



June 6, 2020

MEMO: TSCCBF OPPOSES PROPOSED COUNTY BAIL FUND

The Tucson Second Chance Community Bail Fund (TSCCBF) is aware of a proposal seeking to create a taxpayer supported bail fund in Pima County. While TSCCBF aims to free as many people as possible from pretrial detention, we are opposed to this misguided effort for several important reasons.

Firstly, why must the state create a community bail fund to liberate defendants its judges are unjustly detaining in jail— instead of holding the offending judges accountable for abusing their power? Supporting this boondoggle sends the wrong message to judges and the courts at a time when Americans everywhere have taken to the streets to demand a more just legal system. Their call for reform includes not only changing the way communities are policed but also the way justice is administered by the Courts. Protestors shouting, “no justice no peace!” know that far too many Black, Brown and Indigenous defendants have been sent to prison by corrupt and racist Courts. It is also noteworthy that this same proposal was rejected by the leadership of the National Bail Fund Network, a national organization consisting of 50+ community bail funds and 40+ immigration defense funds, because it did not conform to its community bail fund organizing principles.

It is also not lost on TSCCBF that in this moment of awakening consciousness about the insidious nature of anti-Blackness, that this proposal is being championed by White state actors. For three years, TSCCBF, a black-led bail fund, has been diligently working to free all those caged pretrial in the Pima County jail. Why would those fighting for the same cause create a narrow and duplicative fund rather than support the established work of black women? This proposal is ultimately an expression of institutional anti-Blackness that will do more harm than good to our community.

For all of the above reasons, we believe a state-run bail fund is a misuse of taxpayer dollars. We instead hope that the County will find ways to collaboratively uplift the work of TSCCBF to end the practice of pre-trial detention.

Sincerely,

Lola Rainey
Executive Director,
Tucson Second Chance Community Bail Fund

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