as Michelle Alexander, author of *The New Jim Crow* (a book that is moving me daily as I make my way through it--I cannot recommend it enough to each and every one of you) has said:

"We all know that the safest communities are not the ones that have the most police, the most prisons, or the highest percentage of people on electronic monitors under constant surveillance and control. No, what creates safety in our communities are good schools, plentiful jobs, quality health care, and a thriving social fabric."

On a national but also a local level, we are channeling money towards prisons and policing that would do us all SO much more good were it redirected to education, housing, food justice, addiction treatment, and health care (especially mental health care).

We don't need another prison. We need wide-sweeping change.

I call on you to halt the construction of this prison. Dutchess does not need two decades of debt, does not need more cells to fill, does not need to enable the perpetuation of violence against Black individuals.

I am going to relate to you a number of questions raised by others, to which I would also like answers.

Why is homelessness increasing in Dutchess County? How are you going to decrease homelessness? (There was an 18% increase from 2018 to 2019.)

Why has the county budget for health & mental health resources decreased over the past several years?

Why has the county budget for youth programs decreased over the past several years?

How are you going to decrease addiction overdose related deaths in Dutchess County? (There have been 379 reported over the last 5 years.) I personally lost a friend this year in addiction-related circumstances, and she was the latest among MANY in her friend group in the area. I need Dutchess to address this, for all those who are still alive to help. People dealing with addiction should not be jailed, they should be assisted in their recovery.

Please channel your funding to where it is needed. Not to prisons. To people.

Please keep me informed of how we can, together, bring about a better future for our community.

Thank you,
Anna Siftar
5 North Road,
Tivoli NY 12583
610.297.5744

Hussing, Laura

From: countyexec
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 4:51 PM
To: Romina Robinson; County Legislators; Morris, Carolyn
Subject: RE: Stop the $200 Million Jail Now!

Dear Romina,

Thank you for your email. Addressing the mental health and social problems that drive incarceration remains our priority. The County has heavily invested in access to mental health services with the building of the Stabilization Center, a 24/7 walk-in facility providing a single point of access where individuals can receive crisis counseling, mental health assessments, and peer advocacy. In addition to the Stabilization Center, the Department of Behavioral and Community Health operates other 24/7 crisis services including our call or text service HELPLINE and our Mobile Crisis Intervention Team, which can go directly into the community to aid individuals in crisis.

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Marcus J. Molinaro
Dutchess County Executive
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
845-486-2000 phone
845-486-2021 fax
Email: countyexec@dutchessny.gov

www.dutchessny.gov

From: Romina Robinson <romicone@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 5, 2020 8:21 PM
To: countyexec <countyexec@dutchessny.gov>; County Legislators <CountyLegislators@dutchessny.gov>; Morris, Carolyn <cmorris@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Stop the $200 Million Jail Now!

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County Legislators and County Executive Molinaro: I am writing as a taxpayer and voter residing in Dutchess County to call for the Legislature to drop its plans for a new jail. The jail would be the most expensive capital project the County has ever undertaken, costing more than all other county capital spending combined, with bond repayment extending into the 2040s. Post-Covid, the county's financial situation is dire—the fund balance is being quickly depleted, and unless direct federal aid arrives, the county will need to borrow later this year to cover basic operations. Layoffs and cuts to essential services seem inevitable. This is the worst possible time to invest huge sums in a new jail and divert money from other urgent priorities. For example, we know overdose deaths are spiking sharply amid the Covid-19 pandemic, and that alcoholism and mental health needs are also on the rise. Yet, the current budget has reduced in spending on these services, as well as on much-needed youth programs. Moreover, the need for a new jail is no longer there. New York's bail and discovery reform laws have dramatically reduced pretrial incarceration and thus the jail population (around 130 now; two years ago, over 400). More people charged with misdemeanors are being diverted to community-based treatment for addiction and mental-health diagnoses. Other New York counties are making plans to convert jail cells into homeless shelters and expand alternatives to incarceration. Dutchess County should join their ranks and reimagine public safety. For these reasons, we support the resolutions the Democratic caucus has submitted for consideration in July: * rescind the remaining portion of the legislature's 2017 bond appropriation for jail construction * recommend a commission to research alternatives to construction of the proposed jail, including renovation of part of the current space, jail-sharing with other counties, or other possibilities. Respectfully submitted, Romina Robinson

Hussing, Laura

From: Alex Berke <alexberke@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 5, 2020 8:40 PM
To: County Legislators
Cc: Morris, Carolyn
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

My name is Alex Berke, I am a resident of Beacon, and I support the bills to rescind the jail bond and form a commission to research alternatives to this ridiculously expensive plan. Our County has so many needs which badly need adequate funding: higher education, medical care, mental health services, substance abuse treatment, public transportation, and food & shelter insecurity to name only a few. As we all know, those needs have only grown with the Covid pandemic.

The fact that this body would even consider going forward with this project at this time is shocking to me -- $132 million put on the shoulders of Dutchess County taxpayers with $5 to $10 million in yearly debt service would be a mistake we would regret for decades to come.

Now is the time to think big, and try to build a better society out of the current crisis. I used to work in the Oregon state government (although I am a New Yorker), and know from my experience there with their state mental hospital that if you build it, they will come. We do NOT need more people in jail. There are other ways to enhance our community.

Thank you,
Alex Berke
60 E. Willow St.
Beacon, NY 12508

Hussing, Laura

From: Morris, Carolyn on behalf of CountyLegislature
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 12:45 PM
To: Wager, Leigh
Cc: Hussing, Laura
Subject: FW: 200 million dollars

upload

Carolyn Morris
Clerk
Dutchess County Legislature
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, New York 12601
Tel: (845) 486-2100 • Fax: (845) 486-2113

OFFICIAL AMERICAN FLAG DISPOSAL SITE

-----Original Message-----
From: Padma Garvey <pgarveymd@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 5, 2020 8:31 PM
To: CountyLegislature <CountyLegislature@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: 200 million dollars

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Mr. Pulver,
I urge you and the legislature to vote your conscience and vote against building another prison in Dutchess County. This money is better spent on the City of Poughkeepsie Schools, after school programs, mental health centers, drug rehabilitation programs, and rental assistance programs. If you are truly interested in making Dutchess County safer, then you need to support education. Building another prison only means you expect to fill it. In this era of confronting systemic racism head on, using this money to build a prison just reinforces the cycle of poverty and crime that keeps our prison-industrial complex thriving. Put this money to use helping improve the schools. I guarantee that you will see more of a reduction in crime throughout Dutchess County if you support education and communities.

Sincerely,
Padma Garvey, MD
50 Sylvan Lake Road
Hopewell Junction, NY 12533
914-489-2026

Hussing, Laura

From: countyexec
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 10:59 AM
To: kathrynmillerbock@gmail.com; County Legislators; Morris, Carolyn
Subject: RE: Do NOT fund the $200 Million Jail!

Dear Kate,

Thank you for your email. Addressing the mental health and social problems that drive incarceration remains our priority. The County has heavily invested in access to mental health services with the building of the Stabilization Center, a 24/7 walk-in facility providing a single point of access where individuals can receive crisis counseling, mental health assessments, and peer advocacy. In addition to the Stabilization Center, the Department of Behavioral and Community Health operates other 24/7 crisis services including our call or text service HELPLINE and our Mobile Crisis Intervention Team, which can go directly into the community to aid individuals in crisis.

The County partners with local school districts to incorporate Second Step, a social-emotional learning program that focuses on empathy and communication skills, bullying prevention, problem-solving, and substance-abuse prevention – all of which are protective factors against future criminal justice system involvement. We have also dedicated resources to family stability by increasing family-based foster care placements, offering parent coaching, and providing home-visiting to high-risk families. A strong, stable, and reliable family structure supports positive social-emotional development and can reduce the likelihood of future incarceration.

Additionally, we remain committed to our Path to Promise initiative, which identifies the critical components, needed resources, and effective programs to start our children on a path to stability, security, and success. In 2019 the County began implementing the first set of initiatives, including a Foster Care Mentoring program and expanding youth employment programs beyond the summer. We have also supported the youth services through our Agency Partner Grant. Over the past eight years, over $7 million has been allocated to critical programs and services in our community through this program. Nearly 75 percent of the funding goes to youth programs – anti-bullying, workforce development, literacy, and more.

These are only some of the important initiatives, resources, and programs we have invested in to support young people and reduce the reliance on the criminal justice system. However, Section 217 of the New York State County Law still mandates that a county maintain a jail. Further, we believe that those who are incarcerated and those who provide services to this population deserve a modern facility designed for the purpose of rehabilitation, safety, and efficiency. The new Justice and Transition Center will provide:

- greater staffing efficiency and productivity, enhancing overall functionality and safety as well as providing cost savings;
- the opportunity to deliver more and better programming, in a light-filled and safe environment that is more conducive to positive behavioral change; and
- the flexibility of design to accommodate the potential for fluctuating population size, with the potential to decommission areas or units, as needed, and the ability to repurpose designated areas for other uses (ex. transitional housing).

These benefits have considerable positive financial impacts, resulting in annual operational savings of nearly $4.1 million. Cost-savings primarily come in the form of the reductions to required staff and increases in the inmate to correctional officer ratio resulting from efficient design elements on the planned facility. The capital costs are an investment in future annualized operational savings allowing us to save money and focus spending in other areas. Additionally, ending the Justice and Transition Center project would require significant investment in the current jail facility, specifically the 1995 and 1984 sections. Further, with $60 million already bonded for the project, over $3 million in debt service will still need to be paid annually.

Bail reform was signed into law in 2019 and went into effect on January 1, 2020. The legislation significantly impacted the size and composition of the population served within the Dutchess County Jail. Additionally, before the implementation of the 2019 criminal justice reform, Dutchess County had reduced our jail population by 30 percent over a five year period through initiatives designed to divert lower risk and/or mentally ill defendants from jail, including building our Stabilization Center; providing Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) to law enforcement; and utilizing a sophisticated array of evidenced-based pretrial diversion practices as alternatives to incarceration (ATIs). This work has become the model for many of the counties of which you write about. Given these factors, the design of the new Justice and Transition Center was reduced by over 200 beds.

We recognize the changing dimensions of our criminal justice system, but we continue to have not only a legal obligation, but a moral one as well, to provide a safe, efficient, and effective facility capable of housing incarcerated individuals and providing rehabilitative programming shown to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes. The Justice and Transition Center will meet these needs while also providing millions in annualized cost savings.

I appreciate your interest in this topic, and I hope I have addressed some, if not all, of your concerns.

Marcus J. Molinaro
Dutchess County Executive
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
845-486-2000 phone
845-486-2021 fax
Email: countyexec@dutchessny.gov

www.dutchessny.gov

-----Original Message-----
From: kathrynmillerbock@gmail.com <kathrynmillerbock@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 5, 2020 8:58 PM
To: countyexec <countyexec@dutchessny.gov>; County Legislators <CountyLegislators@dutchessny.gov>; Morris, Carolyn <cmorris@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Do NOT fund the $200 Million Jail!

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Dear Dutchess County Legislators and County Executive Molinaro:

I am writing as a taxpayer and voter residing in Dutchess County to call for the Legislature to drop its plans for a new jail. The jail would be the most expensive capital project the County has ever undertaken, costing more than all other county capital spending combined, with bond repayment extending into the 2040s. Post-Covid, the county's financial situation is dire—the fund balance is being quickly depleted, and unless direct federal aid arrives, the county will need to borrow later this year to cover basic operations. Layoffs and cuts to essential services seem inevitable.

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Moreover, the need for a new jail is no longer there. New York's bail and discovery reform laws have dramatically reduced pretrial incarceration and thus the jail population (around 130 now; two years ago, over 400). More people charged with misdemeanors are being diverted to community-based treatment for addiction and mental-health diagnoses. Other New York counties are making plans to convert jail cells into homeless shelters and expand alternatives to incarceration. Dutchess County should join their ranks and reimagine public safety.

For these reasons, we support the resolutions the Democratic caucus has submitted for consideration in July:
* rescind the remaining portion of the legislature's 2017 bond appropriation for jail construction
* recommend a commission to research alternatives to construction of the proposed jail, including renovation of part of the current space, jail-sharing with other counties, or other possibilities.

Respectfully submitted,
Kate Bock

Hussing, Laura

From: countyexec
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 10:59 AM
To: M Trecka; County Legislators; Morris, Carolyn
Subject: RE: Please drop the plans for a new jail!

Dear Mark,

Thank you for your email. Addressing the mental health and social problems that drive incarceration remains our priority. The County has heavily invested in access to mental health services with the building of the Stabilization Center, a 24/7 walk-in facility providing a single point of access where individuals can receive crisis counseling, mental health assessments, and peer advocacy. In addition to the Stabilization Center, the Department of Behavioral and Community Health operates other 24/7 crisis services including our call or text service HELPLINE and our Mobile Crisis Intervention Team, which can go directly into the community to aid individuals in crisis.

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Additionally, we remain committed to our Path to Promise initiative, which identifies the critical components, needed resources, and effective programs to start our children on a path to stability, security, and success. In 2019 the County began implementing the first set of initiatives, including a Foster Care Mentoring program and expanding youth employment programs beyond the summer. We have also supported the youth services through our Agency Partner Grant. Over the past eight years, over $7 million has been allocated to critical programs and services in our community through this program. Nearly 75 percent of the funding goes to youth programs – anti-bullying, workforce development, literacy, and more.

These are only some of the important initiatives, resources, and programs we have invested in to support young people and reduce the reliance on the criminal justice system. However, Section 217 of the New York State County Law still mandates that a county maintain a jail. Further, we believe that those who are incarcerated and those who provide services to this population deserve a modern facility designed for the purpose of rehabilitation, safety, and efficiency. The new Justice and Transition Center will provide:

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Bail reform was signed into law in 2019 and went into effect on January 1, 2020. The legislation significantly impacted the size and composition of the population served within the Dutchess County Jail. Additionally, before the

implementation of the 2019 criminal justice reform, Dutchess County had reduced our jail population by 30 percent over a five year period through initiatives designed to divert lower risk and/or mentally ill defendants from jail, including building our Stabilization Center; providing Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) to law enforcement; and utilizing a sophisticated array of evidenced-based pretrial diversion practices as alternatives to incarceration (ATIs). This work has become the model for many of the counties of which you write about. Given these factors, the design of the new Justice and Transition Center was reduced by over 200 beds.
We recognize the changing dimensions of our criminal justice system, but we continue to have not only a legal obligation, but a moral one as well, to provide a safe, efficient, and effective facility capable of housing incarcerated individuals and providing rehabilitative programming shown to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes. The Justice and Transition Center will meet these needs while also providing millions in annualized cost savings.
I appreciate your interest in this topic, and I hope I have addressed some, if not all, of your concerns.

Marcus J. Molinaro
Dutchess County Executive
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
845-486-2000 phone
845-486-2021 fax
Email: countyexec@dutchessny.gov

www.dutchessny.gov

From: M Trecka <mtrecka@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 5, 2020 9:49 PM
To: countyexec <countyexec@dutchessny.gov>; County Legislators <CountyLegislators@dutchessny.gov>; Morris, Carolyn <cmorris@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Please drop the plans for a new jail!

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear County Legislators and Executive Molinaro:

There has never been a better time to rethink jail expansion. The world does not need more jails. And our county does not need another jail.

I am a Dutchess County taxpayer and I am writing today to voice my support for the resolutions the Democratic caucus has submitted for consideration in July and to call for the legislature to *drop its plans for a new jail,* to rescind the remaining portion of the legislature's 2017 bond appropriation for jail construction and to recommend a commission to research alternatives to construction of the proposed jail, including renovation of part of the current space, jail-sharing with other counties, or other possibilities.

An historically expensive project for Dutchess, costing more than all other county capital spending combined, with bond repayment extending into the 2040s.

COVID-19 is taking its toll on us all financially. We can't afford a new jail. But what's more, we need to be rethinking the process of jailing people altogether. I received a letter today from an incarcerated person who has been locked in solitary confinement for refusing to cohabitate with 5 inmates who had tested positive for COVID.

This is the worst possible time to invest huge sums in a new jail and divert money from other urgent priorities.

Other New York counties are making plans to convert jail cells into homeless shelters and expand alternatives to incarceration. Dutchess County should join their ranks and reimagine public safety.

Sincerely, and with sincere concern,

Mark Trecka
Beacon, NY

Hussing, Laura

From: Linda Puiatti (via gmail) <linda.puiatti@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 5, 2020 10:35 PM
To: County Legislators
Cc: Morris, Carolyn
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

No more jails!!!!

Hussing, Laura

From: countyexec
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 4:50 PM
To: Jean Carlos Pena; County Legislators; Morris, Carolyn
Subject: RE: Stop the $200 Million Jail Now!

Dear Jean,

Thank you for your email. Addressing the mental health and social problems that drive incarceration remains our priority. The County has heavily invested in access to mental health services with the building of the Stabilization Center, a 24/7 walk-in facility providing a single point of access where individuals can receive crisis counseling, mental health assessments, and peer advocacy. In addition to the Stabilization Center, the Department of Behavioral and Community Health operates other 24/7 crisis services including our call or text service HELPLINE and our Mobile Crisis Intervention Team, which can go directly into the community to aid individuals in crisis.

The County partners with local school districts to incorporate Second Step, a social-emotional learning program that focuses on empathy and communication skills, bullying prevention, problem-solving, and substance-abuse prevention – all of which are protective factors against future criminal justice system involvement. We have also dedicated resources to family stability by increasing family-based foster care placements, offering parent coaching, and providing home-visiting to high-risk families. A strong, stable, and reliable family structure supports positive social-emotional development and can reduce the likelihood of future incarceration.

Additionally, we remain committed to our Path to Promise initiative, which identifies the critical components, needed resources, and effective programs to start our children on a path to stability, security, and success. In 2019 the County began implementing the first set of initiatives, including a Foster Care Mentoring program and expanding youth employment programs beyond the summer. We have also supported the youth services through our Agency Partner Grant. Over the past eight years, over $7 million has been allocated to critical programs and services in our community through this program. Nearly 75 percent of the funding goes to youth programs – anti-bullying, workforce development, literacy, and more.

These are only some of the important initiatives, resources, and programs we have invested in to support young people and reduce the reliance on the criminal justice system. However, Section 217 of the New York State County Law still mandates that a county maintain a jail. Further, we believe that those who are incarcerated and those who provide services to this population deserve a modern facility designed for the purpose of rehabilitation, safety, and efficiency. The new Justice and Transition Center will provide:

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- the opportunity to deliver more and better programming, in a light-filled and safe environment that is more conducive to positive behavioral change; and
- the flexibility of design to accommodate the potential for fluctuating population size, with the potential to decommission areas or units, as needed, and the ability to repurpose designated areas for other uses (ex. transitional housing).

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Bail reform was signed into law in 2019 and went into effect on January 1, 2020. The legislation significantly impacted the size and composition of the population served within the Dutchess County Jail. Additionally, before the

implementation of the 2019 criminal justice reform, Dutchess County had reduced our jail population by 30 percent over a five year period through initiatives designed to divert lower risk and/or mentally ill defendants from jail, including building our Stabilization Center; providing Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) to law enforcement; and utilizing a sophisticated array of evidenced-based pretrial diversion practices as alternatives to incarceration (ATIs). This work has become the model for many of the counties of which you write about. Given these factors, the design of the new Justice and Transition Center was reduced by over 200 beds.
We recognize the changing dimensions of our criminal justice system, but we continue to have not only a legal obligation, but a moral one as well, to provide a safe, efficient, and effective facility capable of housing incarcerated individuals and providing rehabilitative programming shown to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes. The Justice and Transition Center will meet these needs while also providing millions in annualized cost savings.
I appreciate your interest in this topic, and I hope I have addressed some, if not all, of your concerns.

Marcus J. Molinaro
Dutchess County Executive
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
845-486-2000 phone
845-486-2021 fax
Email: countyexec@dutchessny.gov

www.dutchessny.gov

From: Jean Carlos Pena <penajc39@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 5, 2020 10:36 PM
To: countyexec <countyexec@dutchessny.gov>; County Legislators <CountyLegislators@dutchessny.gov>; Morris, Carolyn <cmorris@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Stop the $200 Million Jail Now!

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County Legislators and County Executive Molinaro: I am writing as a taxpayer and voter residing in Dutchess County to call for the Legislature to drop its plans for a new jail. The jail would be the most expensive capital project the County has ever undertaken, costing more than all other county capital spending combined, with bond repayment extending into the 2040s. Post-Covid, the county's financial situation is dire—the fund balance is being quickly depleted, and unless direct federal aid arrives, the county will need to borrow later this year to cover basic operations. Layoffs and cuts to essential services seem inevitable. This is the worst possible time to invest huge sums in a new jail and divert money from other urgent priorities. For example, we know overdose deaths are spiking sharply amid the Covid-19 pandemic, and that alcoholism and mental health needs are also on the rise. Yet, the current budget has reduced in spending on these services, as well as on much-needed youth programs. Moreover, the need for a new jail is no longer there. New York's bail and discovery reform laws have dramatically reduced pretrial incarceration and thus the jail population (around 130 now; two years ago, over 400). More people charged with misdemeanors are being diverted to community-based treatment for addiction and mental-health diagnoses. Other New York counties are making plans to convert jail cells into homeless shelters and expand alternatives to incarceration. Dutchess County should join their ranks and reimagine public safety. For these reasons, we support the resolutions the Democratic caucus has submitted for consideration in July: * rescind the remaining portion of the legislature's 2017 bond appropriation for jail construction * recommend a commission to research alternatives to construction of the proposed jail, including renovation of part of the current space, jail-sharing with other counties, or other possibilities. Respectfully submitted,

Concerned Voter,
Jean Carlos Pena

Hussing, Laura

From: Alexandra Winsby <alix.winsby@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 5, 2020 10:40 PM
To: countyexec; County Legislators; Morris, Carolyn
Subject: Please stop the $200 Million Jail Now!

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County Legislators and County Executive Molinaro:

I am writing as a taxpayer and voter residing in Dutchess County to call for the Legislature to drop its plans for a new jail. The jail would be the most expensive capital project the County has ever undertaken, costing more than all other county capital spending combined, with bond repayment extending into the 2040s. Post-Covid, the county's financial situation is dire—the fund balance is being quickly depleted, and unless direct federal aid arrives, the county will need to borrow later this year to cover basic operations. Layoffs and cuts to essential services seem inevitable.

This is the worst possible time to invest huge sums in a new jail and divert money from other urgent priorities. For example, we know overdose deaths are spiking sharply amid the Covid-19 pandemic, and that alcoholism and mental health needs are also on the rise. Yet, the current budget has reduced in spending on these services, as well as on much-needed youth programs.

Moreover, the need for a new jail is no longer there. New York's bail and discovery reform laws have dramatically reduced pretrial incarceration and thus the jail population (around 130 now; two years ago, over 400). More people charged with misdemeanors are being diverted to community-based treatment for addiction and mental-health diagnoses. Other New York counties are making plans to convert jail cells into homeless shelters and expand alternatives to incarceration. Dutchess County should join their ranks and reimagine public safety.

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* recommend a commission to research alternatives to construction of the proposed jail, including renovation of part of the current space, jail-sharing with other counties, or other possibilities.

Respectfully submitted,

Alix Winsby
Sent from my iPhone

Hussing, Laura

From: Mark Whitworth <astro8753@icloud.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 5, 2020 10:41 PM
To: County Legislators
Cc: Morris, Carolyn
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Invest in economic opportunity for minorities to achieve equality

- Email before July 9th at 4PM with the subject heading “Public Comment” and your comment (under 3 minutes) on why Dutchess County should not build a new jail. It will be read aloud during the Legislature Board meeting. A personal comment is more likely to be read and have an impact than a template.

Points to address:
- What the county could use the $200 million for instead
- Why we do not even need this in DC (or have the money!)
- Why prisons do not keep us safe and do not address root causes

More info:
- It is the most expensive capital project the county has ever undertaken. In the next four years, the jail would cost more than all other county capital spending combined, and bond repayment would extend into the 2040s.
- It would issue around $132 million in debt from 2020-2040, almost triple what would be issued to highways and bridges ($45.7mil), and over 22 times rail-trails ($5.75mil) and public transport ($5.6 mil)each.
- Despite free-falling county revenue, the jail would cost almost $200 million. Paying back the construction bond will cost county taxpayers almost $10 million per year for the foreseeable future.
- While there were over 400 people being housed in the jail two years ago, the population is currently down to around 130. The 'downsized' new jail is being built to accommodate 328. We do not need more cells.

Sent from my iPhone

Hussing, Laura

From: countyexec
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 4:48 PM
To: agnes dempster; County Legislators; Morris, Carolyn
Subject: RE: Stop the $200 Million Jail Now!

Dear Agnes,

Thank you for your email. Addressing the mental health and social problems that drive incarceration remains our priority. The County has heavily invested in access to mental health services with the building of the Stabilization Center, a 24/7 walk-in facility providing a single point of access where individuals can receive crisis counseling, mental health assessments, and peer advocacy. In addition to the Stabilization Center, the Department of Behavioral and Community Health operates other 24/7 crisis services including our call or text service HELPLINE and our Mobile Crisis Intervention Team, which can go directly into the community to aid individuals in crisis.

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We recognize the changing dimensions of our criminal justice system, but we continue to have not only a legal obligation, but a moral one as well, to provide a safe, efficient, and effective facility capable of housing incarcerated individuals and providing rehabilitative programming shown to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes. The Justice and Transition Center will meet these needs while also providing millions in annualized cost savings.

I appreciate your interest in this topic, and I hope I have addressed some, if not all, of your concerns.

Marcus J. Molinaro
Dutchess County Executive
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
845-486-2000 phone
845-486-2021 fax
Email: countyexec@dutchessny.gov

www.dutchessny.gov

-----Original Message-----
From: agnes dempster <nandempster@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 5, 2020 10:52 PM
To: countyexec <countyexec@dutchessny.gov>; County Legislators <CountyLegislators@dutchessny.gov>; Morris, Carolyn <cmorris@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Stop the $200 Million Jail Now!

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County Legislators and County Executive Molinaro:

Please use our resources wisely.

I am writing as a taxpayer and voter residing in Dutchess County to call for the Legislature to drop its plans for a new jail. The jail would be the most expensive capital project the County has ever undertaken, costing more than all other county capital spending combined, with bond repayment extending into the 2040s. Post-Covid, the county's financial situation is dire—the fund balance is being quickly depleted, and unless direct federal aid arrives, the county will need to borrow later this year to cover basic operations. Layoffs and cuts to essential services seem inevitable.

This is the worst possible time to invest huge sums in a new jail and divert money from other urgent priorities. For example, we know overdose deaths are spiking sharply amid the Covid-19 pandemic, and that alcoholism and mental health needs are also on the rise. Yet, the current budget has reduced in spending on these services, as well as on much-needed youth programs.

Moreover, the need for a new jail is no longer there. New York's bail and discovery reform laws have dramatically reduced pretrial incarceration and thus the jail population (around 130 now; two years ago, over 400). More people charged with misdemeanors are being diverted to community-based treatment for addiction and mental-health diagnoses. Other New York counties are making plans to convert jail cells into homeless shelters and expand alternatives to incarceration. Dutchess County should join their ranks and reimagine public safety.

For these reasons, we support the resolutions the Democratic caucus has submitted for consideration in July:
* rescind the remaining portion of the legislature's 2017 bond appropriation for jail construction
* recommend a commission to research alternatives to construction of the proposed jail, including renovation of part of the current space, jail-sharing with other counties, or other possibilities.

Respectfully submitted,
Agnes Dempster
54 Angela Ct
Beacon, NY 12508

Sent from my iPhone

Hussing, Laura

From: countyexec
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 4:47 PM
To: Christopher Bock; County Legislators; Morris, Carolyn
Subject: RE: Stop the $200 Million Jail Now!

Dear Christopher,

Thank you for your email. Addressing the mental health and social problems that drive incarceration remains our priority. The County has heavily invested in access to mental health services with the building of the Stabilization Center, a 24/7 walk-in facility providing a single point of access where individuals can receive crisis counseling, mental health assessments, and peer advocacy. In addition to the Stabilization Center, the Department of Behavioral and Community Health operates other 24/7 crisis services including our call or text service HELPLINE and our Mobile Crisis Intervention Team, which can go directly into the community to aid individuals in crisis.

The County partners with local school districts to incorporate Second Step, a social-emotional learning program that focuses on empathy and communication skills, bullying prevention, problem-solving, and substance-abuse prevention – all of which are protective factors against future criminal justice system involvement. We have also dedicated resources to family stability by increasing family-based foster care placements, offering parent coaching, and providing home-visiting to high-risk families. A strong, stable, and reliable family structure supports positive social-emotional development and can reduce the likelihood of future incarceration.

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These are only some of the important initiatives, resources, and programs we have invested in to support young people and reduce the reliance on the criminal justice system. However, Section 217 of the New York State County Law still mandates that a county maintain a jail. Further, we believe that those who are incarcerated and those who provide services to this population deserve a modern facility designed for the purpose of rehabilitation, safety, and efficiency. The new Justice and Transition Center will provide:

- greater staffing efficiency and productivity, enhancing overall functionality and safety as well as providing cost savings;
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I appreciate your interest in this topic, and I hope I have addressed some, if not all, of your concerns.

Marcus J. Molinaro
Dutchess County Executive
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
845-486-2000 phone
845-486-2021 fax
Email: countyexec@dutchessny.gov

www.dutchessny.gov

-----Original Message-----
From: Christopher Bock <bockca@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 5, 2020 10:54 PM
To: countyexec <countyexec@dutchessny.gov>; County Legislators <CountyLegislators@dutchessny.gov>; Morris, Carolyn <cmorris@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Stop the $200 Million Jail Now!

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County Legislators and County Executive Molinaro:

Although this is copied in solidarity with a mass email campaign, I add my voice in support of the below points. I will pay attention to the vote on this issue and I do vote in all elections, local and national.

I am writing as a taxpayer and voter residing in Dutchess County to call for the Legislature to drop its plans for a new jail. The jail would be the most expensive capital project the County has ever undertaken, costing more than all other county capital spending combined, with bond repayment extending into the 2040s. Post-Covid, the county's financial situation is dire—the fund balance is being quickly depleted, and unless direct federal aid arrives, the county will need to borrow later this year to cover basic operations. Layoffs and cuts to essential services seem inevitable.

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Respectfully submitted,
Christopher Bock
Beacon, NY

Hussing, Laura

From: countyexec
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 4:47 PM
To: Carolina Villalon; County Legislators; Morris, Carolyn
Subject: RE: Stop the $200 Million Jail Now!

Dear Carolina,

Thank you for your email. Addressing the mental health and social problems that drive incarceration remains our priority. The County has heavily invested in access to mental health services with the building of the Stabilization Center, a 24/7 walk-in facility providing a single point of access where individuals can receive crisis counseling, mental health assessments, and peer advocacy. In addition to the Stabilization Center, the Department of Behavioral and Community Health operates other 24/7 crisis services including our call or text service HELPLINE and our Mobile Crisis Intervention Team, which can go directly into the community to aid individuals in crisis.

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I appreciate your interest in this topic, and I hope I have addressed some, if not all, of your concerns.

Marcus J. Molinaro
Dutchess County Executive
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
845-486-2000 phone
845-486-2021 fax
Email: countyexec@dutchessny.gov

www.dutchessny.gov

-----Original Message-----
From: Carolina Villalon <carolinavillalon92@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 5, 2020 11:09 PM
To: countyexec <countyexec@dutchessny.gov>; County Legislators <CountyLegislators@dutchessny.gov>; Morris, Carolyn <cmorris@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Stop the $200 Million Jail Now!

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Dear Dutchess County Legislators and County Executive Molinaro:

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Respectfully submitted,
Carolina Villalón

Hussing, Laura

From: countyexec
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 4:46 PM
To: Hannah Holdsworth; County Legislators; Morris, Carolyn
Subject: RE: Stop the $200 Million Jail Now!

Dear Hannah,

Addressing the mental health and social problems that drive incarceration remains our priority. The County has heavily invested in access to mental health services with the building of the Stabilization Center, a 24/7 walk-in facility providing a single point of access where individuals can receive crisis counseling, mental health assessments, and peer advocacy. In addition to the Stabilization Center, the Department of Behavioral and Community Health operates other 24/7 crisis services including our call or text service HELPLINE and our Mobile Crisis Intervention Team, which can go directly into the community to aid individuals in crisis.
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I appreciate your interest in this topic, and I hope I have addressed some, if not all, of your concerns.

Marcus J. Molinaro
Dutchess County Executive
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
845-486-2000 phone
845-486-2021 fax
Email: countyexec@dutchessny.gov

www.dutchessny.gov

-----Original Message-----
From: Hannah Holdsworth <hannah.holdsworth@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 5, 2020 11:55 PM
To: countyexec <countyexec@dutchessny.gov>; County Legislators <CountyLegislators@dutchessny.gov>; Morris, Carolyn <cmorris@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Stop the $200 Million Jail Now!

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County Legislators and County Executive Molinaro:

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Respectfully submitted,
Hannah Holdsworth

Sent from my iPhone

Hussing, Laura

From: jerwolff <jerwolff@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 6:30 AM
To: County Legislators
Cc: Morris, Carolyn
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Building jails is money poorly spent in a community. They disproportionally affect black and brown people. This is not the direction to move at this time. The Prison Industrial Complex is too powerful, things are changing fast. There are better ways.

Please think; please reconsider.

Hussing, Laura

From: countyexec
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 10:57 AM
To: Pinko Commi; County Legislators; Morris, Carolyn
Subject: RE: Stop the $200 Million Jail Now!

Dear Jesse,

Thank you for your email. Addressing the mental health and social problems that drive incarceration remains our priority. The County has heavily invested in access to mental health services with the building of the Stabilization Center, a 24/7 walk-in facility providing a single point of access where individuals can receive crisis counseling, mental health assessments, and peer advocacy. In addition to the Stabilization Center, the Department of Behavioral and Community Health operates other 24/7 crisis services including our call or text service HELPLINE and our Mobile Crisis Intervention Team, which can go directly into the community to aid individuals in crisis.
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Marcus J. Molinaro
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22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
845-486-2000 phone
845-486-2021 fax
Email: countyexec@dutchessny.gov

www.dutchessny.gov

-----Original Message-----
From: Pinko Commi <jessedickersin@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 7:11 AM
To: countyexec <countyexec@dutchessny.gov>; County Legislators <CountyLegislators@dutchessny.gov>; Morris, Carolyn <cmorris@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Stop the $200 Million Jail Now!

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Respectfully submitted,
Jesse Dickersin

Sent from my iPhone

Hussing, Laura

From: countyexec
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 10:55 AM
To: Linda Codega; County Legislators; Morris, Carolyn
Subject: RE: Stop the $200 Million Jail Now!

Dear Linda,

Thank you for your email. Addressing the mental health and social problems that drive incarceration remains our priority. The County has heavily invested in access to mental health services with the building of the Stabilization Center, a 24/7 walk-in facility providing a single point of access where individuals can receive crisis counseling, mental health assessments, and peer advocacy. In addition to the Stabilization Center, the Department of Behavioral and Community Health operates other 24/7 crisis services including our call or text service HELPLINE and our Mobile Crisis Intervention Team, which can go directly into the community to aid individuals in crisis.

The County partners with local school districts to incorporate Second Step, a social-emotional learning program that focuses on empathy and communication skills, bullying prevention, problem-solving, and substance-abuse prevention – all of which are protective factors against future criminal justice system involvement. We have also dedicated resources to family stability by increasing family-based foster care placements, offering parent coaching, and providing home-visiting to high-risk families. A strong, stable, and reliable family structure supports positive social-emotional development and can reduce the likelihood of future incarceration.

Additionally, we remain committed to our Path to Promise initiative, which identifies the critical components, needed resources, and effective programs to start our children on a path to stability, security, and success. In 2019 the County began implementing the first set of initiatives, including a Foster Care Mentoring program and expanding youth employment programs beyond the summer. We have also supported the youth services through our Agency Partner Grant. Over the past eight years, over $7 million has been allocated to critical programs and services in our community through this program. Nearly 75 percent of the funding goes to youth programs – anti-bullying, workforce development, literacy, and more.

These are only some of the important initiatives, resources, and programs we have invested in to support young people and reduce the reliance on the criminal justice system. However, Section 217 of the New York State County Law still mandates that a county maintain a jail. Further, we believe that those who are incarcerated and those who provide services to this population deserve a modern facility designed for the purpose of rehabilitation, safety, and efficiency. The new Justice and Transition Center will provide:

- greater staffing efficiency and productivity, enhancing overall functionality and safety as well as providing cost savings;
- the opportunity to deliver more and better programming, in a light-filled and safe environment that is more conducive to positive behavioral change; and
- the flexibility of design to accommodate the potential for fluctuating population size, with the potential to decommission areas or units, as needed, and the ability to repurpose designated areas for other uses (ex. transitional housing).

These benefits have considerable positive financial impacts, resulting in annual operational savings of nearly $4.1 million. Cost-savings primarily come in the form of the reductions to required staff and increases in the inmate to correctional officer ratio resulting from efficient design elements on the planned facility. The capital costs are an investment in future annualized operational savings allowing us to save money and focus spending in other areas. Additionally, ending the Justice and Transition Center project would require significant investment in the current jail facility, specifically the 1995 and 1984 sections. Further, with $60 million already bonded for the project, over $3 million in debt service will still need to be paid annually.

Bail reform was signed into law in 2019 and went into effect on January 1, 2020. The legislation significantly impacted the size and composition of the population served within the Dutchess County Jail. Additionally, before the

implementation of the 2019 criminal justice reform, Dutchess County had reduced our jail population by 30 percent over a five year period through initiatives designed to divert lower risk and/or mentally ill defendants from jail, including building our Stabilization Center; providing Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) to law enforcement; and utilizing a sophisticated array of evidenced-based pretrial diversion practices as alternatives to incarceration (ATIs). This work has become the model for many of the counties of which you write about. Given these factors, the design of the new Justice and Transition Center was reduced by over 200 beds.
We recognize the changing dimensions of our criminal justice system, but we continue to have not only a legal obligation, but a moral one as well, to provide a safe, efficient, and effective facility capable of housing incarcerated individuals and providing rehabilitative programming shown to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes. The Justice and Transition Center will meet these needs while also providing millions in annualized cost savings.
I appreciate your interest in this topic, and I hope I have addressed some, if not all, of your concerns.

Marcus J. Molinaro
Dutchess County Executive
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
845-486-2000 phone
845-486-2021 fax
Email: countyexec@dutchessny.gov

www.dutchessny.gov

From: Linda Codega <lhcodega@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 7:20 AM
To: countyexec <countyexec@dutchessny.gov>; County Legislators <CountyLegislators@dutchessny.gov>; Morris, Carolyn <cmorris@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Stop the $200 Million Jail Now!

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County Legislators and County Executive Molinaro:

I am writing as a taxpayer and voter residing in Beacon, Dutchess County to call for the Legislature to drop its plans for a new jail. The jail would be the most expensive capital project the County has ever undertaken, costing more than all other county capital spending combined, with bond repayment extending into the 2040s. Post-COVID, the county's financial situation is dire—the fund balance is being quickly depleted, and unless direct federal aid arrives, the county will need to borrow later this year to cover basic operations. Layoffs and cuts to essential services seem inevitable.

This is the worst possible time to invest huge sums in a new jail and divert money from other urgent priorities. For example, we know overdose deaths are spiking sharply amid the COVID-19 pandemic, and that alcoholism and mental health needs are also on the rise. Yet, the current budget has reduced in spending on these services, as well as on much-needed youth programs.

Moreover, the need for a new jail is no longer there. New York's bail and discovery reform laws have dramatically reduced pre-trial incarceration and thus the jail population (around 130 now; two years ago, over 400). More people charged with misdemeanors are being diverted to community-based treatment for addiction and mental health

diagnoses. Other New York counties are making plans to convert jail cells into homeless shelters and expand alternatives to incarceration. **Dutchess County should join their ranks and reimagine public safety.**

For these reasons, we support the resolutions the Democratic caucus has submitted for consideration in July:
* rescind the remaining portion of the legislature's 2017 bond appropriation for jail construction
* recommend a commission to research alternatives to construction of the proposed jail, including renovation of part of the current space, jail-sharing with other counties, or other possibilities.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda H. Codega
248 Fishkill Ave

Hussing, Laura

From: Bill Rubin <rubin@contractor.net>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 7:37 AM
To: countyexec; County Legislators; Morris, Carolyn
Subject: Stop the $200 Million Jail Now!

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County Legislators and County Executive Molinaro:

I am writing as a taxpayer and voter residing in Dutchess County to call for the Legislature to drop its plans for a new jail. The jail would be the most expensive capital project the County has ever undertaken, costing more than all other county capital spending combined, with bond repayment extending into the 2040s. Post-Covid, the county's financial situation is dire—the fund balance is being quickly depleted, and unless direct federal aid arrives, the county will need to borrow later this year to cover basic operations. Layoffs and cuts to essential services seem inevitable.

This is the worst possible time to invest huge sums in a new jail and divert money from other urgent priorities. For example, we know overdose deaths are spiking sharply amid the Covid-19 pandemic, and that alcoholism and mental health needs are also on the rise. Yet, the current budget has reduced spending on these services, as well as on much-needed youth programs.

Moreover, the need for a new jail is no longer there. New York's bail and discovery reform laws have dramatically reduced pretrial incarceration and thus the jail population (around 130 now; two years ago, over 400). More people charged with misdemeanors are being diverted to community-based treatment for addiction and mental-health diagnoses. Other New York counties are making plans to convert jail cells into homeless shelters and expand alternatives to incarceration. Dutchess County should join their ranks and reimagine public safety.

For these reasons, we support the resolutions the Democratic caucus has submitted for consideration in July:

- Rescind the remaining portion of the legislature's 2017 bond appropriation for jail construction.
- Recommend a commission to research alternatives to construction of the proposed jail, including renovation of part of the current space, jail-sharing with other counties, or other possibilities.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Rubin
18 Eagle Lane
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Hussing, Laura

From: Debi Duke <debiduke22@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 8:21 AM
To: Morris, Carolyn
Cc: County Legislators; countyexec; Brennan Kearney
Subject: Public comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Legislators:

Dutchess County needs to reconsider whether this is the time to make a big investment in a new jail. Nationwide demands for racial justice challenge us to rethink our priorities; perhaps we should invest in youth programs, mental health, education, substance abuse treatment, urban parks and recreation, and other services that could reduce the need for law enforcement and incarceration. We also should take note of recent changes in New York's bail and discovery laws and the trend toward diverting individuals charged with misdemeanors to community programs. Together these have reduced pretrial incarceration and the overall jail population.

And, finally, during a pandemic with an undetermined end date, the county's financial situation is likely to be dire. With or without federal aid if the fund balance is being depleted the county may need to borrow later this year to cover basic operations. It seems like a terrible time to invest huge sums in a new jail, burden taxpayers, and divert money from other urgent needs. Preventing layoffs and cuts to services should be a much higher priority than a new jail.

Please rescind the remaining portion of the legislature's 2017 bond appropriation for jail construction, put the project on hold, and
research alternatives to construction of the proposed jail.

Thank you for your work.

Sincerely,

Debi Duke, Rhinebeck

Hussing, Laura

From: countyexec
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 10:56 AM
To: Eva Deitch; County Legislators; Morris, Carolyn
Subject: RE: Please vote NO to new jail and jail expansions.

Dear Eva,

Thank you for your email. Addressing the mental health and social problems that drive incarceration remains our priority. The County has heavily invested in access to mental health services with the building of the Stabilization Center, a 24/7 walk-in facility providing a single point of access where individuals can receive crisis counseling, mental health assessments, and peer advocacy. In addition to the Stabilization Center, the Department of Behavioral and Community Health operates other 24/7 crisis services including our call or text service HELPLINE and our Mobile Crisis Intervention Team, which can go directly into the community to aid individuals in crisis.

The County partners with local school districts to incorporate Second Step, a social-emotional learning program that focuses on empathy and communication skills, bullying prevention, problem-solving, and substance-abuse prevention – all of which are protective factors against future criminal justice system involvement. We have also dedicated resources to family stability by increasing family-based foster care placements, offering parent coaching, and providing home-visiting to high-risk families. A strong, stable, and reliable family structure supports positive social-emotional development and can reduce the likelihood of future incarceration.

Additionally, we remain committed to our Path to Promise initiative, which identifies the critical components, needed resources, and effective programs to start our children on a path to stability, security, and success. In 2019 the County began implementing the first set of initiatives, including a Foster Care Mentoring program and expanding youth employment programs beyond the summer. We have also supported the youth services through our Agency Partner Grant. Over the past eight years, over $7 million has been allocated to critical programs and services in our community through this program. Nearly 75 percent of the funding goes to youth programs – anti-bullying, workforce development, literacy, and more.

These are only some of the important initiatives, resources, and programs we have invested in to support young people and reduce the reliance on the criminal justice system. However, Section 217 of the New York State County Law still mandates that a county maintain a jail. Further, we believe that those who are incarcerated and those who provide services to this population deserve a modern facility designed for the purpose of rehabilitation, safety, and efficiency. The new Justice and Transition Center will provide:

- greater staffing efficiency and productivity, enhancing overall functionality and safety as well as providing cost savings;
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- the flexibility of design to accommodate the potential for fluctuating population size, with the potential to decommission areas or units, as needed, and the ability to repurpose designated areas for other uses (ex. transitional housing).

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Bail reform was signed into law in 2019 and went into effect on January 1, 2020. The legislation significantly impacted the size and composition of the population served within the Dutchess County Jail. Additionally, before the implementation of the 2019 criminal justice reform, Dutchess County had reduced our jail population by 30 percent over a five year period through initiatives designed to divert lower risk and/or mentally ill defendants from jail, including building our Stabilization Center; providing Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) to law enforcement; and utilizing a sophisticated array of evidenced-based pretrial diversion practices as alternatives to incarceration (ATIs). This work has become the model for many of the counties of which you write about. Given these factors, the design of the new Justice and Transition Center was reduced by over 200 beds.

We recognize the changing dimensions of our criminal justice system, but we continue to have not only a legal obligation, but a moral one as well, to provide a safe, efficient, and effective facility capable of housing incarcerated individuals and providing rehabilitative programming shown to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes. The Justice and Transition Center will meet these needs while also providing millions in annualized cost savings.

I appreciate your interest in this topic, and I hope I have addressed some, if not all, of your concerns.

Marcus J. Molinaro
Dutchess County Executive
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
845-486-2000 phone
845-486-2021 fax
Email: countyexec@dutchessny.gov

www.dutchessny.gov

-----Original Message-----
From: Eva Deitch <eva.deitch@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 8:21 AM
To: countyexec <countyexec@dutchessny.gov>; County Legislators <CountyLegislators@dutchessny.gov>; Morris, Carolyn <cmorris@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Please vote NO to new jail and jail expansions.

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County Legislators and County Executive Molinaro:

As a taxpayer and voter residing in Dutchess County. I find it saddening and out of touch that you consider moving forward with funding for a new jail or any expansions to jails here in Dutchess County. Now is the time to reimagine how we can use tax payers funds to directly elevate and support the community they reside. I ask you to think with your hearts and dream bigger and more positively for the communities you represent.

Respectfully submitted,

Eva Deitch

Hussing, Laura

From: countyexec
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 10:54 AM
To: Christian Stadler; County Legislators; Morris, Carolyn
Subject: RE: Stop the $200 Million Jail Now!

Dear Christian,

Thank you for your email. Addressing the mental health and social problems that drive incarceration remains our priority. The County has heavily invested in access to mental health services with the building of the Stabilization Center, a 24/7 walk-in facility providing a single point of access where individuals can receive crisis counseling, mental health assessments, and peer advocacy. In addition to the Stabilization Center, the Department of Behavioral and Community Health operates other 24/7 crisis services including our call or text service HELPLINE and our Mobile Crisis Intervention Team, which can go directly into the community to aid individuals in crisis.

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We recognize the changing dimensions of our criminal justice system, but we continue to have not only a legal obligation, but a moral one as well, to provide a safe, efficient, and effective facility capable of housing incarcerated individuals and providing rehabilitative programming shown to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes. The Justice and Transition Center will meet these needs while also providing millions in annualized cost savings.

I appreciate your interest in this topic, and I hope I have addressed some, if not all, of your concerns.

Marcus J. Molinaro
Dutchess County Executive
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
845-486-2000 phone
845-486-2021 fax
Email: countyexec@dutchessny.gov

www.dutchessny.gov

-----Original Message-----
From: Christian Stadler <cgstadler@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 8:52 AM
To: countyexec <countyexec@dutchessny.gov>; County Legislators <CountyLegislators@dutchessny.gov>; Morris, Carolyn <cmorris@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Stop the $200 Million Jail Now!

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County Legislators and County Executive Molinaro:

I am writing as a taxpayer and voter residing in Dutchess County to call for the Legislature to drop its plans for a new jail. The jail would be the most expensive capital project the County has ever undertaken, costing more than all other county capital spending combined, with bond repayment extending into the 2040s. Post-Covid, the county's financial situation is dire—the fund balance is being quickly depleted, and unless direct federal aid arrives, the county will need to borrow later this year to cover basic operations. Layoffs and cuts to essential services seem inevitable.

This is the worst possible time to invest huge sums in a new jail and divert money from other urgent priorities. For example, we know overdose deaths are spiking sharply amid the Covid-19 pandemic, and that alcoholism

and mental health needs are also on the rise. Yet, the current budget has reduced in spending on these services, as well as on much-needed youth programs.

Moreover, the need for a new jail is no longer there. New York's bail and discovery reform laws have dramatically reduced pretrial incarceration and thus the jail population (around 130 now; two years ago, over 400). More people charged with misdemeanors are being diverted to community-based treatment for addiction and mental-health diagnoses. Other New York counties are making plans to convert jail cells into homeless shelters and expand alternatives to incarceration. Dutchess County should join their ranks and reimagine public safety.

For these reasons, we support the resolutions the Democratic caucus has submitted for consideration in July:
* rescind the remaining portion of the legislature's 2017 bond appropriation for jail construction
* recommend a commission to research alternatives to construction of the proposed jail, including renovation of part of the current space, jail-sharing with other counties, or other possibilities.

Respectfully submitted,

Christian Stadler
Beacon NY

Sent from my iPhone

Hussing, Laura

From: ryan burk <jamburk@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 9:19 AM
To: countyexec; County Legislators; Morris, Carolyn
Subject: Stop this racist prison.

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County Legislators and County Executive Molinaro:

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Respectfully submitted,

Ryan Burk

Hussing, Laura

From: countyexec
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 10:53 AM
To: Christiana Prater-Lee; County Legislators; Morris, Carolyn
Subject: RE: Stop the $200 Million Jail Now!

Dear Christiana,

Thank you for your email. Addressing the mental health and social problems that drive incarceration remains our priority. The County has heavily invested in access to mental health services with the building of the Stabilization Center, a 24/7 walk-in facility providing a single point of access where individuals can receive crisis counseling, mental health assessments, and peer advocacy. In addition to the Stabilization Center, the Department of Behavioral and Community Health operates other 24/7 crisis services including our call or text service HELPLINE and our Mobile Crisis Intervention Team, which can go directly into the community to aid individuals in crisis.

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Additionally, we remain committed to our Path to Promise initiative, which identifies the critical components, needed resources, and effective programs to start our children on a path to stability, security, and success. In 2019 the County began implementing the first set of initiatives, including a Foster Care Mentoring program and expanding youth employment programs beyond the summer. We have also supported the youth services through our Agency Partner Grant. Over the past eight years, over $7 million has been allocated to critical programs and services in our community through this program. Nearly 75 percent of the funding goes to youth programs – anti-bullying, workforce development, literacy, and more.

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We recognize the changing dimensions of our criminal justice system, but we continue to have not only a legal obligation, but a moral one as well, to provide a safe, efficient, and effective facility capable of housing incarcerated individuals and providing rehabilitative programming shown to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes. The Justice and Transition Center will meet these needs while also providing millions in annualized cost savings.

I appreciate your interest in this topic, and I hope I have addressed some, if not all, of your concerns.

Marcus J. Molinaro
Dutchess County Executive
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
845-486-2000 phone
845-486-2021 fax
Email: countyexec@dutchessny.gov

www.dutchessny.gov

-----Original Message-----
From: Christiana Prater-Lee <chpraterlee@vassar.edu>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 9:24 AM
To: countyexec <countyexec@dutchessny.gov>; County Legislators <CountyLegislators@dutchessny.gov>; Morris, Carolyn <cmorris@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Stop the $200 Million Jail Now!

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County Legislators and County Executive Molinaro:

I am writing as a taxpayer and voter residing in Dutchess County to call for the Legislature to drop its plans for a new jail. The jail would be the most expensive capital project the County has ever undertaken, costing more than all other county capital spending combined, with bond repayment extending into the 2040s. Post-Covid, the county's financial situation is dire—the fund balance is being quickly depleted, and unless direct federal aid arrives, the county will need to borrow later this year to cover basic operations. Layoffs and cuts to essential services seem inevitable.

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Moreover, the need for a new jail is no longer there. New York's bail and discovery reform laws have dramatically reduced pretrial incarceration and thus the jail population (around 130 now; two years ago, over 400). More people charged with misdemeanors are being diverted to community-based treatment for addiction and mental-health diagnoses. Other New York counties are making plans to convert jail cells into homeless shelters and expand alternatives to incarceration. Dutchess County should join their ranks and reimagine public safety.

For these reasons, we support the resolutions the Democratic caucus has submitted for consideration in July:
* rescind the remaining portion of the legislature's 2017 bond appropriation for jail construction
* recommend a commission to research alternatives to construction of the proposed jail, including renovation of part of the current space, jail-sharing with other counties, or other possibilities.

Respectfully submitted,

Hussing, Laura

From: countyexec
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 10:52 AM
To: Lauren Donnelly; County Legislators; Morris, Carolyn
Subject: RE: No $200 Million Jail

Dear Lauren,

Thank you for your email.
Addressing the mental health and social problems that drive incarceration remains our priority. The County has heavily invested in access to mental health services with the building of the Stabilization Center, a 24/7 walk-in facility providing a single point of access where individuals can receive crisis counseling, mental health assessments, and peer advocacy. In addition to the Stabilization Center, the Department of Behavioral and Community Health operates other 24/7 crisis services including our call or text service HELPLINE and our Mobile Crisis Intervention Team, which can go directly into the community to aid individuals in crisis.
The County partners with local school districts to incorporate Second Step, a social-emotional learning program that focuses on empathy and communication skills, bullying prevention, problem-solving, and substance-abuse prevention – all of which are protective factors against future criminal justice system involvement. We have also dedicated resources to family stability by increasing family-based foster care placements, offering parent coaching, and providing home-visiting to high-risk families. A strong, stable, and reliable family structure supports positive social-emotional development and can reduce the likelihood of future incarceration.
Additionally, we remain committed to our Path to Promise initiative, which identifies the critical components, needed resources, and effective programs to start our children on a path to stability, security, and success. In 2019 the County began implementing the first set of initiatives, including a Foster Care Mentoring program and expanding youth employment programs beyond the summer. We have also supported the youth services through our Agency Partner Grant. Over the past eight years, over $7 million has been allocated to critical programs and services in our community through this program. Nearly 75 percent of the funding goes to youth programs – anti-bullying, workforce development, literacy, and more.
These are only some of the important initiatives, resources, and programs we have invested in to support young people and reduce the reliance on the criminal justice system. However, Section 217 of the New York State County Law still mandates that a county maintain a jail. Further, we believe that those who are incarcerated and those who provide services to this population deserve a modern facility designed for the purpose of rehabilitation, safety, and efficiency. The new Justice and Transition Center will provide:

- greater staffing efficiency and productivity, enhancing overall functionality and safety as well as providing cost savings;
- the opportunity to deliver more and better programming, in a light-filled and safe environment that is more conducive to positive behavioral change; and
- the flexibility of design to accommodate the potential for fluctuating population size, with the potential to decommission areas or units, as needed, and the ability to repurpose designated areas for other uses (ex. transitional housing).

These benefits have considerable positive financial impacts, resulting in annual operational savings of nearly $4.1 million. Cost-savings primarily come in the form of the reductions to required staff and increases in the inmate to correctional officer ratio resulting from efficient design elements on the planned facility. The capital costs are an investment in future annualized operational savings allowing us to save money and focus spending in other areas. Additionally, ending the Justice and Transition Center project would require significant investment in the current jail facility, specifically the 1995 and 1984 sections. Further, with $60 million already bonded for the project, over $3 million in debt service will still need to be paid annually.

Bail reform was signed into law in 2019 and went into effect on January 1, 2020. The legislation significantly impacted the size and composition of the population served within the Dutchess County Jail. Additionally, before the implementation of the 2019 criminal justice reform, Dutchess County had reduced our jail population by 30 percent over a five year period through initiatives designed to divert lower risk and/or mentally ill defendants from jail, including building our Stabilization Center; providing Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) to law enforcement; and utilizing a sophisticated array of evidenced-based pretrial diversion practices as alternatives to incarceration (ATIs). This work has become the model for many of the counties of which you write about. Given these factors, the design of the new Justice and Transition Center was reduced by over 200 beds.
We recognize the changing dimensions of our criminal justice system, but we continue to have not only a legal obligation, but a moral one as well, to provide a safe, efficient, and effective facility capable of housing incarcerated individuals and providing rehabilitative programming shown to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes. The Justice and Transition Center will meet these needs while also providing millions in annualized cost savings.
I appreciate your interest in this topic, and I hope I have addressed some, if not all, of your concerns.

Marcus J. Molinaro
Dutchess County Executive
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
845-486-2000 phone
845-486-2021 fax
Email: countyexec@dutchessny.gov

www.dutchessny.gov

From: Lauren Donnelly <L.E.Donnelly@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 9:55 AM
To: countyexec <countyexec@dutchessny.gov>; County Legislators <CountyLegislators@dutchessny.gov>; Morris, Carolyn <cmorris@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: No $200 Million Jail

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

To Dutchess County Legislators and County Executive Molinaro:

I am writing as a taxpayer and voter residing in Beacon to call for the Legislature to drop its plans for a new jail.

The jail would be the most expensive capital project the County has ever undertaken, costing more than all other county capital spending combined, with bond repayment extending into the 2040s. Post-Covid, the county's financial situation is dire—the fund balance is being quickly depleted, and unless direct federal aid arrives, the county will need to borrow later this year to cover basic operations. Layoffs and cuts to essential services seem inevitable. This is the worst possible time to invest huge sums in a new jail and divert money from other urgent priorities. For example, we know overdose deaths are spiking sharply amid the Covid-19 pandemic, and that alcoholism and mental health needs are also on the rise. Yet, the current budget has reduced in spending on these services, as well as on much-needed youth programs. Moreover, the need for a new jail is no longer there. New York's bail and discovery reform laws have dramatically reduced pretrial incarceration and thus the jail population (around 130 now; two years ago, over 400). More people charged with misdemeanors are being diverted to community-based treatment for addiction and mental-health diagnoses. Other New York counties are making plans to convert jail cells into homeless shelters and expand alternatives to incarceration. Dutchess County should join their ranks and reimagine public safety. For these reasons, we support the resolutions the Democratic caucus has submitted for consideration in July: * rescind the remaining portion of the legislature's 2017 bond appropriation for jail construction * recommend a commission to research alternatives to

construction of the proposed jail, including renovation of part of the current space, jail-sharing with other counties, or other possibilities. Respectfully submitted,
Lauren Donnelly

Hussing, Laura

From: countyexec
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 10:53 AM
To: Sara Alpert; County Legislators; Morris, Carolyn
Subject: RE: Stop the $200 Million Jail Now!

Dear Sara,

Thank you for your email. Addressing the mental health and social problems that drive incarceration remains our priority. The County has heavily invested in access to mental health services with the building of the Stabilization Center, a 24/7 walk-in facility providing a single point of access where individuals can receive crisis counseling, mental health assessments, and peer advocacy. In addition to the Stabilization Center, the Department of Behavioral and Community Health operates other 24/7 crisis services including our call or text service HELPLINE and our Mobile Crisis Intervention Team, which can go directly into the community to aid individuals in crisis.

The County partners with local school districts to incorporate Second Step, a social-emotional learning program that focuses on empathy and communication skills, bullying prevention, problem-solving, and substance-abuse prevention – all of which are protective factors against future criminal justice system involvement. We have also dedicated resources to family stability by increasing family-based foster care placements, offering parent coaching, and providing home-visiting to high-risk families. A strong, stable, and reliable family structure supports positive social-emotional development and can reduce the likelihood of future incarceration.

Additionally, we remain committed to our Path to Promise initiative, which identifies the critical components, needed resources, and effective programs to start our children on a path to stability, security, and success. In 2019 the County began implementing the first set of initiatives, including a Foster Care Mentoring program and expanding youth employment programs beyond the summer. We have also supported the youth services through our Agency Partner Grant. Over the past eight years, over $7 million has been allocated to critical programs and services in our community through this program. Nearly 75 percent of the funding goes to youth programs – anti-bullying, workforce development, literacy, and more.

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- the flexibility of design to accommodate the potential for fluctuating population size, with the potential to decommission areas or units, as needed, and the ability to repurpose designated areas for other uses (ex. transitional housing).

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implementation of the 2019 criminal justice reform, Dutchess County had reduced our jail population by 30 percent over a five year period through initiatives designed to divert lower risk and/or mentally ill defendants from jail, including building our Stabilization Center; providing Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) to law enforcement; and utilizing a sophisticated array of evidenced-based pretrial diversion practices as alternatives to incarceration (ATIs). This work has become the model for many of the counties of which you write about. Given these factors, the design of the new Justice and Transition Center was reduced by over 200 beds.
We recognize the changing dimensions of our criminal justice system, but we continue to have not only a legal obligation, but a moral one as well, to provide a safe, efficient, and effective facility capable of housing incarcerated individuals and providing rehabilitative programming shown to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes. The Justice and Transition Center will meet these needs while also providing millions in annualized cost savings.
I appreciate your interest in this topic, and I hope I have addressed some, if not all, of your concerns.

Marcus J. Molinaro
Dutchess County Executive
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
845-486-2000 phone
845-486-2021 fax
Email: countyexec@dutchessny.gov

www.dutchessny.gov

From: Sara Alpert <saraalpert2@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 10:09 AM
To: countyexec <countyexec@dutchessny.gov>; County Legislators <CountyLegislators@dutchessny.gov>; Morris, Carolyn <cmorris@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Stop the $200 Million Jail Now!

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County Legislators and County Executive Molinaro:

I am writing as a taxpayer and voter residing in Dutchess County to call for the Legislature to drop its plans for a new jail. The jail would be the most expensive capital project the County has ever undertaken, costing more than all other county capital spending combined, with bond repayment extending into the 2040s. Post-Covid, the county's financial situation is dire—the fund balance is being quickly depleted, and unless direct federal aid arrives, the county will need to borrow later this year to cover basic operations. Layoffs and cuts to essential services seem inevitable.

This is the worst possible time to invest huge sums in a new jail and divert money from other urgent priorities. For example, we know overdose deaths are spiking sharply amid the Covid-19 pandemic, and that alcoholism and mental health needs are also on the rise. Yet, the current budget has reduced in spending on these services, as well as on much-needed youth programs.

Moreover, the need for a new jail is no longer there. New York's bail and discovery reform laws have dramatically reduced pretrial incarceration and thus the jail population (around 130 now; two years ago, over 400). More people charged with misdemeanors are being diverted to community-based treatment for addiction and mental-health

diagnoses. Other New York counties are making plans to convert jail cells into homeless shelters and expand alternatives to incarceration. Dutchess County should join their ranks and reimagine public safety.

For these reasons, we support the resolutions the Democratic caucus has submitted for consideration in July:
* rescind the remaining portion of the legislature's 2017 bond appropriation for jail construction
* recommend a commission to research alternatives to construction of the proposed jail, including renovation of part of the current space, jail-sharing with other counties, or other possibilities.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Alpert
Beacon, NY

Hussing, Laura

From: Morris, Carolyn
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 10:56 AM
To: Wager, Leigh
Cc: Hussing, Laura
Subject: FW: support bill to stop new jail construction

Upload

Carolyn Morris
Clerk
Dutchess County Legislature
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, New York 12601
Tel: (845) 486-2100 • Fax: (845) 486-2113

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-----Original Message-----
From: david sampliner <vidnick@mac.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 11:04 PM
To: County Legislators <CountyLegislators@dutchessny.gov>
Cc: Morris, Carolyn <cmorris@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: support bill to stop new jail construction

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

To whom it may concern:

My name is David Sampliner, and I'm a citizen of Beacon. I am appalled that this county is planning to balloon its debt to build a new county jail in such a fiscally unstable time when other social priorities – the kind that would help keep people out of jail – are crying out for funding. This is the height of fiscal irresponsibility, and a dereliction of the county's duty to spend its taxpayers hard-earned money wisely, on initiatives that make our communities stronger.

I urge you to support the resolutions up for consideration to rescind the remainng portion of bond appropriation for the jail construction and to assign a commission to develop alteratives to building a new jail.

Sincerely,

David Sampliner
Beacon, NY

Hussing, Laura

From: Morris, Carolyn
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 12:31 PM
To: Hussing, Laura
Subject: FW: communication from Dutchess county resident

Carolyn Morris
Clerk
Dutchess County Legislature
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, New York 12601
Tel: (845) 486-2100 • Fax: (845) 486-2113

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From: Kim Rybacki <kim.rybacki@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 11:10 AM
To: countyexec <countyexec@dutchessny.gov>; County Legislators <CountyLegislators@dutchessny.gov>; Morris, Carolyn <cmorris@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: communication from Dutchess county resident

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County Legislators and County Executive Molinaro:

I am writing as a taxpayer and voter residing in Dutchess County, as well as an employee of Dutchess Community College, to call for the Legislature to drop its plans for a new jail. If the county is serious about fighting for racial justice and reforming its policies, this is a necessary action.

The jail would be the most expensive capital project the County has ever undertaken, costing more than all other county capital spending combined, with bond repayment extending into the 2040s.

Post-Covid, the county's financial situation is dire—the fund balance is being quickly depleted, and unless direct federal aid arrives, the county will need to borrow later this year to cover basic operations. Layoffs and cuts to essential services seem inevitable. As an educator, I am also concerned about the implications of cuts to education at every level in our county and state.

This is the worst possible time to invest huge sums in a new jail and divert money from other urgent priorities. For example, we know overdose deaths are spiking sharply amid the Covid-19 pandemic, and that alcoholism and mental health needs are also on the rise. Yet, the current budget has reduced in spending on these services, as well as on much-needed youth programs and education.

Moreover, the need for a new jail is no longer there. New York's bail and discovery reform laws have dramatically reduced pretrial incarceration and thus the jail population (around 130 now; two years ago, over 400). More people charged with misdemeanors are being diverted to community-based treatment for addiction and mental-health diagnoses. Other New York counties are making plans to convert jail cells into homeless shelters and expand alternatives to incarceration. Dutchess County should join their ranks and reimagine public safety.

For these reasons, we support the resolutions the Democratic caucus has submitted for consideration in July:
* rescind the remaining portion of the legislature's 2017 bond appropriation for jail construction
* recommend a commission to research alternatives to construction of the proposed jail, including renovation of part of the current space, jail-sharing with other counties, or other possibilities.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Rybacki

Hussing, Laura

From: jwbottom@aol.com
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 11:58 AM
To: countyexec; County Legislators; Morris, Carolyn
Subject: Important: County Jail project

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County Legislators and County Executive Molinaro:

I am writing as a Dutchess County taxpayer and voter to strongly urge the Legislature to drop its plans for a new jail. The jail would be the most expensive capital project the County has ever undertaken, costing more than all other county capital spending combined, with bond repayment extending into the 2040s. Post-Covid, the county's financial situation is dire—the fund balance is being quickly depleted, and unless direct federal aid arrives, the county will need to borrow later this year to cover basic operations. Layoffs and cuts to essential services seem inevitable.

This is the worst possible time to invest huge sums in a new jail and divert money from other urgent priorities. For example, we know overdose deaths are spiking sharply amid the Covid-19 pandemic, and that alcoholism and mental health needs are also on the rise. Yet, the current budget has reduced in spending on these services, as well as on much-needed youth programs.

Moreover, the need for a new jail is simply not there. New York's bail and discovery reform laws have dramatically reduced pretrial incarceration and thus the jail population (around 130 now; two years ago, over 400). More people charged with misdemeanors are being diverted to community-based treatment for addiction and mental-health diagnoses. Other New York counties are making plans to convert jail cells into homeless shelters and expand alternatives to incarceration. Dutchess County should join their ranks and reimagine public safety.

For these reasons, I support the resolutions the Democratic caucus has submitted for consideration in July and would like you to do the same:
* rescind the remaining portion of the legislature's 2017 bond appropriation for jail construction
* recommend a commission to research alternatives to construction of the proposed jail, including renovation of part of the current space, jail-sharing with other counties, or other possibilities.

Sincerely,
Julie Winterbottom

Hussing, Laura

From: Morris, Carolyn
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 1:37 PM
To: Wager, Leigh
Cc: Hussing, Laura
Subject: FW: Stop the $200 Million Jail Now!

Upload

Carolyn Morris
Clerk
Dutchess County Legislature
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, New York 12601
Tel: (845) 486-2100 • Fax: (845) 486-2113

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From: Jen Whitton <jenwhttn@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 11:16 AM
To: countyexec <countyexec@dutchessny.gov>
Cc: County Legislators <CountyLegislators@dutchessny.gov>; Morris, Carolyn <cmorris@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Re: Stop the $200 Million Jail Now!

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Honestly, you've only raised more questions.
I still oppose this costly and foolish expansion.

On Tue, Jul 7, 2020 at 10:49 AM countyexec <countyexec@dutchessny.gov> wrote:

> Dear Jen,
>
> Thank you for your email. Addressing the mental health and social problems that drive incarceration remains our

priority. The County has heavily invested in access to mental health services with the building of the Stabilization Center, a 24/7 walk-in facility providing a single point of access where individuals can receive crisis counseling, mental health assessments, and peer advocacy. In addition to the Stabilization Center, the Department of Behavioral and Community Health operates other 24/7 crisis services including our call or text service HELPLINE and our Mobile Crisis Intervention Team, which can go directly into the community to aid individuals in crisis.

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Additionally, we remain committed to our Path to Promise initiative, which identifies the critical components, needed resources, and effective programs to start our children on a path to stability, security, and success. In 2019 the County began implementing the first set of initiatives, including a Foster Care Mentoring program and expanding youth employment programs beyond the summer. We have also supported the youth services through our Agency Partner Grant. Over the past eight years, over $7 million has been allocated to critical programs and services in our community through this program. Nearly 75 percent of the funding goes to youth programs ? anti-bullying, workforce development, literacy, and more.

These are only some of the important initiatives, resources, and programs we have invested in to support young people and reduce the reliance on the criminal justice system. However, Section 217 of the New York State County Law still mandates that a county maintain a jail. Further, we believe that those who are incarcerated and those who provide services to this population deserve a modern facility designed for the purpose of rehabilitation, safety, and efficiency. The new Justice and Transition Center will provide:

? greater staffing efficiency and productivity, enhancing overall functionality and safety as well as providing cost savings;

? the opportunity to deliver more and better programming, in a light-filled and safe environment that is more conducive to positive behavioral change; and

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These benefits have considerable positive financial impacts, resulting in annual operational savings of nearly $4.1 million. Cost-savings primarily come in the form of the reductions to required staff and increases in the inmate to correctional officer ratio resulting from efficient design elements on the planned facility. The capital costs are an investment in future annualized operational savings allowing us to save money and focus spending in other areas. Additionally, ending the Justice and Transition Center project would require significant investment in the current jail facility, specifically the 1995 and 1984 sections. Further, with $60 million already bonded for the project, over $3 million in debt service will still need to be paid annually.

Bail reform was signed into law in 2019 and went into effect on January 1, 2020. The legislation significantly impacted the size and composition of the population served within the Dutchess County Jail. Additionally, before the implementation of the 2019 criminal justice reform, Dutchess County had reduced our jail population by 30 percent over a five year period through initiatives designed to divert lower risk and/or mentally ill defendants from jail, including building our Stabilization Center; providing Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) to law enforcement; and utilizing a sophisticated array of evidenced-based pretrial diversion practices as alternatives to incarceration (ATIs). This work has become the model for many of the counties of which you write about. Given these factors, the design of the new Justice and Transition Center was reduced by over 200 beds.

We recognize the changing dimensions of our criminal justice system, but we continue to have not only a legal obligation, but a moral one as well, to provide a safe, efficient, and effective facility capable of housing incarcerated individuals and providing rehabilitative programming shown to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes. The Justice and Transition Center will meet these needs while also providing millions in annualized cost savings.

I appreciate your interest in this topic, and I hope I have addressed some, if not all, of your concerns.

Marcus J. Molinaro
Dutchess County Executive
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
845-486-2000 phone
845-486-2021 fax
Email: countyexec@dutchessny.gov

www.dutchessny.gov

-----Original Message-----
From: Jen Whitton <jenwhttn@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 12:24 PM
To: countyexec <countyexec@dutchessny.gov>; County Legislators <CountyLegislators@dutchessny.gov>; Morris, Carolyn <cmorris@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Stop the $200 Million Jail Now!

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County Legislators and County Executive Molinaro:

Now is most certainly not the time to invest taxpayer dollars in the further decimation of minority communities here in New York State. Prioritize prevention, prioritize healing, prioritize positive growth; especially now while we are under siege from a pandemic and trying to reckon with the repercussions of upholding racist systems since before the founding of this country.

I am writing as a taxpayer and voter residing in Dutchess County to call for the Legislature to drop its plans for a new jail.

I support the resolutions the Democratic caucus has submitted for consideration in July:
* rescind the remaining portion of the legislature's 2017 bond appropriation for jail construction
* recommend a commission to research alternatives to construction of the proposed jail, including renovation of part of the current space, jail-sharing with other counties, or other possibilities.

Respectfully submitted,

Jen Whitton
845.750.3274

--
Jen Whitton

845.750.3274

Hussing, Laura

From: countyexec
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 4:45 PM
To: Abigail Taylor; County Legislators; Morris, Carolyn
Subject: RE: We Don't Need a $200 Million Jail!

Dear Abigail,

Thank you for your email. Addressing the mental health and social problems that drive incarceration remains our priority. The County has heavily invested in access to mental health services with the building of the Stabilization Center, a 24/7 walk-in facility providing a single point of access where individuals can receive crisis counseling, mental health assessments, and peer advocacy. In addition to the Stabilization Center, the Department of Behavioral and Community Health operates other 24/7 crisis services including our call or text service HELPLINE and our Mobile Crisis Intervention Team, which can go directly into the community to aid individuals in crisis.

The County partners with local school districts to incorporate Second Step, a social-emotional learning program that focuses on empathy and communication skills, bullying prevention, problem-solving, and substance-abuse prevention – all of which are protective factors against future criminal justice system involvement. We have also dedicated resources to family stability by increasing family-based foster care placements, offering parent coaching, and providing home-visiting to high-risk families. A strong, stable, and reliable family structure supports positive social-emotional development and can reduce the likelihood of future incarceration.

Additionally, we remain committed to our Path to Promise initiative, which identifies the critical components, needed resources, and effective programs to start our children on a path to stability, security, and success. In 2019 the County began implementing the first set of initiatives, including a Foster Care Mentoring program and expanding youth employment programs beyond the summer. We have also supported the youth services through our Agency Partner Grant. Over the past eight years, over $7 million has been allocated to critical programs and services in our community through this program. Nearly 75 percent of the funding goes to youth programs – anti-bullying, workforce development, literacy, and more.

These are only some of the important initiatives, resources, and programs we have invested in to support young people and reduce the reliance on the criminal justice system. However, Section 217 of the New York State County Law still mandates that a county maintain a jail. Further, we believe that those who are incarcerated and those who provide services to this population deserve a modern facility designed for the purpose of rehabilitation, safety, and efficiency. The new Justice and Transition Center will provide:

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We recognize the changing dimensions of our criminal justice system, but we continue to have not only a legal obligation, but a moral one as well, to provide a safe, efficient, and effective facility capable of housing incarcerated individuals and providing rehabilitative programming shown to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes. The Justice and Transition Center will meet these needs while also providing millions in annualized cost savings.

I appreciate your interest in this topic, and I hope I have addressed some, if not all, of your concerns.

Marcus J. Molinaro
Dutchess County Executive
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
845-486-2000 phone
845-486-2021 fax
Email: countyexec@dutchessny.gov

www.dutchessny.gov

-----Original Message-----
From: Abigail Taylor <roxygin@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 12:37 AM
To: countyexec <countyexec@dutchessny.gov>; County Legislators <CountyLegislators@dutchessny.gov>; Morris, Carolyn <cmorris@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: We Don’t Need a $200 Million Jail!

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County Legislators and County Executive Molinaro:

I am writing as a taxpayer and voter residing in Dutchess County to call for the Legislature to drop its plans for a new jail. The jail would be the most expensive capital project the County has ever undertaken, costing more than all other county capital spending combined, with bond repayment extending into the 2040s. Post-Covid, the county's financial situation is dire—the fund balance is being quickly depleted, and unless direct federal aid arrives, the county will need to borrow later this year to cover basic operations. Layoffs and cuts to essential services seem inevitable.

This is the worst possible time to invest huge sums in a new jail and divert money from other urgent priorities. For example, we know overdose deaths are spiking sharply amid the Covid-19 pandemic, and that alcoholism and mental health needs are also on the rise. Yet, the current budget has reduced in spending on these services, as well as on much-needed youth programs.

Moreover, the need for a new jail is no longer there. New York's bail and discovery reform laws have dramatically reduced pretrial incarceration and thus the jail population (around 130 now; two years ago, over 400). More people charged with misdemeanors are being diverted to community-based treatment for addiction and mental-health diagnoses. Other New York counties are making plans to convert jail cells into homeless shelters and expand alternatives to incarceration. Dutchess County should join their ranks and reimagine public safety.

For these reasons, we support the resolutions the Democratic caucus has submitted for consideration in July:
* rescind the remaining portion of the legislature's 2017 bond appropriation for jail construction
* recommend a commission to research alternatives to construction of the proposed jail, including renovation of part of the current space, jail-sharing with other counties, or other possibilities.

Respectfully submitted,
Abigail Taylor
Beacon Resident

Hussing, Laura

From: Morris, Carolyn
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 1:52 PM
To: Wager, Leigh
Cc: Hussing, Laura
Subject: FW: Public Comment

upload

Carolyn Morris
Clerk
Dutchess County Legislature
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, New York 12601
Tel: (845) 486-2100 • Fax: (845) 486-2113

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From: Simone Teague <simone.oziebel@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 1:00 PM
To: County Legislators <CountyLegislators@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

To the Legislators of Dutchess County,

My name is Simone Teague and I have lived in the city of Poughkeepsie for nearly my entire life. My parents owned a business in Poughkeepsie for a decade and my siblings and I attended the Poughkeepsie public schools. The proposal to build a new jail in Dutchess County deeply disturbs me. A jail will not uplift our community. A jail will not help stimulate the economy. A jail will do nothing but prolong the systematic suffering of Black and brown people. We need to pour money into our schools and community centers. We need more accessible mental health resources. We need to rehabilitate, rather than imprison, our community members who struggle with addiction because addiction is a disease.

I graduated from Poughkeepsie High School in 2016 and let me tell you that school is not set up to help kids succeed. The police presence, metal detectors, and overall attitude of the administration is unwelcoming and the lack of music and art programming is depressing. I've always excelled academically, but doing so in that environment was incredibly challenging. My friends and I grew up hanging out at the YMCA after school, but children today don't have that resource, or a comparable community center, and that's concerning. If you actually care about the betterment of Dutchess County, then you will NOT build another jail. If you truly are invested in the residents of Dutchess County then you will work to improve our quality of life. If you genuinely want to see Dutchess County flourish you will work to end, rather than perpetuate, the villainization of Black and brown people.

The Reagan rhetoric of law and order was designed to protect and uplift white Americans and white Americans alone. It's time to abandon old ideals. It's time for you all to wake up and realize that building another jail in Dutchess County is the wrong thing to do.

Sincerely,
Simone Teague

Hussing, Laura

From: countyexec
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 10:51 AM
To: Sofia Villalón; County Legislators; Morris, Carolyn
Subject: RE: Stop the $200 Million Jail Now!

Dear Sofia,

Thank you for your email. Addressing the mental health and social problems that drive incarceration remains our priority. The County has heavily invested in access to mental health services with the building of the Stabilization Center, a 24/7 walk-in facility providing a single point of access where individuals can receive crisis counseling, mental health assessments, and peer advocacy. In addition to the Stabilization Center, the Department of Behavioral and Community Health operates other 24/7 crisis services including our call or text service HELPLINE and our Mobile Crisis Intervention Team, which can go directly into the community to aid individuals in crisis.

The County partners with local school districts to incorporate Second Step, a social-emotional learning program that focuses on empathy and communication skills, bullying prevention, problem-solving, and substance-abuse prevention – all of which are protective factors against future criminal justice system involvement. We have also dedicated resources to family stability by increasing family-based foster care placements, offering parent coaching, and providing home-visiting to high-risk families. A strong, stable, and reliable family structure supports positive social-emotional development and can reduce the likelihood of future incarceration.

Additionally, we remain committed to our Path to Promise initiative, which identifies the critical components, needed resources, and effective programs to start our children on a path to stability, security, and success. In 2019 the County began implementing the first set of initiatives, including a Foster Care Mentoring program and expanding youth employment programs beyond the summer. We have also supported the youth services through our Agency Partner Grant. Over the past eight years, over $7 million has been allocated to critical programs and services in our community through this program. Nearly 75 percent of the funding goes to youth programs – anti-bullying, workforce development, literacy, and more.

These are only some of the important initiatives, resources, and programs we have invested in to support young people and reduce the reliance on the criminal justice system. However, Section 217 of the New York State County Law still mandates that a county maintain a jail. Further, we believe that those who are incarcerated and those who provide services to this population deserve a modern facility designed for the purpose of rehabilitation, safety, and efficiency. The new Justice and Transition Center will provide:

- greater staffing efficiency and productivity, enhancing overall functionality and safety as well as providing cost savings;
- the opportunity to deliver more and better programming, in a light-filled and safe environment that is more conducive to positive behavioral change; and
- the flexibility of design to accommodate the potential for fluctuating population size, with the potential to decommission areas or units, as needed, and the ability to repurpose designated areas for other uses (ex. transitional housing).

These benefits have considerable positive financial impacts, resulting in annual operational savings of nearly $4.1 million. Cost-savings primarily come in the form of the reductions to required staff and increases in the inmate to correctional officer ratio resulting from efficient design elements on the planned facility. The capital costs are an investment in future annualized operational savings allowing us to save money and focus spending in other areas. Additionally, ending the Justice and Transition Center project would require significant investment in the current jail facility, specifically the 1995 and 1984 sections. Further, with $60 million already bonded for the project, over $3 million in debt service will still need to be paid annually.

Bail reform was signed into law in 2019 and went into effect on January 1, 2020. The legislation significantly impacted the size and composition of the population served within the Dutchess County Jail. Additionally, before the implementation of the 2019 criminal justice reform, Dutchess County had reduced our jail population by 30 percent over a five year period through initiatives designed to divert lower risk and/or mentally ill defendants from jail, including building our Stabilization Center; providing Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) to law enforcement; and utilizing a sophisticated array of evidenced-based pretrial diversion practices as alternatives to incarceration (ATIs). This work has become the model for many of the counties of which you write about. Given these factors, the design of the new Justice and Transition Center was reduced by over 200 beds.

We recognize the changing dimensions of our criminal justice system, but we continue to have not only a legal obligation, but a moral one as well, to provide a safe, efficient, and effective facility capable of housing incarcerated individuals and providing rehabilitative programming shown to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes. The Justice and Transition Center will meet these needs while also providing millions in annualized cost savings.

I appreciate your interest in this topic, and I hope I have addressed some, if not all, of your concerns.

Marcus J. Molinaro
Dutchess County Executive
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
845-486-2000 phone
845-486-2021 fax
Email: countyexec@dutchessny.gov

www.dutchessny.gov

-----Original Message-----
From: Sofia Villalón <sof.villalon@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 1:02 PM
To: countyexec <countyexec@dutchessny.gov>; County Legislators <CountyLegislators@dutchessny.gov>; Morris, Carolyn <cmorris@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Stop the $200 Million Jail Now!

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County Legislators and County Executive Molinaro:

My name is Sofia Villalon. I have lived here my whole life and have seen this county grow in both beautiful and ugly ways. Beautiful in that we honor our agricultural stewards who are providing us with nutrition from the land we sleep on. But ugly because I think about already the plethora of jails/prisons/detention centers I can count on 2 hands. Today, I am writing as a taxpayer and voter residing in Dutchess County to call for the Legislature to drop its plans for a new jail. The jail would be the most expensive capital project the County has ever undertaken, costing more than all other county capital spending combined, with bond repayment extending into the 2040s. How does this makes sense as mists the chaos Covid has wrecked on our local economy. the county's financial situation is dire—the fund balance is being quickly depleted, and unless direct federal aid

arrives, the county will need to borrow later this year to cover basic operations. Layoffs and cuts to essential services seem inevitable.

This is the worst possible time to invest huge sums in a new jail and divert money from other urgent priorities. Invest in our SCHOOLS in our COMMUNITIES. Invest in our communities, period. Not for more detention centers. For example, we know overdose deaths are spiking sharply amid the Covid-19 pandemic, and that alcoholism and mental health needs are also on the rise. Yet, the current budget has reduced in spending on these services, as well as on much-needed youth programs.

Moreover, the need for a new jail is no longer there. New York's bail and discovery reform laws have dramatically reduced pretrial incarceration and thus the jail population (around 130 now; two years ago, over 400). More people charged with misdemeanors are being diverted to community-based treatment for addiction and mental-health diagnoses. Other New York counties are making plans to convert jail cells into homeless shelters and expand alternatives to incarceration. Dutchess County should join their ranks and reimagine public safety.

For these reasons, we support the resolutions the Democratic caucus has submitted for consideration in July:
* rescind the remaining portion of the legislature's 2017 bond appropriation for jail construction
* recommend a commission to research alternatives to construction of the proposed jail, including renovation of part of the current space, jail-sharing with other counties, or other possibilities.

Respectfully submitted,

-Sofia Villalón

Hussing, Laura

From: Morris, Carolyn on behalf of CountyLegislature
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 11:07 AM
To: Wager, Leigh
Cc: Hussing, Laura
Subject: FW: NO to the Dutchess County Jail Project

UPLOAD

Carolyn Morris
Clerk
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From: countyexec <countyexec@dutchessny.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 10:52 AM
To: Annie Brancky <abrancky@gmail.com>; CountyLegislature <CountyLegislature@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: RE: NO to the Dutchess County Jail Project

Dear Anne,

Thank you for your email. Addressing the mental health and social problems that drive incarceration remains our priority. The County has heavily invested in access to mental health services with the building of the Stabilization Center, a 24/7 walk-in facility providing a single point of access where individuals can receive crisis counseling, mental health assessments, and peer advocacy. In addition to the Stabilization Center, the Department of Behavioral and Community Health operates other 24/7 crisis services including our call or text service HELPLINE and our Mobile Crisis Intervention Team, which can go directly into the community to aid individuals in crisis.
The County partners with local school districts to incorporate Second Step, a social-emotional learning program that focuses on empathy and communication skills, bullying prevention, problem-solving, and substance-abuse prevention – all of which are protective factors against future criminal justice system involvement. We have also dedicated resources

to family stability by increasing family-based foster care placements, offering parent coaching, and providing home-visiting to high-risk families. A strong, stable, and reliable family structure supports positive social-emotional development and can reduce the likelihood of future incarceration.

Additionally, we remain committed to our Path to Promise initiative, which identifies the critical components, needed resources, and effective programs to start our children on a path to stability, security, and success. In 2019 the County began implementing the first set of initiatives, including a Foster Care Mentoring program and expanding youth employment programs beyond the summer. We have also supported the youth services through our Agency Partner Grant. Over the past eight years, over $7 million has been allocated to critical programs and services in our community through this program. Nearly 75 percent of the funding goes to youth programs – anti-bullying, workforce development, literacy, and more.

These are only some of the important initiatives, resources, and programs we have invested in to support young people and reduce the reliance on the criminal justice system. However, Section 217 of the New York State County Law still mandates that a county maintain a jail. Further, we believe that those who are incarcerated and those who provide services to this population deserve a modern facility designed for the purpose of rehabilitation, safety, and efficiency. The new Justice and Transition Center will provide:

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Bail reform was signed into law in 2019 and went into effect on January 1, 2020. The legislation significantly impacted the size and composition of the population served within the Dutchess County Jail. Additionally, before the implementation of the 2019 criminal justice reform, Dutchess County had reduced our jail population by 30 percent over a five year period through initiatives designed to divert lower risk and/or mentally ill defendants from jail, including building our Stabilization Center; providing Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) to law enforcement; and utilizing a sophisticated array of evidenced-based pretrial diversion practices as alternatives to incarceration (ATIs). This work has become the model for many of the counties of which you write about. Given these factors, the design of the new Justice and Transition Center was reduced by over 200 beds.

We recognize the changing dimensions of our criminal justice system, but we continue to have not only a legal obligation, but a moral one as well, to provide a safe, efficient, and effective facility capable of housing incarcerated individuals and providing rehabilitative programming shown to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes. The Justice and Transition Center will meet these needs while also providing millions in annualized cost savings.

I appreciate your interest in this topic, and I hope I have addressed some, if not all, of your concerns.

Marcus J. Molinaro
Dutchess County Executive
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
845-486-2000 phone
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Email: countyexec@dutchessny.gov

www.dutchessny.gov

From: Annie Brancky <abrancky@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 1:10 PM
To: countyexec <countyexec@dutchessny.gov>; CountyLegislature <CountyLegislature@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: NO to the Dutchess County Jail Project

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Mr. Molinaro and the Dutchess County Legislature,

I am writing to urge you to redirect funds allocated for a jail expansion project in Dutchess County. The very last thing we need in our county is another jail. I do not want my tax money funding imprisonment and exploitation. I do not believe in prisons, I do not believe in profiting off of incarceration, and I certainly do not believe in going into debt to incarcerate individuals.

This county needs to see investment in and commitment to the people who live here. Our libraries need to be brought up to date. We need sidewalks and trails to be able to safely access and enjoy the outdoors. We need a park district to energize and involve local kids and teens. We need investment in schools. We need mental health resources for residents.

We need spaces for people to grow and thrive. Not to be imprisoned.

We do not need another jail.

Thank you.

Anne Brancky

Hussing, Laura

From: Morris, Carolyn
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 2:00 PM
To: Wager, Leigh
Cc: Hussing, Laura
Subject: FW: Public Comment

upload

Carolyn Morris
Clerk
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From: Lauren Foster <l.w.foster18@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 2:00 PM
To: Morris, Carolyn <cmorris@dutchessny.gov>
Cc: County Legislators <CountyLegislators@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Hello,

I am a resident of Pawling, NY, and I am writing about the potential county jail expansion in Dutchess County. With the decrease in prison population over the last few years, this expansion does not seem to be a beneficial allocation of resources for the county. Rather, the county should consider investing more resources in health and mental health services, education, and youth programs, which should be priorities for spending.

Thank you.

Hussing, Laura

From: Morris, Carolyn
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 2:03 PM
To: Wager, Leigh
Cc: Hussing, Laura
Subject: FW: Public Comment

Upload

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Clerk
Dutchess County Legislature
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, New York 12601
Tel: (845) 486-2100 • Fax: (845) 486-2113

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From: Morris, Carolyn
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 2:03 PM
To: CountyLegislature <CountyLegislature@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Public Comment

Good afternoon:

Lisa Reticker called to oppose the expansion of the jail. She would prefer that the money be allocated for mental health.

Carolyn Morris
Clerk

Dutchess County Legislature
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, New York 12601
Tel: (845) 486-2100 • Fax: (845) 486-2113

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Hussing, Laura

From: Ruby Rodgers <cakeonthemoon@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 2:35 PM
To: countyexec; County Legislators; Morris, Carolyn
Subject: Stop the building of the new county jail

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

County Executive Molinaro and county legislators:

I am writing to call for the Legislature to drop its plans for a new multimillion dollar jail. The jail would be the singular most expensive capital project the County has undertaken, and would cost more than all other county capital spending COMBINED, with bond repayment extending well into the 2040s. After Covid, our financial situation is dire and our fund balance is being quickly depleted. Unless direct federal aid arrives, the county will need to borrow later this year to cover basic operations. Layoffs and cuts to essential services seem inevitable.

This is the worst possible time to invest huge sums in a new jail and divert money from other urgent priorities. For example, we know overdose deaths are spiking sharply amid the Covid-19 pandemic, and that alcoholism and mental health needs are also on the rise. Yet, the current budget has reduced in spending on these services, as well as on much-needed youth programs.

As a member of our country's youth, and a person who goes to school down the street from Beacon's county jail, I am appalled that we are planning to funnel millions of dollars into a new, and frankly unnecessary, jail when the education system is suffering so much. Coming out of Covid, the schools, the kids, and their families need so much support. Food insecurity, declining mental health, and difficult home situations need to be addressed. On top of that, the school system here is just getting back on its feet, and as someone who participates with it on a daily basis over the school year, I can tell you that I have very little confidence it will be able to bounce back in its current state. As the people with the power over money, and therefore the people it effects, I am asking that you use the power responsibly and help the people in your county that are hurting. Channel that money into education, channel that money into mental health, channel that money into youth programs, and stop the building of the jail.

Moreover, the need for a new jail is no longer there. New York's bail and discovery reform laws have dramatically reduced pretrial incarceration and thus the jail population (around 130 now; two years ago, over 400). More people charged with misdemeanors are being diverted to community-based treatment for addiction and mental-health diagnoses. Other New York counties are making plans to convert jail cells into homeless shelters and expand alternatives to incarceration. Dutchess County should join their ranks and reimagine public safety.

For these reasons, we support the resolutions the Democratic caucus has submitted for consideration in July:
* rescind the remaining portion of the legislature's 2017 bond appropriation for jail construction
* recommend a commission to research alternatives to construction of the proposed jail, including renovation of part of the current space, jail-sharing with other counties, or other possibilities.

Respectfully submitted,

Hussing, Laura

From: countyexec
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 10:30 AM
To: martoraj; County Legislators; Morris, Carolyn
Subject: RE: Stop the $200 Million Jail Now!

Dear Joan,

Thank you for your email. Addressing the mental health and social problems that drive incarceration remains our priority. The County has heavily invested in access to mental health services with the building of the Stabilization Center, a 24/7 walk-in facility providing a single point of access where individuals can receive crisis counseling, mental health assessments, and peer advocacy. In addition to the Stabilization Center, the Department of Behavioral and Community Health operates other 24/7 crisis services including our call or text service HELPLINE and our Mobile Crisis Intervention Team, which can go directly into the community to aid individuals in crisis.

The County partners with local school districts to incorporate Second Step, a social-emotional learning program that focuses on empathy and communication skills, bullying prevention, problem-solving, and substance-abuse prevention – all of which are protective factors against future criminal justice system involvement. We have also dedicated resources to family stability by increasing family-based foster care placements, offering parent coaching, and providing home-visiting to high-risk families. A strong, stable, and reliable family structure supports positive social-emotional development and can reduce the likelihood of future incarceration.

Additionally, we remain committed to our Path to Promise initiative, which identifies the critical components, needed resources, and effective programs to start our children on a path to stability, security, and success. In 2019 the County began implementing the first set of initiatives, including a Foster Care Mentoring program and expanding youth employment programs beyond the summer. We have also supported the youth services through our Agency Partner Grant. Over the past eight years, over $7 million has been allocated to critical programs and services in our community through this program. Nearly 75 percent of the funding goes to youth programs – anti-bullying, workforce development, literacy, and more.

These are only some of the important initiatives, resources, and programs we have invested in to support young people and reduce the reliance on the criminal justice system. However, Section 217 of the New York State County Law still mandates that a county maintain a jail. Further, we believe that those who are incarcerated and those who provide services to this population deserve a modern facility designed for the purpose of rehabilitation, safety, and efficiency. The new Justice and Transition Center will provide:

- greater staffing efficiency and productivity, enhancing overall functionality and safety as well as providing cost savings;
- the opportunity to deliver more and better programming, in a light-filled and safe environment that is more conducive to positive behavioral change; and
- the flexibility of design to accommodate the potential for fluctuating population size, with the potential to decommission areas or units, as needed, and the ability to repurpose designated areas for other uses (ex. transitional housing).

These benefits have considerable positive financial impacts, resulting in annual operational savings of nearly $4.1 million. Cost-savings primarily come in the form of the reductions to required staff and increases in the inmate to correctional officer ratio resulting from efficient design elements on the planned facility. The capital costs are an investment in future annualized operational savings allowing us to save money and focus spending in other areas. Additionally, ending the Justice and Transition Center project would require significant investment in the current jail facility, specifically the 1995 and 1984 sections. Further, with $60 million already bonded for the project, over $3 million in debt service will still need to be paid annually.

Bail reform was signed into law in 2019 and went into effect on January 1, 2020. The legislation significantly impacted the size and composition of the population served within the Dutchess County Jail. Additionally, before the

implementation of the 2019 criminal justice reform, Dutchess County had reduced our jail population by 30 percent over a five year period through initiatives designed to divert lower risk and/or mentally ill defendants from jail, including building our Stabilization Center; providing Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) to law enforcement; and utilizing a sophisticated array of evidenced-based pretrial diversion practices as alternatives to incarceration (ATIs). This work has become the model for many of the counties of which you write about. Given these factors, the design of the new Justice and Transition Center was reduced by over 200 beds.
We recognize the changing dimensions of our criminal justice system, but we continue to have not only a legal obligation, but a moral one as well, to provide a safe, efficient, and effective facility capable of housing incarcerated individuals and providing rehabilitative programming shown to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes. The Justice and Transition Center will meet these needs while also providing millions in annualized cost savings.
I appreciate your interest in this topic, and I hope I have addressed some, if not all, of your concerns.

Marcus J. Molinaro
Dutchess County Executive
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
845-486-2000 phone
845-486-2021 fax
Email: countyexec@dutchessny.gov

www.dutchessny.gov

From: martoraj <martoraj@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 2:57 PM
To: countyexec <countyexec@dutchessny.gov>; County Legislators <CountyLegislators@dutchessny.gov>; Morris, Carolyn <cmorris@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Stop the $200 Million Jail Now!

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

I am writing as a taxpayer and voter residing in Dutchess County to call for the Legislature to drop its plans for a new jail. The jail would be the most expensive capital project the County has ever undertaken, costing more than all other county capital spending combined, with bond repayment extending into the 2040s. Post-Covid, the county's financial situation is dire—the fund balance is being quickly depleted, and unless direct federal aid arrives, the county will need to borrow later this year to cover basic operations. Layoffs and cuts to essential services seem inevitable.

This is the worst possible time to invest huge sums in a new jail and divert money from other urgent priorities. For example, we know overdose deaths are spiking sharply amid the Covid-19 pandemic, and that alcoholism and mental health needs are also on the rise. Yet, the current budget has reduced in spending on these services, as well as on much-needed youth programs.

Moreover, the need for a new jail is no longer there. New York's bail and discovery reform laws have dramatically reduced pretrial incarceration and thus the jail population (around 130 now; two years ago, over 400). More people charged with misdemeanors are being diverted to community-based treatment for addiction and mental-health

diagnoses. Other New York counties are making plans to convert jail cells into homeless shelters and expand alternatives to incarceration. Dutchess County should join their ranks and reimagine public safety.

For these reasons, we support the resolutions the Democratic caucus has submitted for consideration in July:
* rescind the remaining portion of the legislature's 2017 bond appropriation for jail construction
* recommend a commission to research alternatives to construction of the proposed jail, including renovation of part of the current space, jail-sharing with other counties, or other possibilities.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Martorano
Beacon, NY

Hussing, Laura

From: countyexec
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 10:29 AM
To: Kara Dean-Assael; County Legislators; Morris, Carolyn
Subject: RE: Stop the $200 Million Jail Now!

Dear Kara,
Addressing the mental health and social problems that drive incarceration remains our priority. The County has heavily invested in access to mental health services with the building of the Stabilization Center, a 24/7 walk-in facility providing a single point of access where individuals can receive crisis counseling, mental health assessments, and peer advocacy. In addition to the Stabilization Center, the Department of Behavioral and Community Health operates other 24/7 crisis services including our call or text service HELPLINE and our Mobile Crisis Intervention Team, which can go directly into the community to aid individuals in crisis.
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Additionally, we remain committed to our Path to Promise initiative, which identifies the critical components, needed resources, and effective programs to start our children on a path to stability, security, and success. In 2019 the County began implementing the first set of initiatives, including a Foster Care Mentoring program and expanding youth employment programs beyond the summer. We have also supported the youth services through our Agency Partner Grant. Over the past eight years, over $7 million has been allocated to critical programs and services in our community through this program. Nearly 75 percent of the funding goes to youth programs – anti-bullying, workforce development, literacy, and more.
These are only some of the important initiatives, resources, and programs we have invested in to support young people and reduce the reliance on the criminal justice system. However, Section 217 of the New York State County Law still mandates that a county maintain a jail. Further, we believe that those who are incarcerated and those who provide services to this population deserve a modern facility designed for the purpose of rehabilitation, safety, and efficiency. The new Justice and Transition Center will provide:

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before the implementation of the 2019 criminal justice reform, Dutchess County had reduced our jail population by 30 percent over a five year period through initiatives designed to divert lower risk and/or mentally ill defendants from jail, including building our Stabilization Center; providing Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) to law enforcement; and utilizing a sophisticated array of evidenced-based pretrial diversion practices as alternatives to incarceration (ATIs). This work has become the model for many of the counties of which you write about. Given these factors, the design of the new Justice and Transition Center was reduced by over 200 beds.

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I appreciate your interest in this topic, and I hope I have addressed some, if not all, of your concerns.

Marcus J. Molinaro
Dutchess County Executive
22 Market Street
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845-486-2000 phone
845-486-2021 fax
Email: countyexec@dutchessny.gov

www.dutchessny.gov

-----Original Message-----
From: Kara Dean-Assael <kda260@nyu.edu>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 3:17 PM
To: countyexec <countyexec@dutchessny.gov>; County Legislators <CountyLegislators@dutchessny.gov>; Morris, Carolyn <cmorris@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Stop the $200 Million Jail Now!

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County Legislators and County Executive Molinaro:

I am writing as a taxpayer and voter residing in Dutchess County to call for the Legislature to drop its plans for a new jail. The jail would be the most expensive capital project the County has ever undertaken, costing more than all other county capital spending combined, with bond repayment extending into the 2040s. Post-Covid, the county's financial situation is dire—the fund balance is being quickly depleted, and unless direct federal aid arrives, the county will need to borrow later this year to cover basic operations. Layoffs and cuts to essential services seem inevitable.

This is the worst possible time to invest huge sums in a new jail and divert money from other urgent priorities. For example, we know overdose deaths are spiking sharply amid the Covid-19 pandemic, and that alcoholism

and mental health needs are also on the rise. Yet, the current budget has reduced in spending on these services, as well as on much-needed youth programs.

Moreover, the need for a new jail is no longer there. New York's bail and discovery reform laws have dramatically reduced pretrial incarceration and thus the jail population (around 130 now; two years ago, over 400). More people charged with misdemeanors are being diverted to community-based treatment for addiction and mental-health diagnoses. Other New York counties are making plans to convert jail cells into homeless shelters and expand alternatives to incarceration. Dutchess County should join their ranks and reimagine public safety.

For these reasons, we support the resolutions the Democratic caucus has submitted for consideration in July:
* rescind the remaining portion of the legislature's 2017 bond appropriation for jail construction
* recommend a commission to research alternatives to construction of the proposed jail, including renovation of part of the current space, jail-sharing with other counties, or other possibilities.

Respectfully submitted,

All my best,
Kara Marie Dean-Assael, DSW, LMSW
The McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy and Research Silver School of Social Work, New York University

Hussing, Laura

From: Morris, Carolyn on behalf of CountyLegislature
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 7:16 AM
To: Wager, Leigh
Cc: Hussing, Laura
Subject: FW: Public Comment

Upload, print

Carolyn Morris
Clerk
Dutchess County Legislature
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, New York 12601
Tel: (845) 486-2100 • Fax: (845) 486-2113

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From: Martin D Fowler <martindfowler@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 4:16 PM
To: CountyLegislature <CountyLegislature@dutchessny.gov>
Cc: Morris, Carolyn <cmorris@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comment. My name is Martin Fowler — I live in Beacon.

First off, the creation of a new jail in this County and community is unnecessary and unconscionable. That it was approved at all was inappropriate and an incredibly poor use of community tax dollars, to begin with. However, I understand it was approved at a different time and moment.

At this moment, we've got an awakening happening in this world, in this country, and in this community, and we've realized, among many racial issues affecting our community today, that extending carceral systems is not the way

forward. We've instituted statewide bail reform signaling as much. We should be reducing the prison population, not increasing it, and certainly not incentivizing its increase through new construction.

With the very high visibility of police brutality today, the lack of safety that incarcerated persons face in this COVID epidemic and otherwise, and the full weight of the phrase, "Black Lives Matter," striking a chord of understanding in the population like it never has before, this is a particularly tone-deaf time to voice support for something as blatantly anti-Black, anti-poor, and cruel as expanding the jail system.

As much as those elements concern me, I also cannot stress enough how ridiculous the idea is of spending *$132 million+ dollars* on something so blatantly unnecessary as this new jail, when the tax income of the County has been so heavily hit by COVID, and the County's ability to maintain even the most basic funding of actual County-wide necessities and priorities is already in jeopardy. That said, the money from this bond could go to far better use enriching the community and helping everyone live full, safe, and comfortable lives in this County — NOT by imprisoning more of this community.

I vehemently urge you to rescind this bond appropriation immediately.

Thank you again for your time.

Best,
Martin

415.497.9840
@martindfowler
martindfowler \\ dot \\ com

Hussing, Laura

From: Morris, Carolyn on behalf of CountyLegislature
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 7:15 AM
To: Wager, Leigh
Cc: Hussing, Laura
Subject: FW: Objection to the new jail to be built this September.

Upload, Leigh please print add to Laura's packet on her desk. 😊

Carolyn Morris
Clerk
Dutchess County Legislature
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, New York 12601
Tel: (845) 486-2100 • Fax: (845) 486-2113

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From: Nicole Brinkley <nebrinkley@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 4:23 PM
To: CountyLegislature <CountyLegislature@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Objection to the new jail to be built this September.

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To the Dutchess County Legislature,

My name is Nicole Brinkley and I am a life-long resident of Dutchess County. I am writing to object to the county's plans to build a new jail this September.

The plan for this jail would cost over $132 million dollars—an unprecedented expense for a capital project in our county in the best of times, nevermind during a *literal pandemic*. The expense of this project would throw Dutchess County into a deep debt for the next 2 decades, with the interest of

this debt accruing millions of dollars in additional cost during these next 2 decades. And for what? Jails doesn't fix most problems.

Education and better resources for our most vulnerable populations do.

These funds need to be reallocated to mental health, addiction, and education services, *and* to the aid of homeless members of our community. Our county's focus should not be on building a new jail and continuing to engage in a carceral system that stems directly from the historical enslavement of Black individuals, a system that perpetuates violence, dehumanization, and racism towards Black individuals and communities. (Communities currently disproportionately affected by COVID-19!)

I object to the construction of this jail for both economic *and* moral reasons. Any theoretical profit made by Dutchess County from the completion of this jail would be the county directly benefiting from institutional racism, carceral punishment, and the system of exploited labor of incarcerated individuals. Dutchess County is better than slave labor.

Questions to be considered before funding the jail, and to where this money would be better used, include:

- Why is homelessness increasing in Dutchess County? How are you going to decrease homelessness? (There was an 18% increase from 2018 to 2019.)
- How are you going to decrease addiction overdose related deaths in Dutchess County? (There have been 379 reported over the last 5 years.)
- Why has the county budget for health & mental health resources decreased over the past several years?
- Why has the county budget for youth programs decreased over the past several years?

I urge you to focus on these deeply human needs before putting our county in debt with the construction of this new jail.

Thank you for your time. I look forward to seeing you do the right thing in regards to funding this jail and supporting our communities.

Best,

Nicole
current resident of Rhinebeck, NY & life-long Dutchess County resident

Hussing, Laura

From: countyexec
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 10:24 AM
To: Caitlin Weiner; County Legislators; Morris, Carolyn
Subject: RE: Stop the $200 Million Jail Now!

Dear Caitlin,

Thank you for your email. Addressing the mental health and social problems that drive incarceration remains our priority. The County has heavily invested in access to mental health services with the building of the Stabilization Center, a 24/7 walk-in facility providing a single point of access where individuals can receive crisis counseling, mental health assessments, and peer advocacy. In addition to the Stabilization Center, the Department of Behavioral and Community Health operates other 24/7 crisis services including our call or text service HELPLINE and our Mobile Crisis Intervention Team, which can go directly into the community to aid individuals in crisis.

The County partners with local school districts to incorporate Second Step, a social-emotional learning program that focuses on empathy and communication skills, bullying prevention, problem-solving, and substance-abuse prevention – all of which are protective factors against future criminal justice system involvement. We have also dedicated resources to family stability by increasing family-based foster care placements, offering parent coaching, and providing home-visiting to high-risk families. A strong, stable, and reliable family structure supports positive social-emotional development and can reduce the likelihood of future incarceration.

Additionally, we remain committed to our Path to Promise initiative, which identifies the critical components, needed resources, and effective programs to start our children on a path to stability, security, and success. In 2019 the County began implementing the first set of initiatives, including a Foster Care Mentoring program and expanding youth employment programs beyond the summer. We have also supported the youth services through our Agency Partner Grant. Over the past eight years, over $7 million has been allocated to critical programs and services in our community through this program. Nearly 75 percent of the funding goes to youth programs – anti-bullying, workforce development, literacy, and more.

These are only some of the important initiatives, resources, and programs we have invested in to support young people and reduce the reliance on the criminal justice system. However, Section 217 of the New York State County Law still mandates that a county maintain a jail. Further, we believe that those who are incarcerated and those who provide services to this population deserve a modern facility designed for the purpose of rehabilitation, safety, and efficiency. The new Justice and Transition Center will provide:

- greater staffing efficiency and productivity, enhancing overall functionality and safety as well as providing cost savings;
- the opportunity to deliver more and better programming, in a light-filled and safe environment that is more conducive to positive behavioral change; and
- the flexibility of design to accommodate the potential for fluctuating population size, with the potential to decommission areas or units, as needed, and the ability to repurpose designated areas for other uses (ex. transitional housing).

These benefits have considerable positive financial impacts, resulting in annual operational savings of nearly $4.1 million. Cost-savings primarily come in the form of the reductions to required staff and increases in the inmate to correctional officer ratio resulting from efficient design elements on the planned facility. The capital costs are an investment in future annualized operational savings allowing us to save money and focus spending in other areas. Additionally, ending the Justice and Transition Center project would require significant investment in the current jail facility, specifically the 1995 and 1984 sections. Further, with $60 million already bonded for the project, over $3 million in debt service will still need to be paid annually.

Bail reform was signed into law in 2019 and went into effect on January 1, 2020. The legislation significantly impacted the size and composition of the population served within the Dutchess County Jail. Additionally, before the implementation of the 2019 criminal justice reform, Dutchess County had reduced our jail population by 30 percent over a five year period through initiatives designed to divert lower risk and/or mentally ill defendants from jail, including building our Stabilization Center; providing Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) to law enforcement; and utilizing a sophisticated array of evidenced-based pretrial diversion practices as alternatives to incarceration (ATIs). This work has become the model for many of the counties of which you write about. Given these factors, the design of the new Justice and Transition Center was reduced by over 200 beds.
We recognize the changing dimensions of our criminal justice system, but we continue to have not only a legal obligation, but a moral one as well, to provide a safe, efficient, and effective facility capable of housing incarcerated individuals and providing rehabilitative programming shown to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes. The Justice and Transition Center will meet these needs while also providing millions in annualized cost savings.
I appreciate your interest in this topic, and I hope I have addressed some, if not all, of your concerns.

Marcus J. Molinaro
Dutchess County Executive
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
845-486-2000 phone
845-486-2021 fax
Email: countyexec@dutchessny.gov

www.dutchessny.gov

-----Original Message-----
From: Caitlin Weiner <cweinerr@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 4:29 PM
To: countyexec <countyexec@dutchessny.gov>; County Legislators <CountyLegislators@dutchessny.gov>; Morris, Carolyn <cmorris@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Stop the $200 Million Jail Now!

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County Legislators and County Executive Molinaro:

I am writing as a taxpayer and voter residing in Dutchess County to call for the Legislature to drop its plans for a new jail. The jail would be the most expensive capital project the County has ever undertaken, costing more than all other county capital spending combined, with bond repayment extending into the 2040s. Post-Covid, the county's financial situation is dire—the fund balance is being quickly depleted, and unless direct federal aid arrives, the county will need to borrow later this year to cover basic operations. Layoffs and cuts to essential services seem inevitable.

This is the worst possible time to invest huge sums in a new jail and divert money from other urgent priorities. For example, we know overdose deaths are spiking sharply amid the Covid-19 pandemic, and that alcoholism and mental health needs are also on the rise. Yet, the current budget has reduced in spending on these services, as well as on much-needed youth programs.

Moreover, the need for a new jail is no longer there. New York's bail and discovery reform laws have dramatically reduced pretrial incarceration and thus the jail population (around 130 now; two years ago, over 400). More people charged with misdemeanors are being diverted to community-based treatment for addiction and mental-health diagnoses. Other New York counties are making plans to convert jail cells into homeless shelters and expand alternatives to incarceration. Dutchess County should join their ranks and reimagine public safety.

For these reasons, we support the resolutions the Democratic caucus has submitted for consideration in July:
* rescind the remaining portion of the legislature's 2017 bond appropriation for jail construction
* recommend a commission to research alternatives to construction of the proposed jail, including renovation of part of the current space, jail-sharing with other counties, or other possibilities.

Respectfully submitted,

Caitlin Weiner

Hussing, Laura

From: countyexec
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 10:22 AM
To: Eva Woods; Morris, Carolyn; County Legislators
Subject: RE: Stop the $200 Million Jail Now!

Dear Eva,

Thank you for your email. Addressing the mental health and social problems that drive incarceration remains our priority. The County has heavily invested in access to mental health services with the building of the Stabilization Center, a 24/7 walk-in facility providing a single point of access where individuals can receive crisis counseling, mental health assessments, and peer advocacy. In addition to the Stabilization Center, the Department of Behavioral and Community Health operates other 24/7 crisis services including our call or text service HELPLINE and our Mobile Crisis Intervention Team, which can go directly into the community to aid individuals in crisis.

The County partners with local school districts to incorporate Second Step, a social-emotional learning program that focuses on empathy and communication skills, bullying prevention, problem-solving, and substance-abuse prevention – all of which are protective factors against future criminal justice system involvement. We have also dedicated resources to family stability by increasing family-based foster care placements, offering parent coaching, and providing home-visiting to high-risk families. A strong, stable, and reliable family structure supports positive social-emotional development and can reduce the likelihood of future incarceration.

Additionally, we remain committed to our Path to Promise initiative, which identifies the critical components, needed resources, and effective programs to start our children on a path to stability, security, and success. In 2019 the County began implementing the first set of initiatives, including a Foster Care Mentoring program and expanding youth employment programs beyond the summer. We have also supported the youth services through our Agency Partner Grant. Over the past eight years, over $7 million has been allocated to critical programs and services in our community through this program. Nearly 75 percent of the funding goes to youth programs – anti-bullying, workforce development, literacy, and more.

These are only some of the important initiatives, resources, and programs we have invested in to support young people and reduce the reliance on the criminal justice system. However, Section 217 of the New York State County Law still mandates that a county maintain a jail. Further, we believe that those who are incarcerated and those who provide services to this population deserve a modern facility designed for the purpose of rehabilitation, safety, and efficiency. The new Justice and Transition Center will provide:

- greater staffing efficiency and productivity, enhancing overall functionality and safety as well as providing cost savings;
- the opportunity to deliver more and better programming, in a light-filled and safe environment that is more conducive to positive behavioral change; and
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These benefits have considerable positive financial impacts, resulting in annual operational savings of nearly $4.1 million. Cost-savings primarily come in the form of the reductions to required staff and increases in the inmate to correctional officer ratio resulting from efficient design elements on the planned facility. The capital costs are an investment in future annualized operational savings allowing us to save money and focus spending in other areas. Additionally, ending the Justice and Transition Center project would require significant investment in the current jail facility, specifically the 1995 and 1984 sections. Further, with $60 million already bonded for the project, over $3 million in debt service will still need to be paid annually.

Bail reform was signed into law in 2019 and went into effect on January 1, 2020. The legislation significantly impacted the size and composition of the population served within the Dutchess County Jail. Additionally, before the

implementation of the 2019 criminal justice reform, Dutchess County had reduced our jail population by 30 percent over a five year period through initiatives designed to divert lower risk and/or mentally ill defendants from jail, including building our Stabilization Center; providing Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) to law enforcement; and utilizing a sophisticated array of evidenced-based pretrial diversion practices as alternatives to incarceration (ATIs). This work has become the model for many of the counties of which you write about. Given these factors, the design of the new Justice and Transition Center was reduced by over 200 beds.
We recognize the changing dimensions of our criminal justice system, but we continue to have not only a legal obligation, but a moral one as well, to provide a safe, efficient, and effective facility capable of housing incarcerated individuals and providing rehabilitative programming shown to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes. The Justice and Transition Center will meet these needs while also providing millions in annualized cost savings.
I appreciate your interest in this topic, and I hope I have addressed some, if not all, of your concerns.

Marcus J. Molinaro
Dutchess County Executive
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
845-486-2000 phone
845-486-2021 fax
Email: countyexec@dutchessny.gov

www.dutchessny.gov

From: Eva Woods <evwoods@vassar.edu>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 4:44 PM
To: countyexec <countyexec@dutchessny.gov>; Morris, Carolyn <cmorris@dutchessny.gov>; County Legislators <CountyLegislators@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Stop the $200 Million Jail Now!

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

ators and County Executive Molinaro: I am writing as a taxpayer and voter residing in Dutchess County to call for the Legislature to drop its plans for a new jail. The jail would be the most expensive capital project the County has ever undertaken, costing more than all other county capital spending combined, with bond repayment extending into the 2040s. Post-Covid, the county's financial situation is dire—the fund balance is being quickly depleted, and unless direct federal aid arrives, the county will need to borrow later this year to cover basic operations. Layoffs and cuts to essential services seem inevitable. This is the worst possible time to invest huge sums in a new jail and divert money from other urgent priorities. For example, we know overdose deaths are spiking sharply amid the Covid-19 pandemic, and that alcoholism and mental health needs are also on the rise. Yet, the current budget has reduced in spending on these services, as well as on much-needed youth programs. Moreover, the need for a new jail is no longer there. New York's bail and discovery reform laws have dramatically reduced pretrial incarceration and thus the jail population (around 130 now; two years ago, over 400). More people charged with misdemeanors are being diverted to community-based treatment for addiction and mental-health diagnoses. Other New York counties are making plans to convert jail cells into homeless shelters and expand alternatives to incarceration. Dutchess County should join their ranks and reimagine public safety. For these reasons, we support the resolutions the Democratic caucus has submitted for consideration in July: * rescind the remaining portion of the legislature's 2017 bond appropriation for

jail construction * recommend a commission to research alternatives to construction of the proposed jail, including renovation of part of the current space, jail-sharing with other counties, or other possibilities. Respectfully submitted,

--

Eva Woods Peiró, Professor
Hispanic Studies
Chicago Hall 136 | 845-437-5620
Vassar College is located on Lenape land

Hussing, Laura

From: Lauren Giacalone <lgiaca7@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 4:55 PM
To: countyexec; County Legislators; Morris, Carolyn
Subject: Stop the $200 Million Jail Now!

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County Legislators and County Executive Molinaro:

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Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Giacalone

Hussing, Laura

From: countyexec
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 10:23 AM
To: Susan Walsh; County Legislators; Morris, Carolyn
Subject: RE: Stop the $200 Million Jail Now!

Dear Susan,

Thank you for your email. Addressing the mental health and social problems that drive incarceration remains our priority. The County has heavily invested in access to mental health services with the building of the Stabilization Center, a 24/7 walk-in facility providing a single point of access where individuals can receive crisis counseling, mental health assessments, and peer advocacy. In addition to the Stabilization Center, the Department of Behavioral and Community Health operates other 24/7 crisis services including our call or text service HELPLINE and our Mobile Crisis Intervention Team, which can go directly into the community to aid individuals in crisis.

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Marcus J. Molinaro
Dutchess County Executive
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
845-486-2000 phone
845-486-2021 fax
Email: countyexec@dutchessny.gov

www.dutchessny.gov

-----Original Message-----
From: Susan Walsh <susanwalsh7@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 6:05 PM
To: countyexec <countyexec@dutchessny.gov>; County Legislators <CountyLegislators@dutchessny.gov>; Morris, Carolyn <cmorris@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Stop the $200 Million Jail Now!

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Dear Dutchess County Legislators and County Executive Molinaro:

I am writing as a taxpayer and voter residing in Dutchess County to call for the Legislature to drop its plans for a new jail. The jail would be the most expensive capital project the County has ever undertaken, costing more than all other county capital spending combined, with bond repayment extending into the 2040s. Post-Covid, the county's financial situation is dire—the fund balance is being quickly depleted, and unless direct federal aid arrives, the county will need to borrow later this year to cover basic operations. Layoffs and cuts to essential services seem inevitable.

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and mental health needs are also on the rise. Yet, the current budget has reduced in spending on these services, as well as on much-needed youth programs.

Moreover, the need for a new jail is no longer there. New York's bail and discovery reform laws have dramatically reduced pretrial incarceration and thus the jail population (around 130 now; two years ago, over 400). More people charged with misdemeanors are being diverted to community-based treatment for addiction and mental-health diagnoses. Other New York counties are making plans to convert jail cells into homeless shelters and expand alternatives to incarceration. Dutchess County should join their ranks and reimagine public safety.

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* rescind the remaining portion of the legislature's 2017 bond appropriation for jail construction
* recommend a commission to research alternatives to construction of the proposed jail, including renovation of part of the current space, jail-sharing with other counties, or other possibilities.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Walsh

Hussing, Laura

From: Morris, Carolyn
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 10:57 AM
To: Wager, Leigh
Cc: Hussing, Laura
Subject: FW: Bond for New Dutchess County Jail

Carolyn Morris
Clerk
Dutchess County Legislature
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, New York 12601
Tel: (845) 486-2100 • Fax: (845) 486-2113

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From: Walter Brett <lawzil@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 6:58 PM
To: Morris, Carolyn <cmorris@dutchessny.gov>
Cc: Houston, Deirdre <dhouston@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Bond for New Dutchess County Jail

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Dear Ms. Morris,

I'm writing to you to ask you to forward my concerns about a new Dutchess County Jail to the legislators having responsibility for the jail bond issue.

The bond issue means that Dutchess County residents will be responsible for paying for this new jail. It seems like a lot of money. My question is: Can the current jail be renovated to the new NYS standards and also given the suspension of bail for for many misdemeanors, can the jail be scaled back further to house fewer inmates?

In any case, I urge the committee responsible for the jail bond to rescind that bond. In addition, I ask that legislators consider improvements to education, affordable housing, job training and treatment of drug addiction and mental health issues. These are all issues that can put a person in jeopardy of ending up in jail and with a mark against them (jail time) that can ruin their life for the rest of their days.

Thank you for hearing my concerns.

Sincerely,

Walter Brett
630 Smithfield Valley Road
Amenia, NY 12501

Hussing, Laura

From: Morris, Carolyn
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 10:57 AM
To: Wager, Leigh
Cc: Hussing, Laura
Subject: FW: Public Comment

Upload

Carolyn Morris
Clerk
Dutchess County Legislature
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Poughkeepsie, New York 12601
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From: Georgia Calvert <gcalvert@vassar.edu>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 7:32 PM
To: County Legislators <CountyLegislators@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

To whom it may concern,
I am a student at Vassar college and I have recently been informed that Dutchess County is in the midst of allocating $200 million to the funding of a new jail. This is absolutely heartbreaking news. I would never support such an obscene amount of money to go towards the funding of a jail, but at time like now, during the present political and social climate, not to mention the existence of a global pandemic that is hitting prisoners particularly hard, this move feels like an especially hard blow to the people of Dutchess County. Why can't we allocate those funds towards public health or education? Aren't those the things that make a community thrive? Not building more jails and searching the streets for reasons to lock more people away. Not to mention, the prison system is essentially a loophole to perpetuate slavery in a

modern day setting. Is that what we, in Dutchess County want to be bringing to our community and our people? I hope the answer is no, otherwise I fear for the safety and well-being of Dutchess County citizens.
I hope you reconsider what this action says and please put the people first. No more big money!
Georgia Calvert

Hussing, Laura

From: Fred Doneit <fwdoneit@optonline.net>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 8:38 PM
To: County Legislators
Cc: Morris, Carolyn
Subject: Public comment

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Dear Legislators:

I urge you to vote to rescind the remaining portion of the 2016 bond issue for the Justice and Transition Project, and to adopt the two resolutions put forth by the Democratic caucus.

With the changes that will emerge in our criminal justice system, their effect on policing and bail administration, it is imprudent to proceed with the new jail as originally planned. The proposed commission will instead review the priorities and programs that will best serve our community's needs, given the new financial realities we all face.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.
Sincerely,
Fred W. Doneit,
1st Ward, Town of Poughkeepsie

Hussing, Laura

From: david sampliner <vidnick@mac.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 10:50 PM
To: countyexec; County Legislators; Morris, Carolyn
Subject: Stop the $200 Million Jail Now!

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Dutchess County Legislators and County Executive Molinaro:

I am writing as a taxpayer and voter residing in Dutchess County to call for the Legislature to drop its plans for a new jail. The jail would be the most expensive capital project the County has ever undertaken, costing more than all other county capital spending combined, with bond repayment extending into the 2040s. Post-Covid, the county's financial situation is dire—the fund balance is being quickly depleted, and unless direct federal aid arrives, the county will need to borrow later this year to cover basic operations. Layoffs and cuts to essential services seem inevitable.

This is the worst possible time to invest huge sums in a new jail and divert money from other urgent priorities. For example, we know overdose deaths are spiking sharply amid the Covid-19 pandemic, and that alcoholism and mental health needs are also on the rise. Yet, the current budget has reduced in spending on these services, as well as on much-needed youth programs.

Moreover, the need for a new jail is no longer there. New York's bail and discovery reform laws have dramatically reduced pretrial incarceration and thus the jail population (around 130 now; two years ago, over 400). More people charged with misdemeanors are being diverted to community-based treatment for addiction and mental-health diagnoses. Other New York counties are making plans to convert jail cells into homeless shelters and expand alternatives to incarceration. Dutchess County should join their ranks and reimagine public safety.

For these reasons, we support the resolutions the Democratic caucus has submitted for consideration in July:
* rescind the remaining portion of the legislature's 2017 bond appropriation for jail construction
* recommend a commission to research alternatives to construction of the proposed jail, including renovation of part of the current space, jail-sharing with other counties, or other possibilities.

Respectfully submitted,

David Sampliner
Beacon, NY

Hussing, Laura

From: Morris, Carolyn
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 10:56 AM
To: Wager, Leigh
Cc: Hussing, Laura
Subject: FW: Public Comment

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From: Tessa Kirtzman <tkirtzman@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 8:48 AM
To: Morris, Carolyn <cmorris@dutchessny.gov>; County Legislators <CountyLegislators@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Public Comment

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Hello,

I am a college student here in Poughkeepsie and I am writing to urge you to reconsider the building of the new $200 million dollar jail. This money must be instead funneled into the communities most in need in Dutchess County. The budget for this jail is simply outrageous when considering that the spending on health and mental health has dropped $10.2 million dollars in the past 14 years. Dutchess County is in a budget crisis and building this jail will actively harm black and brown constituents.

Black and brown members of the community have given you a direct description of their needs, it is time to listen.

Thank you for your time,
Tessa Kirtzman

Hussing, Laura

From: Morris, Carolyn
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 11:10 AM
To: Wager, Leigh
Cc: Hussing, Laura
Subject: FW: Public Comment

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From: Hauser, Edward <ehauser@dutchessny.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 10:04 AM
To: Robby Phillips <robbyfp@gmail.com>; County Legislators <CountyLegislators@dutchessny.gov>
Cc: Morris, Carolyn <cmorris@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Re: Public Comment

Hello Robby,

Thank you for your email about the bond for new jail construction. One of the compelling reasons I ran for the legislature was the commitment Dutchess County has made to providing services to individuals experiencing crisis resulting from mental health or substance abuse issues that drive incarceration. I was particularly impressed by the

Stabilization Center, which I learned about from a Poughkeepsie police officer I met at a funeral in Pawling before I joined the legislature. He told me the police now have an option to bring distressed individuals to the Stabilization Center, where they will be helped by a professional staff rather than to the jail, which is not set up to provide mental health services. The following are some of the services Dutchess County is providing to address the mental health and social problems:

- Dutchess County Stabilization Center – a 24/7 walk-in facility providing a single point of access where individuals can receive crisis counseling, mental health assessments, and peer advocacy. The center partners with NAMI, Mid-Hudson Regional Hospital, Mid-Hudson Addiction Recovery Centers and the Aster Services for Children and Families.
- The Department of Behavioral and Community Health operates other 24/7 crisis services including the call or text service HELPLINE and a Mobile Crisis Intervention Team, which can go directly into the community to aid individuals in crisis.
- The County partners with local school districts to incorporate Second Step, a social-emotional learning program that focuses on empathy and communication skills, bullying prevention, problem-solving, and substance-abuse prevention – all of which are protective factors against future criminal justice system involvement.
- The County also provides dedicated resources for family stability by increasing family-based foster care placements, offering parent coaching, and providing home-visiting to high-risk families. A strong, stable, and reliable family structure supports positive social-emotional development and can reduce the likelihood of future incarceration.
- Additionally, the County remains committed to the Path to Promise initiative, which identifies the critical components, needed resources, and effective programs to start our children on a path to stability, security, and success. In 2019 the County began implementing the first set of initiatives, including a Foster Care Mentoring program and expanding youth employment programs beyond the summer. The County has also supported the youth services through the Agency Partner Grant. Over the past eight years, over $7 million has been allocated to critical programs and services in our community through this program. Nearly 75 percent of the funding goes to youth programs – anti-bullying, workforce development, literacy, and more.
- Dutchess County reduced its jail population by 30 percent over a five year period through initiatives designed to divert lower risk and/or mentally ill defendants from jail, including building the Stabilization Center; providing Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) to law enforcement; and utilizing a sophisticated array of evidence-based pretrial diversion practices as alternatives to incarceration (ATIs).

Then we get to the jail. Section 217 of the New York State County Law mandates that a county maintain a jail. However much we might wish to prevent crime and treat people with compassion, there will always be some people who must be incarcerated because they are a menace to others or are uncooperative with the court system. The jail we now have is a relic of a different era of jail design, rows of cage-like cells with terrible lighting. It is not pleasant for inmates or staff. The County has designed a new facility that is modern, safe, efficient, and focused on rehabilitation that will give the inmates a road back to being productive members of society.

The new jail, called the Justice and Transition Center, will provide:

- Greater staffing efficiency and productivity, enhancing overall functionality and safety as well as providing cost savings totaling $4.1 million annually.
- The opportunity to deliver more and better programming, in a light-filled and safe environment that is more conducive to positive behavioral change.

- The flexibility of design to accommodate the potential for fluctuating population size, with the potential to decommission areas or units, as needed, and the ability to repurpose designated areas for other uses (i.e. transitional housing).

Bail reform was signed into law in 2019 and went into effect on January 1, 2020. The legislation significantly impacted the size and composition of the population served within the Dutchess County Jail. This, along with County initiatives have allowed the size of the proposed jail to be reduced significantly. We recognize the changing dimensions of our criminal justice system, but we continue to have not only a legal obligation, but a moral one as well, to provide a safe, efficient, and effective facility capable of housing incarcerated individuals and providing rehabilitative programming shown to reduce recidivism.

Robby, I appreciate your interest in this topic and hope I have answered some of your concerns. It is heartening to see your compassionate interest and willingness to be involved in appropriate solutions.

Regards, Ed

Edward P. Hauser
Dutchess County Legislator
District 23 - Pawling/Beekman/East Fishkill
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
ehauser@dutchessny.gov

From: Robby Phillips <robbyfp@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 8:19 AM
To: County Legislators <CountyLegislators@dutchessny.gov>; Hauser, Edward <ehauser@dutchessny.gov>
Cc: Morris, Carolyn <cmorris@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Public Comment

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Hi,

I am a lifelong resident of Pawling, NY. I am deeply concerned by the proposed $200 million expenditure on jail expansion for Dutchess County. This would issue $132 Million in debt through 2040, and costs more than double the proposed spending on infrastructure, rail trails, and public transport—combined. Additionally, it is entirely unnecessary, and will do nothing to improve the safety and well-being of Dutchess County.

If you genuinely care about improving the safety and well-being of your constituents, at least

some of this massive pile of money would be going to more meaningfully improve our infrastructure, securing our elections, expanding clean and renewable energy access for the county, and improving our education systems, particularly by allocating more funds to Dutchess Community College. Improving our communities requires investing in them, not investing in ways to police and imprison them. Using our money to build more prison cells, while not striving to mitigate the climate crisis, meaningfully improve education or infrastructure, or provide assistance to our communities that are struggling during this public health and economic crisis, will only make our county less safe, resilient, and prosperous.

I urge you to please not use our money to build more prison cells.

Robby Phillips
Resident of Pawling, NY

Hussing, Laura

From: Morris, Carolyn
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 1:38 PM
To: Wager, Leigh
Cc: Hussing, Laura
Subject: FW: Public Comment

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From: Nerissa Tunnessen <ntunnessen@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 11:23 AM
To: County Legislators <CountyLegislators@dutchessny.gov>
Cc: Morris, Carolyn <cmorris@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Public Comment

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

I am writing today to address the building of a new Duchess County jail. I strongly believe that building this facility would be an absolute waste of money, energy, and important resources that should be directed into prevention and community projects aimed at lowering the rate of incarceration, thus making the "need" for a new prison obsolete. The $200 million project is the most expensive capital project the county has ever undertaken and in the next four years, the jail would cost more than all other county capital spending combined, and bond repayment would extend into the

2040s. Paying back the construction bond will cost county taxpayers almost $10 million per year for the foreseeable future. Additionally, it would issue around $132 million in debt from 2020-2040, almost triple what would be issued to highways and bridges ($45.7mil), and over 22 times rail-trails ($5.75mil) and public transport ($5.6 mil)each.

This is utterly IRRESPONSIBLE. The exorbitant cost, coupled with both the canceral nature of prisons and the decreasing jail population (while there were over 400 people being housed in the jail two years ago, the population is currently down to around 130. The 'downsized' new jail is being built to accommodate 328. We do not need more cells) makes this project one that lacks an address of the needs of citizens of Duchess County.

Money spent building this new prison would be much better spent on programs devoted to social welfare programs and other community projects with goals of keeping people out of prison. Prisons fail to address the root cause of crime: poverty, disparity, injustice, and a lack of community support. Incarceration of individuals does nothing to address the greater problems that cause crime, nor the blatant criminalization of poverty and blackness that exist in the country at large. The *least* that Duchess County can do is to direct funds away from building a new jail and towards building lasting community programs that address the root causes of crime and incarceration.

Best,
Nerissa Tunnessen

124 Raymond Ave
Poughkeepsie, NY 12604
(202) 441-7044
ntunnessen@gmail.com

Hussing, Laura

From: Morris, Carolyn
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 1:42 PM
To: Wager, Leigh
Cc: Hussing, Laura
Subject: FW: Public Comment on Jail Funding

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From: John Fallon <john.ddorje@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 12:20 PM
To: County Legislators <CountyLegislators@dutchessny.gov>
Cc: Morris, Carolyn <cmorris@dutchessny.gov>
Subject: Public Comment on Jail Funding

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Dear Dutchess County Legislators,

I am writing as a taxpayer and voter residing in Dutchess County to call for the Legislature to drop its plans for a new jail. The jail would be the most

expensive capital project the County has ever undertaken, costing more than all other county capital spending combined, with bond repayment extending into the 2040s. Because of COVID-19, the county's financial situation is dire—the fund balance is being quickly depleted, and unless direct federal aid arrives, the county will need to borrow later this year to cover basic operations. Layoffs and cuts to essential services seem inevitable.

This is the worst possible time to invest huge sums in a new jail and divert money from other urgent priorities. For example, we know overdose deaths are spiking sharply amid the COVID-19 pandemic, and that alcoholism and mental health needs are also on the rise. Yet the current budget has reduced spending on these services, as well as on much-needed youth programs.

Moreover, the need for a new jail is no longer there. New York's bail and discovery reform laws have dramatically reduced pretrial incarceration and thus the jail population (around 130 now; two years ago, over 400). More people charged with misdemeanors are being diverted to community-based treatment for addiction and mental-health diagnoses. Other New York counties are making plans to convert jail cells into homeless shelters and expand alternatives to incarceration. Dutchess County should join their ranks and reimagine public safety.

For these reasons, we support the resolutions the Democratic caucus has submitted for consideration in July:

• rescind the remaining portion of the legislature's 2017 bond appropriation for jail construction

• recommend a commission to research alternatives to construction of the proposed jail, including renovation of part of the current space, jail-sharing with other counties, or other possibilities.

Respectfully submitted,

John D. Fallon Jr.

Hussing, Laura

From: Wager, Leigh
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 12:49 PM
To: CountyLegislature
Subject: Public Comment

Good afternoon:

Jennifer Hand called to oppose the expansion of the jail.

Leigh Wager
Deputy Clerk
Dutchess County Legislature
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Hussing, Laura

From: Wager, Leigh
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 12:54 PM
To: CountyLegislature
Subject: Public Comment

Good afternoon:

Amy Glickman called to oppose the expansion of the jail.

Leigh Wager
Deputy Clerk
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