

Communication from Public

Name: Cynthia Harding

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Council File No: 21-0002-S196

Comments for Public Posting: Surprise, surprise - another racist motion by Buscaino capitalizing on the latest media frenzy over a made-up crime narrative benefiting cops & industry. The U.S. and the Philippines are the only two countries in the world that allow a for-profit cash bail industry, and any vote in favor of this motion is completely backwards and inhumane. At this very moment, nearly half a million people languish in jail cells across America, waiting for their criminal cases to move forward and severed from their lives and communities even though they have not been convicted of a crime. People in pretrial detention now make up more than two-thirds of America's jail population. They are presumed innocent under the law, yet they will suffer the harms of incarceration unless they have enough money to pay bail and buy their freedom. This two-tier system criminalizes poverty and is a structural linchpin of mass incarceration and racial inequality. It affects entire communities, devastates families for generations, and guts the presumption of innocence. The human toll of this crisis is catastrophic, levied almost exclusively on the poor, and disproportionately on communities of color. People who are jailed pretrial often wait months, and sometimes years, for their cases to resolve. In the meantime, they can lose their jobs, homes, children, and critical community ties. Inside jail, people risk sexual violence, the deterioration of their mental and physical health, and the infliction of lasting trauma. They feel enormous pressure to accept an unjust or wrongful conviction just to go home. And, as with all other areas of the criminal legal system, people of color bear a far heavier burden due to an enduring legacy of racism and economic disenfranchisement. Moreover, the financial costs that this system generates are staggering. American taxpayers pay \$14 billion each year to incarcerate people pretrial. Meanwhile, the \$2 billion bail industry, with its well-documented predatory and exploitative practices, extracts money from precisely those communities that have the fewest resources. Factoring in the impact of pretrial detention on families, communities, and social services, the true economic cost of this crisis has been estimated to approach \$140 billion annually. <https://bailproject.org/after-cash-bail/>

Communication from Public

Name: Owen Eason

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Comments for Public Posting: Cash bail has a little longer to live, but kill this motion with fire.