



For Immediate Release:
September 27, 2022

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JusticeLA Rally at Board of Supervisors Meeting to Oppose Jails First Care Last Motions

Los Angeles, CA —The JusticeLA Coalition is holding a rally and direct action **Today, September 27, 2022 at 9:00 AM outside of the LA County Board of Supervisors meeting.** The Board of Supervisors will be voting on a series of motions that directly impact the closure of Men's Central Jail and the County's Care First, Jails Last vision.

Supervisor Kathryn Barger's motion (Agenda Item 11) to establish a new mental health jail in Los Angeles will shatter any Care First, Jails Last reality for LA County. Supervisors Hahn and Solis' motion (Agenda Item 16) to invest in locked mental health beds overlooks the majority of incarcerated persons who would benefit more from open "step-down" community-based beds. Lastly, the Board will consider lifting the Probation Department's hiring freeze (Agenda Item 50) in a moment when the Department is under intense scrutiny for its treatment of young-people in LA County's juvenile facilities.

We are showing up outside the Board of Supervisors office to demand the Board vote NO on these three motions: vote no on the creation of a mental health jail, vote no on a motion that prioritizes locked mental health beds over community-based care and restoration, and vote no on lifting the Probation Department's hiring freeze.

- **What:** JusticeLA Rally at Board of Supervisors Meeting
- **Where:** Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration 500 W. Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012
- **When:** Tuesday, September 27th, 2022; 9:00 AM PST
- **Speakers available for comment beginning at 8:30 AM PST**
- **Visuals:** Around 100 community members in bright orange shirts with posters, JusticeLA banner, and megaphone outside of the Board of Supervisors meeting, many inside giving public comment

Speakers will include:

- **Healthcare Practitioners**
- **Directly Impacted and Formerly Incarcerated Individuals**
- **Legal Experts**

- **Frontline Wellness Network**
- **Dignity and Power Now**

“These proposals risk recreating the alarming overcrowding problems that we are currently seeing in the jails. It doesn't make sense to detach spaces for folks in crisis from "step-down" spaces - if there isn't an upstream community based intervention to prevent those crises in the first place. If there isn't anywhere to step-down from, folks are at high risk for being rearrested.”

- **Shamsher Samara, MD, Assistant Professor at UCLA, Jail Physician**

“In 2019, members of this Board listened to the will of the people and helped put in place a policy plan to expand diversion, healthcare, housing, and services. They then failed to scale, fund, and implement these plans, for reasons that have nothing to do with public safety and everything to do with politics.”

- **Mark-Anthony Clayton Johnson, Executive Director, Dignity & Power Now**

“Hilda Solis and Sheila Kuehl were once our champions. Their offices have continued to weaken their positions ever since. It’s disappointing, but more importantly the implications are deadly for the community. Their failures to support ODR expansion are one example. We know that they understand what needs to be done, but we don’t know why they continue to push for something different.”

- **Lex Stepling, Director of Campaigns and Policy, Dignity & Power Now**

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About the JusticeLA Coalition:

JusticeLA is a partnership of grassroots organizations, advocates, directly impacted communities, and stakeholders to reduce the footprint of incarceration by stopping jail expansion and reclaiming, reimagining and reinvesting dollars away from incarceration and into community-based systems of care.

About Dignity and Power Now:

Dignity and Power Now (DPN) is a Los Angeles based grassroots organization founded in 2012 that fights for the dignity and power of all incarcerated people, their families, and communities. Our mission is to build a Black and Brown led abolitionist movement rooted in community power towards the goal of achieving transformative justice and healing justice for all incarcerated people, their families, and communities.

About Frontline Wellness Network:

Frontline Wellness United is a California based network of health workers working to end the public health crisis of incarceration and criminalization. The network brings together students, clinicians, researchers, and organizers to achieve health and wellbeing of Black and Brown communities by replacing systems of punishment with systems of care.