

Communication from Public

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Date Submitted: 01/07/2022 01:07 PM

Council File No: 21-0002-S196

Comments for Public Posting: cash bail detains the poor before trial, but lets the wealthy walk free. in 2018 the poverty rate for Blacks in Los Angeles County was 2.1 times higher than for whites. 84% of nearly 5,900 defendants held in pretrial detention in Los Angeles County in August 2020 were people of color. in 2020 the District Attorney campaigned, and was elected, on ending cash bail for nonviolent offenders. December 7th 2020 the District Attorney ended cash bail for nonviolent offenders. on March 25th 2021 the California Supreme Court held that pretrial detention based solely on a person's inability to pay is unconstitutional. (S247278) So why is Buscaino trying to lock up poor people? Same reason he's sweeping them from the streets. He's running for mayor and wants to score NIMBY points. It's cheaper to lock people up based on EVIDENCE rather than their paycheck. Who benefits from thousands of full beds at L.A. jails? Who is donating to Buscaino's campaign? There is no empirical reason to lock poor people up before trial. So please honor the city's wishes, honor the CA Supreme Court, and do not pursue legislation resuming cash bail for nonviolent offenders.