

March 7, 2013

Honorable Lance Affrick  
(Clerk)  
Attn. Jones v. Gusman  
500 Poydras  
New Orleans, LA 70130

I am a resident of New Orleans, and am concerned about the horrible conditions in Orleans Parish Prison, including the people who have died there, the most recently just in the last couple weeks. The Sheriff and the Mayor continue to blame each other while neither take responsibility for the changes needed to ensure that the people of our city who are being housed in the jail aren't facing horribly threatening conditions. These people are our sisters, brothers, mothers, uncles, next-door neighbors, friends and co-workers. Judge, I respectfully ask you to please make the sheriff, the mayor, and the city government follow the law and enter into the Consent Decree.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Brown', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Daniel Brown  
1235 Carondelet St.  
New Orleans, LA 70130

Mr Daniel Brown  
1235 Carondelet St  
New Orleans LA 70130

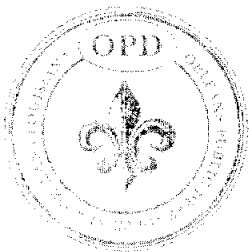


NEW ORLEANS LA 700  
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U.S. MARSHALS

HONORABLE LARRY AFFRICK  
(CLEAR)  
ATTN: JONES v. GUSMAN  
500 PUYONS ST.  
NOLA 70130



# ORLEANS PUBLIC DEFENDERS

2601 TULANE AVENUE – SUITE 700 • NEW ORLEANS, LA 70119  
TELEPHONE: (504) 821-8101 • FAX: (504) 821-5285 • WWW.OPDLA.ORG

March 8, 2013

Honorable Lance M. Africk  
Attn: Clerk, *Jones v. Gusman*  
U.S. Eastern District Court, Section I  
500 Poydras Street, Room C405  
New Orleans, LA 70130

Dear Judge Africk:

For too long the Orleans Parish Prison system (OPP) has been a blight on our criminal justice system. As public defenders, we know first-hand the conditions of the jail and we hear concerns and fear from our clients on a daily basis.

Those held in custody at OPP are subjected to inhumane and unsanitary conditions, lack access to adequate medical and mental health care, fear violence and sexual abuse and often face inadequate access to legal representation. Indeed, the Orleans Public Defenders Office (OPD) sued the jail to achieve constitutional access to our clients. Too many times our clients accept plea agreements simply to escape the horrific conditions of OPP.

Especially vulnerable are teenagers held in the adult facility – living in constant fear of violent attacks and sexual abuse. OPP does not have enough staff to protect the safety and welfare of those working in the prison and detainees. Violence within the jail breaks out on a regular basis. Our clients consistently complain of how their medical treatment requests are denied – even denied access to pre-existing prescribed medications. Our attorneys and client advocates fight on a daily basis to protect the rights, health and safety of our clients in jail. But we can only do so much.

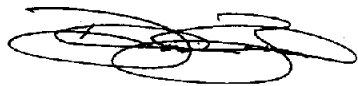
The recent death of Ricky Russell is just the latest example, another on a growing list of detainee suicides often related to OPP's inability to handle acute mental health patients. To be sure, prison should not be the stand-in for suitable and effective mental health care. At the same time, OPP has to be better prepared to attend to the needs of people in their care with acute mental health needs.

This is a time of both challenge and opportunity, requiring both innovation and courage. We can maintain the status quo or we can take the time now to do better – to address the concerns head-on and create a more effective, humane and constitutional jail here in Orleans Parish. New Orleans does not need a larger jail; we need an improved, better system of jail – a right-sized jail that is part of an effective criminal justice system which respects the constitution and doesn't put prison workers and detainees at risk.

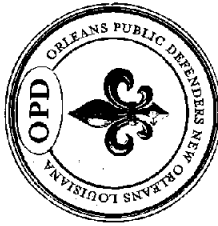
ORLEANS PUBLIC DEFENDERS

Our criminal justice system deserves better. Those men and women in OPP – detainees and staff – deserve better. New Orleans deserves better if we ever hope to have a fair and just system. We urge you to compel the Sheriff to comply with the consent decree.

Sincerely,

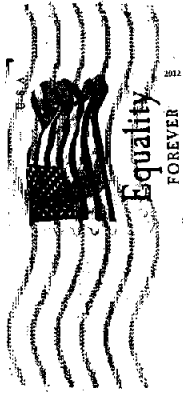
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Derwyn Bunton", with several overlapping loops and a horizontal line across the middle.

Derwyn Bunton  
Chief District Defender  
Orleans Parish



**ORLEANS PUBLIC DEFENDERS**

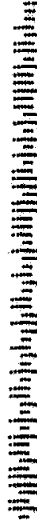
2601 TULANE AVENUE , SUITE 700  
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70119



**U.S. MARSHALS**

Honorable Lance M. Africk  
Attn: Clerk, *Jones v. Gusman*  
U.S. Eastern District Court, Section I  
500 Poydras Street, Room C405  
New Orleans, LA 70130

70130331703





March 8, 2013

Honorable Lance Africk  
(Clerk)  
Attn. Jones vs. Gusman  
500 Poydras St.  
New Orleans, LA 70130

Dear Judge Africk:

Hope House is a neighborhood center located near River Garden, a mixed income public housing development in New Orleans. We work primarily with very low income people, many of whom have spent time in Orleans Parish Prison or have relatives there. Two of our staff members also have children or relatives there. We hear a lot of very sad stories about the jail. Some related to issues covered in the consent decree; others not addressed by it. It has been going on for a long, long time.

No one, not even the homeless folk who come to our free coffee house, have anything good to say about conditions there. Physically, they agree that it is poorly kept, sometimes dangerously so. A staff member related that her son was electrocuted – a loose wire - while taking a shower; he didn't die, but the electric shock stunned him badly. Tables in one of the tiers are described as falling apart, the table tops cracked and crumbling. Cleanliness is not practiced by staff or inmates. No one seems accountable.

Violence is a common theme when neighbors speak about the jail. One mother told us that her son told guards that he was suicidal in order to get away from fellow prisoners who were constantly threatening him. Fighting is common, and people report that guards often ignore it, or, worse, cheer it on.

Several people have talked about not being able to get their medications in jail. One gentleman told us that he never received medication for a psychiatric condition during his four month stay at OPP. A neighbor, who bonded out last week after seven months, also stated that she was not able to get her medications. The jail holds many people with significant emotional/mental issues. It isn't up to the taks of responding to their needs. Many people leave worse than when they arrived.

The disrespect and insecurity that many people experience during their time in parish prison is perhaps the worst thing of all. It damages those who are incarcerated. And they bring that further negativity out with them when they return to society. We all suffer as a result.

Clearly, the consent decree needs to move forward. We urge you to act clearly and decisively in the best interests of the people who are and will be incarcerated at Orleans Parish Prison. Having a safe, secure and humane jail is vital to the city and its residents. While many will only look at the short term, added costs and political uncertainty, the long term good demands that we "fix" the jail. Don't let us avoid doing what is right and just. Hold our feet to the fire.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Don Everard".

Don Everard  
Director, Hope House

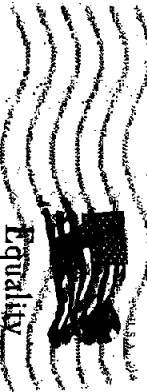


HOPE HOUSE

916 St. Andrew Street  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130-5060

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FOREVER

U.S. MARSHALS

Honorable Lance Africk  
(cc:enr)

Att. Jones vs. Guesman

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New Orleans, LA 70130



March 8, 2013

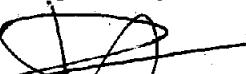
Honorable Lance Affrick  
(Clerk)  
Attn. Jones v. Gusman  
500 Poydras  
New Orleans, LA 70130

Dear Judge Affrick,

I write as a concerned resident of New Orleans to encourage you to make the sheriff, the mayor and the city government uphold the law and by entering into the Consent Decree. Recent declarations of unconstitutional actions within the New Orleans Police force and jails make evident that city authorities are incapable of upholding the constitution and civil rights of citizens without being held accountable to external forces. As an educator, I am especially concerned by the ways that taxpayers are forced to pay for an practices of incarceration that are not only inhumane but responsible for the deaths and violation of our neighbors, student's parents, and other residents of our city while stripping resources from infrastructures like education and employment opportunities that focus on developing dignity and future social opportunities for local people. Our criminal justice system must also be reformed to this end. The city of New Orleans is in urgent need of a more humane approach to crime and punishment that will make it possible for violators of the law to serve fair sentences without undue risks of death or to prospects of reintegrating into social life, families and communities after sentences have been served.

Rather than address recent deaths in the Orleans Parish Prison, the Mayor and Sheriff have entered into a blame game of finger pointing that does not address the harsh and threatening conditions of the actual jail. People who are held behind bars at OPP, are not nameless faces, they are our sisters, brothers, mothers, fathers, students, uncles, neighbors and friends. When such a large contingency of our community is incarcerated under conditions that do not honor the humanity of our citizens, we teach our children to fear the future, to distrust governance and that their options in this city are shadowed by a threat that any person who, either by rightful arrest and sentencing or merely suspicion, who becomes entangled in our city jails faces a risk of social and physical annihilation. This is not a shadow that our students can afford to live under. It is not a fear that they should have for their parents. And, it is not an example of a just democracy that will encourage them to invest in the improvement of our city. I urge you to implement and enforce the consent decree so that we can mitigate some of the current harm that the OPP causes to incarcerated people---and by extension to their family and friends. I believe that this is a necessary approach for immediately implementing oversight of the state authorized violence that is pervasive in the jails that will buy us time as citizens to pass legislation and elect new officials to focus on reforming the New Orleans criminal justice system with more sustainable constitutional solutions for addressing infractions of our laws.

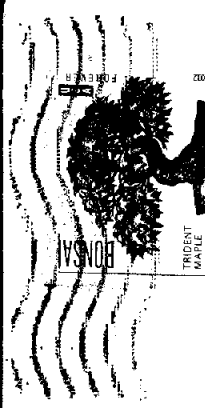
Respectfully,



Dr. Heidi Hoechst

NEW ORLEANS LA 700

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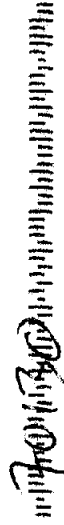
U.S. MARSHALS

Honorable Lance Affrik  
(Clerk)

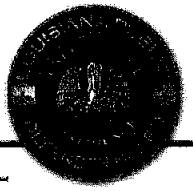
Attn. Jones v. Gusman

500 Poydras

New Orleans LA



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EQUAL JUSTICE FOR ALL

March 7, 2013

Honorable Lance M. Africk  
Attn: Clerk, *Jones v. Gusman*  
U.S. Eastern District Court, Section I  
500 Poydras Street, Room C405  
New Orleans, LA 70130

Dear Judge Africk:

As you preside over the consent decree agreement between the Orleans Parish Prison and the United States Department of Justice, the Board and staff of LPDB write to encourage you to consider the needs of public defenders, their access to appointed clients and the conditions under which their clients are detained while they await their day in court.

Orleans Parish Prison houses pre-trial indigent detainees who are represented by the Orleans Public Defenders, as well as the 34<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Public Defenders' Office (St. Bernard Parish) and the 25<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Public Defenders' Office (Plaquemines Parish). For the staff in each of these offices to deliver quality public defense services, they must be provided access to their clients as well as appropriate and confidential meeting space in which to conduct their investigation and develop attorney-client relationships. Unmet or aggravated medical needs, mental health issues, language barriers, and/or gender insensitivities create additional challenges for lawyers obligated to provide effective assistance of counsel.

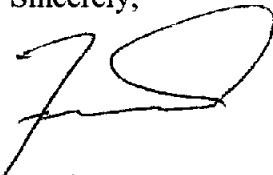
Particularly for defendants prosecuted in Orleans Parish – many of whom are charged with low-level offenses - excessive workloads create systemic backlogs that cause defendants to languish in jail for far longer than would seem reasonable. Prisoners in Orleans Parish Prison must be housed in safe conditions, particularly when so many face nominal charges for minor crimes, and re-enter the community relatively quickly. Through violence or neglect, inhumane prison conditions threaten the ability of all stakeholders – including judges and prosecutors – to serve the cause of justice.

LPDB and its district public defender offices strive to provide high quality legal advocacy to eligible clients as guaranteed by the state and U.S. Constitutions. All of the clients that we serve are poor; as a result, many are in delicate health, suffer from mental illness (and/or have related substance abuse issues), display limited intellectual capacity, and have inconsistent support systems to address the conditions of their detention – they are precisely the people harmed most by unacceptable prison conditions. Additionally, public defender clients who have English-language deficiencies, identify as LGBTQ, young people, and those who have complications related to their legal residency status almost always suffer more intensely under prison conditions than the general population and need special accommodation.

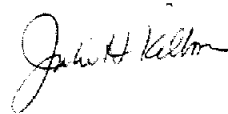
Page 2  
Africk, Hon. Lance. M.  
March 7, 2013

We are committed to fulfilling our role as part of the effective and efficient administration of justice by providing the meaningful right to counsel, and urge that any consent decree between Orleans Parish Prison and the Department of Justice consider prison conditions in light of meaningful public defense service delivery. It is imperative to the public safety and general welfare of every member in the community that detainees in Orleans Parish Prison are treated with humanity and under conditions that make it possible for our justice system to serve the poor, protect the innocent, keep us safe and spend money wisely.

Sincerely,



Frank X. Neuner, Jr.  
Chairman



Julie H. Kilborn  
Interim State Public Defender

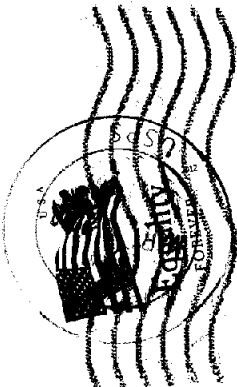
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**LOUISIANA PUBLIC DEFENDER BOARD**

500 Laurel Street, Suite 300  
Baton Rouge, LA 70801

BATON ROUGE LA 707

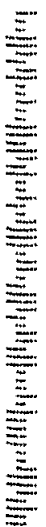
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**U.S. MARSHALS**

Hon. Lance M. Africk  
Judge, U. S. District Court  
Eastern District of Louisiana  
500 Poydras Street, Room C405  
New Orleans, LA 70130

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March 7, 2013

Honorable Lance Affrick  
(Clerk)  
Attn. Jones v. Gusman  
500 Poydras  
New Orleans, LA 70130

Dear Honorable Judge Affrick,

The Orleans Parish Prison is a glaring example of the crisis that New Orleans is facing when it comes to criminal justice in this city. We have a police force that has been declared unconstitutional in its conduct towards citizens and a jail where conditions of incarceration have been declared the unconstitutional, yet the police are still allowed to arrest and the jail still allowed to imprison. Why are people's civil rights allowed to be violated?

To make matters worse the Sheriff and the Mayor would rather shirk their responsibilities and point fingers than do something about this huge issue which is draining the City of 60% of our financial resources. These systems are destroying the social fabric of New Orleans and are not protecting and serving anybody. Even though the NOPD and OPP have both been under consent decrees before which causes the question how effective are they to be raised, they are run by out of control attack dogs that need to be muzzled. So please implement and enforce the consent decree so that there is the possibility of relief from all the pressure that these dysfunctional institutions cause the communities of this City.

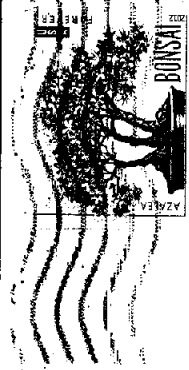
As an abolitionist I know that policing, surveillance and caging people do not make communities safe. We must move beyond the idea that we can legislate or incarcerate our way out of the social diseases which plague the world. We need to address systemic racism and oppressive hierarchies and supremacies which have caused a distortion of our values and perverted our nature. The consent decree isn't nearly enough to transform the ways we relate to one another and our planet but it is a step in mitigating some of the harm that these criminogenic institutions are causing our people.

Gahiji Barrow

Critical Resistance New Orleans

*Ganff*  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO  
DEPARTMENT OF LITERATURE  
9300 GILMAN DRIVE, MC 0410  
LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA 92037-0410

NEW ORLEANS LA 700



U.S. MARSHALS

Honorable Lance Affick

(Clerk)

Attn. James V. Gutzman

500 Poydras

New Orleans, LA 

217 S. Olympia St.  
New Orleans, LA 70119

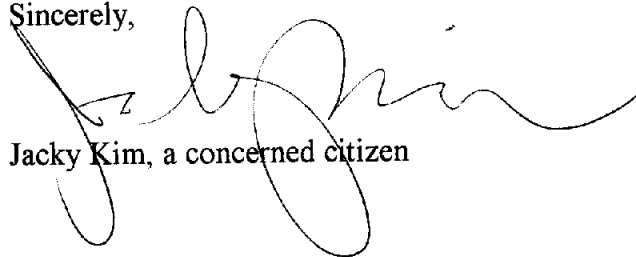
**March 7, 2013**

The Honorable Lance Affrick  
(Clerk)  
Attn: Jones v. Gusman  
500 Poydras  
New Orleans, LA 70130

Dear Judge Affrick,

I am a resident of New Orleans, and am concerned about the horrible conditions in Orleans Parish Prison, including the people who have died there, the most recently just in the last couple weeks. The Sheriff and the Mayor continue to blame each other while refusing to take responsibility for the changes needed to ensure that the people of our city who are being housed in the jail aren't facing horribly threatening conditions. These people are our sisters, brothers, mothers, uncles, next-door neighbors, friends and co-workers. Judge, I respectfully ask you to please make the sheriff, the mayor, and the city government officials follow the law and enter into the Consent Decree.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jacky Kim". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Jacky Kim, a concerned citizen



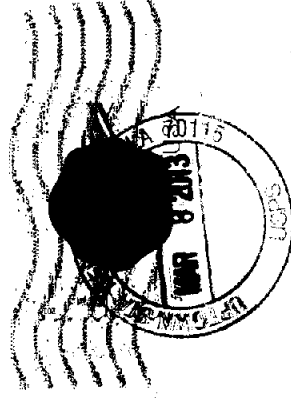
Judith Kurn

217 S. Olympic St.

New Orleans, LA 70119

NEW ORLEANS LA 700

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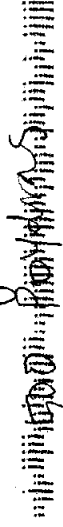


U.S. MARSHALS

The Honorable Lance Afflick

(Clemf)

Attn: Jones V. Gusman



New Orleans, LA 70130

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---

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*"Building Strong,  
Inclusive Communities"*

---

**Attn. Jones v. Gusman  
500 Poydras St.  
New Orleans, LA 70130**

**March 7, 2013**

**Honorable Lance Affrick:**

**Puentes New Orleans is a Latino community development organization that aims to support the inclusion of Latinos in public, political and socio-economic life. Puentes implements programs to provide better education for young Latinos, encourages participation of Latino families in decision making processes that impact us, and advocates across ethnic lines for equitable distribution of resources, opportunity, and justice. Puentes has been concerned about conditions in Orleans Parish Prison since the Department of Justice first published its report in 2009 and is a member of Orleans Parish Prison Reform Coalition (OPPRC), as well as the Louisiana Language Access Coalition (LLAC).**

**It is not surprising that the human rights of Latinos are not respected in OPP since it is well known that the human rights of all groups are routinely violated there. This letter, however, will confine discussion to the specific wrongs experienced by Limited English Proficient and Latino residents since Puentes was able to incorporate additional comments into the letter sent by OPPRC.**

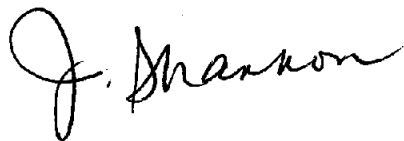
**Limited English Proficient community members held in OPP often have no idea what is happening to them. Linguistically isolated, they do not receive basic communication, oral or written, that would enable them to understand protocols and procedures, much less convey their needs regarding illness or other grievances. Inability to communicate with sick or abused inmates could ultimately cost them their lives. Accordingly, Puentes strongly supports the Language Assistance Provisions outlined in pages 34-37 of the Consent Decree.**

Additional issues faced by the Latino community stem from the collusion of ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) and the Sherriff within the jail. ICE officers inside the jail are known to racially profile Hispanics, targeting them for transfer to ICE custody based on their outward appearance. The Sheriff, in turn, agrees to submit to a voluntary hold, even in the case of minor infractions and despite the national priorities articulated by ICE. Once a hold is in place, the individual in question is likely to languish in OPP for one of two reasons: (1) The Sheriff has no regular procedure for tracking individuals to ensure that holds do not exceed the lawful 48 hour period. (2) Once a hold is placed, the bond industry is unwilling to offer bond. In some cases, the Sheriff has held individuals for months on an ICE hold, even after criminal charges were dropped.

At a minimum, the Consent Decree's provisions on the documenting, processing, and tracking of ICE holds must be adopted, including family and attorney notification. However, given that the presence of ICE in the jail works to undermine public safety by making undocumented and mixed status families fearful of reporting crime, Puentes would strongly advise the Sheriff to revise his policy on ICE holds.

Given the rising Latino population of New Orleans, as well as its long-standing Vietnamese community, it is vital that the Consent Decree take into account the specific needs of these populations. We thank the Department of Justice and the Southern Poverty Law Center, as well as the voices of community members who have helped to shed light on the dehumanizing and unconstitutional conditions in OPP, and respectfully request that the Consent Decree be implemented with all due haste.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Shannon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jordan Shannon  
Puentes New Orleans

Puentes New Orleans  
1050 S Jeff Davis Pk  
Suite 321  
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70125



NEW ORLEANS LA 700

08 MAR 2013 PM 1 L

Attn. Jones v. Gusman  
500 Poydras Street  
New Orleans, LA 70130



March 6, 2013

Honorable Lance Affrick  
(Clerk)  
Attn. Jones V. Gusman  
500 Poydras Ave.  
New Orleans, LA 70130

To whom it concerns:

I have served at the Orleans Public Defenders office on two occasions, as a student intern and, currently as an AmeriCorps legal assistant.

I have spoken with numerous inmates awaiting trial at OPP. They all tell me the similar things – that there's violence condoned by the deputies and the strongest gangs in the prison. These are people with no incentive to lie – they are merely trying to survive in OPP by keeping their heads down. That kind of "survival" – that kind of perpetual fear is unacceptable. People awaiting trial should never be treated like that. It is our fundamental right to be treated as innocent until proven guilty; it should not be, "Innocent until probable cause is found".

No person should be treated like an animal. Our deputies should not live in fear nor be allowed to pit inmates against each other. Our trans- community members and friends should not live in fear nor be harassed and assaulted. No person should be treated like I know they are being treated in OPP. There has been enough deaths; there have been enough assaults.

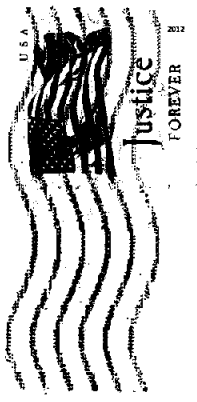
Please, for the sake of New Orleans and the people that comprise this amazing city, make the sheriff and the city comply with the consent decree. Please do everything you can to improve the conditions of the jail. Please allow the community to provide input and monitoring throughout the consent decree process as there was in the NOPD consent decree. It's the right thing for us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Diemer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kim Diemer  
2423B Soniat St.  
New Orleans, LA 70115  
Kim.diemer@gmail.com

Kim Diemer  
2423B Santa St  
New Orleans, LA 70115



NEW ORLEANS LA 700

08 MAR 2013 PM 4 L

Clerk, Attn. James v. Gusman  
500 Poydras  
New Orleans, LA 70130

**MARY E. HOWELL**

*Attorney at Law*

*Mailing Address*

P.O. Box 19043  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70179

*Physical Address*

316 South Dorgenois Street  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70119  
Telephone: (504) 822-4455  
FAX: (504) 822-4458

March 11, 2013

Judge Lance M. Africk  
U.S. District Court  
Eastern District of Louisiana  
500 Poydras Street, Room C405  
New Orleans, LA 70130

**Corrected Copy**

Re: Jones v. Gusman, et al  
USDC # 12-859  
Public Comment

Dear Judge Africk,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed consent decree between the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office (OPSO) and the City of New Orleans regarding the Orleans Parish Prison (OPP). I understand that the issue before the Court is whether the proposed consent decree is fair, adequate and reasonable.

I am writing in support of the proposed consent decree. It is my understanding that the consent decree identifies a number of significant areas to be addressed in order to bring the jail's operations into compliance with the U.S. Constitution, and that the intent is to work out many of the specific details through the drafting, adoption and implementation of new policies and procedures under the supervision of the Court and a court-appointed monitor. I believe the fact that SPLC is an integral and active party, indeed the initiator of this lawsuit, and is deeply involved in all aspects of it, provides assurance that the interests of the plaintiff class and indeed the larger community, will be vigilantly protected, along with the support and involvement of the U.S. Department of Justice.

I also understand that the question of whether the conditions in the jail fail to meet constitutional standards has been raised by the City of New Orleans as a contested matter. I find it unfortunate that the City has taken this position. I don't believe there can be any real doubt that the conditions at the jail do not meet minimal constitutional standards and that immediate and thorough-going court intervention and oversight are essential if those standards are to be met.

I am a plaintiff's civil rights attorney, in private practice in New Orleans since 1977. I have been involved with various reform efforts regarding conditions at OPP for years. I have also represented the families of a number of individuals who have died terrible deaths at the jail or

been subjected to serious mistreatment and/or denial of adequate medical care.<sup>1</sup> I try to pay attention to news reports and court filings about the jail, especially regarding deaths of persons in custody of the Sheriff's office. I frequently speak with other attorneys who represent plaintiffs in these cases and have some familiarity with incidents other than those with which I am direct counsel.

Throughout the years, it has become apparent that it is extremely difficult to bring about substantial, meaningful reform of policies and practices at the Orleans Parish jail through individual lawsuits, where there are no viable injunctive remedies available. I believe that not only is the consent decree warranted by the unconstitutional conditions which currently exist, but that the consent decree offers the only real opportunity available to seriously address and hopefully change, in a profound way, an institution that at this point is deeply compromised and requires a substantial overhaul in terms of policies, practices, training and personnel.

Speaking here only of the deaths, I find it disheartening and frustrating that the deaths continue to occur at the jail despite the number of lawsuits that have been filed. The deaths that I know about in any detail, are horrible. And so far, there seems to be no end to them. A brief account of some of these cases gives an idea of the kinds of incidents we have faced for years at the jail, both under the prior administration of former Sheriff Charles C. Foti and current Sheriff Marlin Gusman.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>*Keiwine Warren, Jr. v. Foti, et al*, No. 99-1420, USDC, E.D.La., *Wilson v. Foti, et al*, No. 02-2244, USDC, E.D.La., *Bonnette v. Hunter, et al*, No.05-1201, USDC, E.D.La., *Jones v. Hunter, et al*, No. 05-2470, USDC, E.D.La., *Miceli v. Gusman, et al*, No. 09-8078, Sec. A, USDC, (pending) E.D.La., *Nagle v. Gusman, et al*, No. 12-1910, Sec. R, USDC, E.D.La. (pending). I have also been involved in other cases regarding the jail. I was class co-counsel for plaintiffs in *Cazenave v. Foti, et al* No.00-1246, Sec. A, USDC, E.D.La., which successfully challenged illegal strip and visual body cavity searches at the jail of persons arrested on minor charges. This lawsuit resulted in changes in policy and operations at the jail, as well as payment of damages to class members, attorneys fees and costs. I am also currently co-counsel in *PLN v. Gusman, et al*, No.11-2277, Sec. A, USDC, E.D.La. which successfully challenged unconstitutional policies of the Orleans Parish Sheriff's office regarding prisoners' access to publications, resulting in changes in policy and operations at the jail and damages. Plaintiffs' application for fees and costs in that case is pending.

<sup>2</sup> When Sheriff Gusman took office he basically inherited the jail staff that had been in place under former Sheriff Foti for years. Sheriff Foti had been in office approximately 30 years. When Foti became Attorney General, there was a brief period when Bill Hunter, Foti's former Chief Deputy, was Acting Sheriff. When Sheriff Gusman was elected, Bill Hunter remained working at the jail. With some exceptions, there has been quite a bit of continuity of personnel, in particular in the medical and psychiatric department, as well as with top wardens and administrators, and some line deputies and supervisors, who are hold-overs from the previous administrations.



I mention a few of the older cases, as they illustrate a very painful, but pertinent point about the Orleans Parish jail as an institution. Many of the problems at the jail are long-standing and sometimes seem almost impervious to change. I believe that many of these problems flow from a pervasive institutional or "corporate" culture at the jail which has long resisted transparency, accountability and oversight. Part of the problem lies in the Louisiana laws and cases which have given such enormous power and discretion to Sheriffs, with very little oversight. This is not a healthy dynamic under any circumstance, but in particular in these days where citizens justifiably demand accountability and transparency of their elected officials, the lack of such in the operations of the Orleans Parish jail has, I believe, helped to create a deeply dysfunctional system.

In addition, for many years at the Orleans Parish jail, there has been a tolerance for an unacceptable level of violence, as well as a lack of professional competence, and uncaring and unresponsive attitudes towards the suffering of others, in particular in the medical and mental health areas. These attitudes and behaviors, which have also become a part of the culture of the institution, have contributed significantly to the crisis we find ourselves in today. A number of important reforms were instituted and carried out under the aegis of the lengthy federal court oversight in the *Hamilton v. Morial, et al* (originally *Hamilton v. Schiro*) case, Docket No. 69-2443, Sec. A, USDC, E.D.La. Unfortunately, after that case wound down relative to any meaningful oversight regarding prisoners' conditions, there seemed to be a resurgence of bad incidents.

The last few years in particular, when there has been no federal court oversight, have been terrible, with the near-constant reports of stabbings, sexual assaults, inadequate medical and mental health care, and deaths.

A brief account of just a few of the deaths and serious incidents which have occurred at the jail in recent years, of which I am aware, helps to illustrate these points:

- \* Keiwine Warren was 22 years old, the father of a young son. On July 30, 1998 he pled guilty to one count of simple possession of marijuana and was placed on probation. He tested positive on a drug test and was remanded for a probation violation on August 7, 1998. He was scheduled for court on August 13, 1998. He never made it to court. On August 10, 1998, he died an excruciating death from an untreated perforated ulcer. It took him days to die, as he begged for proper medical treatment, to no avail. He was not seen by a physician until he lay on the floor of his OPP cell, unresponsive, with no pulse and no breath sounds. He suffered irreversible brain damage and died the next day. The cause of death was peritonitis from a perforated chronic duodenal ulcer.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> *Keiwine Warren, Jr. v. Foti, et al*, No. 99-1420, USDC, E.D.La. There have been other, more recent deaths involving individuals with ruptured ulcers at the jail. On June 14, 2008, Juan

- \* Shawn Duncan was 24 years old, the father of two young sons. On August 2, 2001, he was arrested for traffic-related charges, including DWI. By August 10, 2001, 8 days after his arrest, he was dead in the jail. He had obvious and ignored symptoms of withdrawal from benzodiazepines, started sweating “buckets” of water, became seriously dehydrated and delusional. He was tied down in five point restraints<sup>4</sup> on the 10<sup>th</sup> floor of HOD (the so-called “mental health” tier) for 42 hours. He lost 20 pounds in 8 days. Another prisoner, a tier rep, discovered him in his cell, not moving. He was pulseless and apneic with fixed pupils, still in restraints. At autopsy he was described as gaunt in appearance, with his abdomen and eyeballs sunken in. His cause of death was dehydration. He also never made it to court.<sup>5</sup>
  
- \* Matthew Bonnette was 34 years old, the father of a young daughter. On April 3, 2004, he was arrested for traffic-related charges, including DWI. He never made it to court alive. He was put in a cell on HOD-10 on “suicide precautions”. His belt and shoelaces were taken from him. He was placed in four-point restraints. <sup>6</sup> The belt for five-point restraints was left in the cell with him. The cell Matthew was in was not “suicide proof” and had numerous anchor or tie-off points. Deputies were supposed to monitor him every 15 minutes and failed to do so. On April 4, 2004, Matthew hung himself using the 5-point belt. Deputies were notified of Matthew’s death by another prisoner. The cause of death was “asphyxia secondary to hanging”.<sup>7</sup>
  
- \* Mark Jones was 35 years old. He was arrested on June 28, 2004 on municipal charges of public drunkenness and simple damage to property under \$500. As he was going through the booking process at the Intake and Processing Center (IPC),

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Maysonet, a 62 year old man, died while in custody of the OPSO. At autopsy he was found to have a ruptured duodenal ulcer with very early peritonitis. On August, 2004, Paul Willis, who was awaiting trial on murder charges, reportedly died of a ruptured peptic ulcer. This type of death is frequently described as a somewhat prolonged and very painful way to die if there is not appropriate medical intervention.

<sup>4</sup>Five point restraints involves placing the individual flat on his or her back, with both arms and legs restrained and a fifth belt across the abdomen or chest area which prevents the individual from sitting up, standing or moving around.

<sup>5</sup>*Donniesa Wilson v. Foti, et al*, No. 02-2244, USDC, E.D.La.

<sup>6</sup>Four-point restraints involves restraining the arms and legs of an individual. The individual is able to sit up, stand and move around, albeit in a restrained fashion.

<sup>7</sup>*Bonnette v. Hunter, et al*, No.05-1201, USDC, E.D.La.

he was physically assaulted by one deputy and then violently assaulted by another deputy, without justification, causing severe head trauma, including the laceration of his vertebral artery. He was rendered unconscious, taken to Charity hospital, declared brain dead and died the next day, on June 29, 2004. The cause of death was a subarachnoid hemorrhage at the base of the brain due to blunt force injuries to the head. Mark Jones never made it to court.<sup>8</sup>

- \* Stephen Stewart did not die in the jail but what happened to him was devastating. For two years he had participated in a court-ordered Mental Health Court under the jurisdiction of Judge Calvin Johnson, Section E, Criminal District Court, Parish of Orleans. On August 2, 2006 Stephen missed a court appearance and a *capias* was issued to arrest and bring him before the Court. On August 15, 2006 he was arrested pursuant to the *capias* and taken to OPP. Instead of placing him on a mental health tier, as ordered by a physician, he was placed in general population, including with prisoners charged with violent offenses. Other prisoners, recognizing his precarious mental health status, brought his situation to the attention of the deputies. He never received appropriate treatment. He was never taken to court and the court was not notified that he was in custody. On August 31, 2006, in the midst of a delusional episode, he urinated on another prisoner's shoes. He was violently attacked and beaten by other prisoners, causing significant head and brain injury. He ended up having to have emergency surgery, which included a frontal lobectomy of his brain.<sup>9</sup>
- \* Oscar Fuselier, a 56 year old man, was arrested by NOPD on July 25, 2007, on a warrant for having missed a traffic court date in Jefferson Parish. He was physically frail and ill with emphysema and lung disease. On July 26, 2007 an individual charged with a violent offense was placed in a cell in the lockup with Mr. Fuselier. The cell was not monitored directly by deputies. Mr. Fuselier was violently assaulted by this individual, sustained serious, traumatic brain injury, went into a coma and subsequently died on August 7, 2007 of lung cancer, having never regained consciousness from the beating. Mr. Fuselier never made it to court.<sup>10</sup>
- \* Cayne Miceli, a 43 year old woman, was arrested on January 4, 2009 for municipal charges related to a disturbance she is alleged to have committed at

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<sup>8</sup>*Jones v. Hunter, et al* No. 05-2470, USDC, E.D.La. OPSO deputy Mark Strickland was charged and subsequently pled guilty to manslaughter for the death of Mark Jones. He was sentenced to two years imprisonment.

<sup>9</sup>*Stewart v. Gusman, et al*, No. 07-4132, Sec. J, USDC., E.D.La.

<sup>10</sup>*Fusilier v. Gusman, et al*, No. 08-3974, Sec. A, USDC, E.D.La.

Tulane Medical Center ER regarding her efforts to obtain appropriate care for an acute asthma attack. She was transferred to general population at the jail, denied appropriate care, reportedly attempted suicide, and was ordered by a jail physician to be tied down in five point restraints, flat on her back, with no accommodations or medication for her asthma. She was in a cell on HOD-10, in five point restraints, for 4 hours and 15 minutes. She complained of difficulty breathing and managed to loosen the restraints. Instead of getting medical help for her, deputies held her down to reapply the restraints. She lost consciousness and was brain dead upon arrival at the hospital on Jan 5, 2009. She was declared dead on January 6, 2009. The cause of death was bronchial asthma. She never made it to court.<sup>11</sup>

- \* Michael Hitzman was 32 years old, the father of two small children when he was taken to the Intake and Processing Center (IPC) of OPP on April 16, 2010 after having missed a court date. Michael had a serious substance abuse problem. He reported to deputies that he had recently ingested drugs. He was placed in an isolation cell which had cameras for video monitoring. No deputies were monitoring the videos and no-one physically checked on him. The cell he was in was not "suicide proof" and had numerous tie-off points. Michael hung himself in the isolation cell. His suicide was video-taped but no-one was watching it. His body was not discovered for over an hour. He had been in the jail less than four hours before he died. Cause of death: suicide.<sup>12</sup>
- \* Tracy Barquet was 25 years old, the father of a young daughter. He was booked into OPP on July 29, 2010 on drug charges. He was due to appear in court on August 6, 2010. He began experiencing an acute mental status change, became delusional and was transferred to HOD-10. He was given medication but was not being monitored or closely observed. Other prisoners report that he was behaving bizarrely and was incoherent. Court records show that he did not appear in court reportedly because he was in restraints on August 6. On August 7, 2010 he was discovered by another prisoner lying on the floor of his cell, with his body cool to the touch. His cause of death is "undetermined".
- \* William Goetzee, a 48 year old Commander of the U.S. Coast Guard, died on August 7, 2011. He was in federal custody at OPP, HOD-10, charged with attempting to grab a federal protective service officer's gun in order to kill himself. He was denied appropriate medical treatment while at OPP. He was supposed to be continuously watched by deputies. Deputy William Thompson abandoned his post for about 3 hours, during which time Bill Goetzee apparently swallowed toilet paper and water, resulting in his death. The cause of death:

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<sup>11</sup>*Miceli v. Gusman, et al*, No. 09-8078, Sec. A, USDC, E.D.La.

<sup>12</sup>*Cantu v. Gusman, et al*, No. 11-824, Sec. G, USDC, E.D.La.

suicide.<sup>13</sup>

Each of these individual deaths or incidents varies in their specific details. What they all share in common is that the deaths and the incidents were terrible, avoidable and unnecessary. Each involved a great deal of human suffering and loss. Each involved bad policies and practices, incompetent and/or deliberately indifferent staff and, in most cases, lack of accountability or discipline after the incident.

In my experience, even in those cases where an individual staff member is disciplined or prosecuted for some particularly heinous breach of duty, supervisors and those in positions of higher authority are virtually never held accountable. And while the numbers of deaths at the jail in themselves are very worrisome,<sup>14</sup> the types of deaths that are occurring are also of great concern. While the next death or serious injury will differ in particularities, the fact is, without court intervention and oversight, I fear we will simply continue with more of the same, i.e., terrible, avoidable and unnecessary deaths and human suffering, and no meaningful change or improvement.

And while there would be no justification for any human being to die in the manner and under the conditions of the individuals described above, it is instructive to note how many of them were in custody on relatively minor matters, how many of them are pre-trial and awaiting their court appearances, and how many of them died so quickly in the jail that they never made it to court at all. The number of individuals who died without receiving appropriate medical care and especially mental health care, is shocking. Another disturbing fact about many of these incidents is that the names of the same people who were responsible for appropriate care and supervision of these individuals who died at the jail, seem to show up over and over in subsequent cases. I am concerned that there is no real accountability or discipline of those employees who are in supervisory or leadership positions who consistently fail to adequately perform their responsibilities, often with dire, and too frequently fatal, consequences for those who are under their care and supervision.

I am glad to know that Sheriff Gusman has agreed to enter into the Consent Decree and I have to be hopeful that there can and will be real change. However, part of the changes that need to take place, in my opinion, go deeper than just the parameters of the consent decree.

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<sup>13</sup>*Nagle v. Gusman, et al*, No. 12-1910, USDC, E.D.La. OPSO deputy William Thompson pled guilty in state court to malfeasance for abandoning his post and falsification of observation records. He was sentenced to a suspended sentence and probation. It is believed that other medical and security staff at the jail were aware that Deputy Thompson had abandoned his post, yet they failed to intervene or report him. On information and belief, none of those other individuals were disciplined

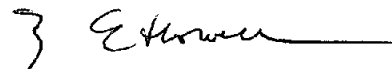
<sup>14</sup>Since April, 2006, there have reportedly been 40 individuals who died in the custody of the OPSO.

I would urge the Sheriff to take this opportunity, in the context of the consent decree, and with the oversight and assistance of the Court and the monitor, to closely examine the attitudes and behavior of top level personnel at the jail, especially in the medical and mental health departments, to determine whether the persons currently in these positions are capable of embracing and instituting real and meaningful reform. These positions are challenging under the best of circumstances. I am concerned that individuals who have tolerated and been a part of the problems in the system to date, oftentimes for years, are not well-suited to insure that meaningful changes will now take place, or to sustain those reforms once the federal oversight is concluded. Unless there are competent, caring individuals in leadership positions at the jail, who are committed to making profound changes from the way the jail is now being run and has been run in the past, I am concerned that the outcome of this major undertaking will ultimately not be as successful as it should be.

I also want to say that I am glad to see that the Consent Decree contemplates the hiring of a "full-time professional corrections administrator" to analyze and review OPP operations. I would hope that such a person, with appropriate credentials, experience and judgment, would be appointed to run the jail. I am also glad to see that serious attention is to be given to staffing levels, training and the conditions under which deputies are working at the jail. I know there are people who work at the jail who want to do right and who in fact do so, under very difficult circumstances. The safety and security of the people who work at the jail, in addition to those who are being held there, must be protected and a big part of that, for all concerned, is to have adequate, competent, caring and well-trained staff.

Thank you for considering these comments and for the Court's active role in this matter. I am hopeful that there will be positive and substantial improvements in this situation as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

  
Mary E. Howell

jonesvgusman.publiccommentmehcorrected.11March13

February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Clerk, Attn. Jones v. Gusman,  
500 Poydras,  
New Orleans, LA 70130

Honorable Lance Affrick:

Orleans Parish Prison Reform Coalition is a coalition comprised of dozens of local organizations and founded in 2004 to strive for a smaller, safer, more humane Orleans Parish Prison. Since 2009, we have pushed to decrease the number of beds in the new jail facility, brought attention to the dangerous, unsanitary and unconstitutional conditions in the jail and engaged the community to inform the Department of Justice in their investigation pursuant to the Consent Decree process. We are representative of a cross-section of the city and its environs, from residents of many neighborhoods, to family members of inmates, to service agencies to community groups whose members and leaders are former OPP inmates. Our letter is written on behalf of all of our respective constituents, clients and members.

People are coming to grave harm in Orleans Parish Prison. The documented deaths, sexual assaults and stabbings are enough to give anyone pause, but we know so much more goes unreported in that deplorable jail. A number of our member organizations report back on the conditions in the jail that they hear about from their members and contacts. The stories all corroborate a complete sense of chaos and terror. There is no safety. The guards do nothing, at best. In some cases they pit inmates against each other. Former and current inmates report not being able to sleep, for fear for their personal safety as well as the constant noise of fighting and beatings and other disruptions on the tiers. People who themselves have not been directly subject to violence often are unwilling witnesses to it, unable to avoid these situations in cells they report are consistently overcrowded. We have heard of 14 -20 people in a 10-man cell. The harm that is done to people in OPP is not limited to violence between the inmates. Our contacts tell us that the guards can be brutal. They also carry out vendettas on inmates who complain. People have come to great harm because they have not gotten proper medical care, have been denied desperately needed medicines or, as in the reports about a recent fatality (Ricky Russell) they are given their medicine in bulk.

Unsanitary conditions in OPP lead to further risk of health problems. Former and current inmates have complained about spiders, roaches, rats, mold, staph infections and tuberculosis all running rampant in the jail. Despite the fact that there are laws on the books to prevent this harm, our city officials have ignored the problem and in some cases made it worse through their stubborn denial and inaction. We feel that part of the crime problem in the city is that people see our top leaders,

our police force and OPP's administrators breaking the law and setting an example of lawlessness.

More generally, dehumanizing conditions in the jail generate crime. Due in part to the misclassification of prisoners but largely to the prevalence of rape, stabbings and assaults, individuals held in OPP are exposed to a daily denial of basic human rights. In a place where the representatives of the law perpetrate and encourage violence rather than preventing it, it's not surprising that some individuals leave the jail with diminished respect for the law, and many more suffering from physical and mental trauma. To exacerbate the violence inflicted upon members of our communities while they await trial is both criminal and stupid. Why would we as a city opt to send a message to our neighbors that we do not value their lives or wellbeing? Do we really think that makes us safer? Decreasing crime begins with recognizing the humanity of all our residents. OPP inmates are fathers, brothers, sons, and even mothers, and we must create living conditions that enable them to continue to be those people for their families. A criminogenic jail hurts us all.

We believe that in order to protect human life and dignity, as well as the rule of law, the court must compel the city and the Sheriff to enter into the consent decree. It is clear from their actions (and lack of action) over the past four years, since the Department of Justice launched their investigation, that they won't take on the work of fixing the jail of their own accord. These public leaders are not operating in the interest of public safety nor basic human decency. We are outraged at their consistent refusal to act on the requests of the public. We have attached a newspaper ad paid for and signed by over 300 individuals and local groups, as well as a petition we submitted to the Mayor in November of 2011 signed by over 1,000 New Orleanians.

Although the Department of Justice has been unwilling to acknowledge a connection between the size of the jail and conditions therein, numerous studies have shown a correlation between population density in prisons and rates of assault, rape and sexual violence. Given that the elected leaders of our city cite budgetary concerns as an impediment to implementation of the consent decree, it is germane to suggest that a smaller jail would allow the Sheriff to more effectively deploy resources towards safe and humane conditions. In order to do so, however, the consent decree should dissolve the current "per diem" funding structure that acts as a perverse incentive to incarcerate. By creating a fixed budget for OPP, the Court could incentivize respect for the 1,438 bed cap recommended by the Mayor's Working Group and approved by City Council in 2011.

Just last week, another person died in the Sheriff's custody, bringing the total number of deaths to 40 since 2006. It is abundantly clear that OPP requires immediate external monitoring to preserve human life. In order to have a deep and lasting impact, the Consent Decree must not be a set of ideals to which one City entity aspires but rather a set of norms to which the Sheriff, the Mayor and the City Council are held accountable at every level: funding, administration and



enforcement. Moving forward, the process must also include more public access to information and community input. The lack of transparency at the jail has enabled the Sheriff to mismanage it. It has also permitted the City of New Orleans to blindly back the Sheriff in past years and then deny responsibility this year. Community participation in the consent decree process will make it more likely that meaningful changes are implemented.

One death would have been too many. As concerned New Orleanians, family members and stewards of social justice, we urge you to compel the City and the Sheriff to participate in and adhere to the Consent Decree. Real human lives and the future of our city continue to depend on it.

Sincerely,

Orleans Parish Prison Reform Coalition

# BUILDING AN EVEN BIGGER PUBLIC SAFETY FAILURE?

The Orleans Parish Sheriff wants to build a 5,800-bed jail to replace the present 3,500-bed jail. More than three quarters of the people in the Orleans Parish Prison (OPP) are being held for minor, non-violent offenses; jailing more people for minor, non-violent offenses does not protect the public or make our city safe.

We consistently have one of the highest rates of violent crime and murder in the nation, despite incarcerating more people per capita than any other city in the U.S.

## Other cities have built smaller jails while reducing violent crime. Why can't we?

### FAR TOO BIG

If our jail were consistent with the national average, we would have 850 prisoners, not 5,800 prisoners.

Jefferson Parish has 443,000 people; its jail has 902 people. Orleans Parish has 331,000 people; Orleans Parish Prison has 3,500 people...

If our neighbors can spend their money more effectively, why can't we?

### WE NEED A SMALLER JAIL

Lolis Eric Elie Lolis Edward Elie Wendell Pierce Keron Blair Steven Bingle David Ferris Nancy Freeman Nick Spitzer Melanie Sullivan Tom Piazza Carol Babelle Derrick Tabb  
 new community gardens train teachers in best practices give schools the resources they need support green jobs streetlight repair on lanes in lake vista  
 Gina Warner Dave Thomas Lucas Diaz Shelley Midura Rosana Cruz Andre Perry Kelly Orians Chris Blankenship Kemil Ruffins Eric Overmyer Wes Ware Melissa Leo  
 public transportation after school programs for youth restorative justice diversion programs education effective programs for adjudicated and "at-risk" youth  
 Corlita Spreen-Mahr Jeanne Bamard Ronald McCoy James Perry Monique Harden Jancy Hoeffel Leroy Jones Calvin Johnson Kysha Brown Jed Horne  
 more residential substance abuse treatment mental health treatment centers education help low income people and people of color build wealth  
 Jane Wholey Althea Farrell Pamela Nath Chloe Cockburn Paul Troyano Bridget Burke Barbara Mirecki Eniel Larks Sean Robinson Donald Moore Sue Weishar  
 improving education books microscopes school supplies student stipends education programs skills training mentoring programs a new public library  
 Joyce Na'Man Alma Hayes Carline Gordon Linda Jeffers Deb Colton Lawrence Briggs Gregory Rattler Matt Suarez Luther Gray Charles Wilson Sheila Bedi  
 job training for youth schools housing for the homeless summer youth employment NORD inpatient and outpatient treatment programs for mentally ill  
 Gerald Shortridge Chandra Grayson Russell Van Dyke Alyson Collins Steve Osttag Gina Womack Nathan Converse Ellen Tuzzolo Emily Ralner Tara Foster Linda Lala Duscoe  
 education & training job programs for rehab graduates alternatives to incarceration potholes on Tchoupitoulas ceasefire violence prevention programming  
 William Quigley Sarah Covart Deon Haywood Julianna Padgett Alison McCray Lydia Pelot-Hobbs Evan Casper-Futterman Betty DiMarco Dana Kaplan Ida Nissen  
 improve the education system in New Orleans so there is a quality school for every young person art programs community mental health services education  
 Amy Wolfe Elizabeth Cumming Kate Drabinski Coleen Murphy Thena Robinson Edward Dewees Ursula Price Winfield Yaw David Eber Tim Sampleman Alex Friedmann  
 two hours of high quality after school care educating our youth music programs building a park public libraries transformative justice programs (conflict resolution)  
 Salvador Longoria Cecelia Trenticosta Betty Lilley Michael Admarand Katie Schwartzman Sarah Ottinger Cindy Wood Candace Chambliss Peter Nakhid  
 programs for women including HIV prevention education re-entry programs substance abuse and domestic violence programs rebuild the 9th ward

### FAR TOO EXPENSIVE

We spend \$22.39 each day to incarcerate a person in the Orleans Parish jail; we spend an additional \$6 million each year on medical care and staffing costs.

The Department of Justice has determined that conditions in the jail violate federally protected civil rights; the city will have to spend even more money to comply with minimal standards.

Cheaper alternatives exist, such as diversion and treatment programs that are proven more effective and cost less than half the price of a day in jail.

We cannot afford to spend even more of our scarce tax dollars on incarcerating people for minor, nonviolent offenses.

### WE MUST SPEND LESS MONEY, NOT MORE, ON THE JAIL

Jordan Flaherty Stephen Hankon Nell Bolton Margaret De Cruz Rachel Luft Hannah Orend Eva Silvestre Nadir Hasan  
 affordable housing for low-income (especially disabled) people education NORD mental health services senior transport  
 Laverne Thompson Thomas Matthews Morgan Harlan Christine Schmidt Nani Panourgia Arielle Cohen Will Harrell Jawad Shakir  
 Lynn Bowker Molly McClure Joanne Page John Thompson Jyaphia Rodgers Darek Robinson Ethel Mitchell  
 emergency shelter for formerly incarcerated LGBTQ youth drug treatment programs arts education for every student  
 Elois Reed Shira Bronstein Gail Tumulty Ronald McCoy Carol Kolinchack Martha Keigel Keith Hunt Jamil Abdul-Malik Tom Usdin  
 helping people find vocations quality mental health care creating jobs so that crime will be reduced revive NORD programs  
 Andrea Quezley Irving Banister, Jr. Christopher Songy Jacqueline Mang Gilberto Lopez Stevie Miller LaShaundal Moore Marilyn Parker  
 reopening Charity Hospital solutions that will support, nourish and heal the city of New Orleans pothole on Canal and S Derbigny  
 Red Tremmel Iman Sharrington Ken Foster William Schaap Romy Hoque Thomas Lowenstein Andrea Stocum Eli Isaacs  
 substance abuse treatment fix Royal and Dauphine Streets in the Bywater better pay for public defenders education  
 Bianca Rey Renee Corrigan Ora Nitkin-Kaner Michael Tisserand Mary Howell John Adcock David Harms Martin Berg Lisa Adler  
 pave Royal St in the Bywater—not the pothole killer literacy courses drug and alcohol abuse assistance job training  
 Deborah Luster Patricia Leflore Margery Freeman Nora Olgay Lawrence Powell Justine Diamond Robert Cohen Connie Orians  
 academic enrichment programs and organized sports programs for youth alternatives to detention based on best practices  
 Jennifer Rodrigue Judith Rodgers Hannah Sadler Richard Bourke Bruce Parker Heather Gillis Katrina Marshall Craig Klein  
 housing for the homeless clean up the lead that is poisoning our kids schools parks books mental health support  
 Jane Murdock Alex Mikulich Sandra Reed Yamisa Crawford Islam Williams Thaddeus Rhodes Denise Matthews Kalja Toivola  
 mental health support food for homeless people upkeep of the city college programs mental health outpatient services  
 Kimberly Shine Evelyn Jones Kysheil Minor Sophie Washington Blythe Taplin Colleen Gleiske Linda Usdin Megan Faunce Sharon Martins  
 more arts programs after school programs and literacy programs keep the New Orleans Mission open re-entry programs  
 Rakeem Najee Robert Smith Hanif Abdullah Clifton Holland Aisha El-Amin Charlean Forster Jess Jacobs John Williams  
 New Orleans college scholarship fund for local students to attend one of the many amazing universities in NOLA  
 Francine Ravy Vanessa Fernandez Babe Howell Annie Scott Thomas Adams Echo Olander Alice Kemp  
 mental health services books community centers books drug treatment NORD recycling programs  
 Hannah Adams Liana Scheri James VanderWeele Rachael Schechter Drew Joy Jee Park Barbara Hill  
 traffic lights that work rehabilitation centers making owners clean their property bring residents home to NOLA  
 Ernest Johnson Rebecca Kendig Mairead Burke David Olasky Nicole Quinn Eva Silvestre Glen Pitre  
 a youth food bank after school programs housing for homeless people open Charity Hospital education  
 Denny LeBoeuf Samuel Dalton Majeeda Sneed Remy Slams Michelle Benoit Adrienne Wheeler Sarah Usdin  
 improve our schools and recreation department start a fund for UNO ESL classes for undocumented immigrants  
 Bely Landis Ben Gordon Renita Thukral Barton Everson Paul Tambourello Ashley Graham Nikki Thanos  
 re-pave the intersection at Rampart and Esplanade after school programs a new homeless shelter  
 Dean Lambert Monika Gerhart Julia Yocum Bridgette Butler Lauren Lastrapes Phyllis Cassidy  
 open centers for children/senior citizens community programs social life skills vocational education  
 Caroline Richardson Aimee Bussells Marjorie Esman Roberta Graz David Harms Joanna Russo Laura Miller  
 Elmore Rigamer Joyce Kisner Jennifer Moira Davida Finger Virginia Jackson Elizabeth Steeby  
 Larissa Jama Theresa Anne Billieaud Malvern Bumett Vanessa Carroll Melanie Morel-Ensminger

### HOW DO YOU WANT THE CITY TO SPEND YOUR MONEY?

Every dollar that it takes to operate the jail comes from taxpayers.

The city spends at least \$24 million a year operating the current facility.

There have been 7 deaths in the jail this year alone. The failure to provide adequate care and safety for prisoners frequently results in lawsuits, financial hardships and emotional loss for the families of those who have died and additional costs to taxpayers; the bigger the jail, the bigger the liability.

### WE WANT THE CITY TO SPEND OUR MONEY ON THESE OTHER THINGS ...

That's why each of us has contributed \$22.39 — one day's cost of incarceration in the City of New Orleans — to the cost of this ad telling the Mayor and City Council not to build a massive new jail but to build a smaller, safer, right-sized jail.

For more information please call 504-894-8099

**TO MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD CALL MAYOR LANDRIEU AND YOUR CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

Mitchell J. Landrieu, Mayor: 504-658-4900  
 Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson, At-Large: 658-1070  
 Arnie Fielkow, At-Large: 658-1060

Stacy Head, B: 658-1020  
 Kristin Gisleson Palmer, C: 658-1030  
 Cynthia Hedge-Morrell, D: 658-1040



OPP RC  
C/O Hope House  
916 ST ANDREW ST  
N O LA 70130

NEW ORLEANS LA 700

00 MAR 2003 PM 11



March 6, 2013

I am a resident of mid city New Orleans. I am a teacher and woodworker.

I have had many friends, coworkers and neighbors who have been subjected to the terrible conditions in Orleans Parish Prison and my daughter's friend was arrested and spent a week in that awful place. He has told us stories of how the prisoners control what goes in or out of the tents. This is where they were kept. Then there are the incidents of police brutality which I hear about from friends as well as read. For these reasons I have been paying attention to the situation with OPP, the lawsuit and the consent decree.

I am writing you specifically about the issue of the violence in the jail. I cannot begin to imagine how awful it is to be in that place, just from the many people I have been around who were in there, I have heard a lot of stories. Also, just looking in the newspapers you can see how many people have died in the jail even just since the Department of Justice began the investigation in 2009. I know a number of young men in my neighborhood have been in OPP. They are struggling to find work, they are traumatized by their experience in OPP. Most of them were in there for a very minor crime and none of them deserved to experience and witness the horrible violence, rape and humiliation that they are subject to in there. They all tell me the same thing, the sheriff does not run the jail, the deputies don't do anything. It is the other prisoners who run that jail. It is survival of the fittest, the stronger ones who abuse of the weak. Those are the ones who decides who eats and who doesn't who gets beaten and who doesn't. The guards not only let this happen, they encourage it. They bring in contraband to the jail, they pit the prisoners against each other. There are not enough mattresses in the cells for all the people.

This causes fights. Innocent people who have not gone to court yet are mixed in with people who are convicted of violent crimes and have nothing to lose. When these young men come back to my neighborhood, they are really hurt, sometimes physically, but always mentally. This leads to problems in my neighborhood.

I have also witnessed truckloads of inmates sent to clean up after Jazzfest. I wonder whether this forced labor is legal and if it shouldn't be. Also this raises the questions about Shell being the main sponsor just cutting costs.

Judge, I respectfully ask you to please make the sheriff and the city follow the law and enter into the Consent Decree. Our city cannot recover from Katrina and make changes in our violent crimes if the jail continues to be this horrible cesspool. Please make sure the City does everything needed to make the jail and the city as a whole a safe place to be.

Yours,

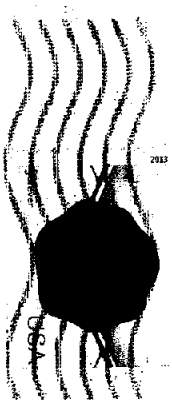


Paul Troyano  
4738 Palmyra St  
NOLA

P. Troiano  
4738A/impre ST  
NO LA 70119

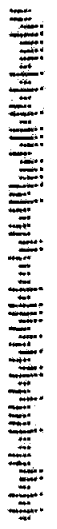
NEW ORLEANS LA 700

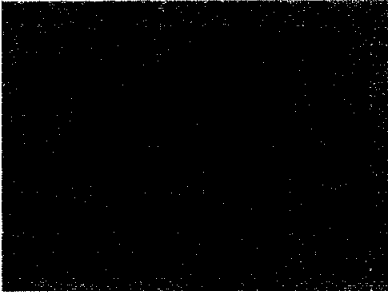
03 MAR 2013 PM 4 L



Clerk ATTN: Jones V. Busman  
500 Poydras St  
New Orleans, LA 70130

70130391999





**Safe Streets - Strong Communities**  
1600 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd.  
New Orleans, LA 70113  
Phone :(504) 522-3949  
Fax: (504) 522-5430  
[www.safestreetsnola.org](http://www.safestreetsnola.org)

March 6, 2013  
Honorable Lance Affrick  
(Clerk)  
Attn. Jones v. Gusman  
500 Poydras  
New Orleans, LA 70130

I am writing you specifically about the issue of the violence in the jail. I cannot begin to imagine how awful it is to be in that place, just from the many people I have been around who were in there, I have heard a lot of stories. Also, just looking in the newspapers you can see how many people have died in the jail even just since the Department of Justice began the investigation in 2009. I know a number of young men in my neighborhood have been in OPP. They are struggling to find work; they are traumatized by their experience in OPP. Most of them were in there for a very minor crime and none of them deserved to experience and witness the horrible violence, rape and humiliation that they are subject to in there. They all tell me the same thing, the sheriff does not run the jail, and the deputies don't do anything. It is the other prisoners who run that jail.

It is survival of the fittest, the stronger ones who abuse of the weak. Those are the ones who decides who eats and who doesn't who gets beaten and who doesn't. The guards not only let this happen, they encourage it. They bring in contraband to the jail; they pit the prisoners against each other. There are not enough mattresses in the cells for all the people. This causes fights. Innocent people who have not gone to court yet are mixed in with people who are convicted of violent crimes and have nothing to lose. When these young men come back to my neighborhood, they are really hurt, sometimes physically, but always mentally. This leads to problems in my neighborhood.

Judge, I respectfully ask you to please make the sheriff and the city follow the law and enter into the Consent Decree. Our city cannot recover from Katrina and make changes in our violent crimes if the jail continues to be this horrible cesspool. Please make sure the City does everything needed to make the jail and the city as a whole a safe place to be.

Sincerely,

*Robert Goodman Jr.*





March 8, 2013

Honorable Lance Affrick  
Attn. Jones v. Gusman  
500 Poydras  
New Orleans, LA 70130

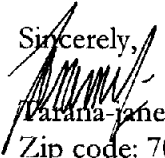
I am a resident of New Orleans and a former mental health worker. I am concerned with the treatment of inmates with mental health issues at OPP. Unfortunately, OPP is the de facto mental health care facility for the city. The increasing number of jail suicides should have prompted the sheriff to enact policies to prevent future deaths. However, that has not been the case. The opposition by the sheriff to prevent the implementation of the consent decree and enact lifesaving reforms is shameful.

The "Keep on Person" medication policy is flawed and dangerous. The policy should not be applied to inmates prescribed psychotropic medications. The policy relies on the premise that a mentally ill inmate is well enough to administer self-care. I am not a mental health professional, but I suspect that individuals who have recently experienced or currently experiencing a psychotic break is not well enough to self-administer his/her medication. I cannot think of any scenario where this policy makes humane sense.

Failure to enact the necessary reforms coupled with our city's other livability issues solidifies New Orleans status as a third world country. The sheriffs' inaction should shame us all into action.

Judge, I respectfully ask you to legally order the sheriff, the mayor, and the city government follow the law and enter into the Consent Decree.

Sincerely,

  
Tarana-Jane

Zip code: 70115

Tarana  
1722 General Taylor Unit A  
New Orleans, LA



POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE  
MAR 2013 PM 31

Honorable Lance Affick  
Attn: Jones V. Gusman  
Clerk  
500 Poydras  
New Orleans, LA 70130

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