

Memo

To: Dane County Board of Supervisors

From: Cedarose Keeley

Date: 3/10/15

Re: Reinvesting funds for Dane County Jail to address racial disparity in Dane County

I am here to ask you (my Dane County Board of Supervisors) to not approve the \$160 million building of a new jail. Please take Dane County beyond investing in incarceration to address racial inequality. I want Dane County to invest all of the \$160 million into transforming neighborhoods, schools, employment, professional training, and other human capital investments to address racial inequality. I want my county to take the human and compassionate choice and make the \$160 million investment include community programs and alternatives to jail. Please invest in community-based restorative justice programs and other services that can transform the underlying factors of racial inequality.

All efforts to transform these crimes of poverty should be led by community leaders and groups who represent those being incarcerated. In particular, the Young Gifted and Black group should be heeded because they represent our young African American neighbors. Our young African American male neighbors, make up only 7% of Wisconsin's population, but 46% of them have spent time in prison. These numbers are horrific, our state is clearly not dealing with enormous racial, social, political and judicial inequality.

I am asking you, the Dane County Board of Supervisors, to change this inequality by using all of the \$160 million to address racial inequality in our county.

PHONE

FAX

WEB