A PAUSE FOR GRATITUDE, REST, AND CARE
A Decarcerate Sacramento Public Statement

Over 140 people made public comment for more than 7 hours.
Over 1,600 individuals signed a petition in opposition.
Over 70 organizations, businesses, and health professionals
signed a letter opposing a new jail building.

We thank everyone who joined this historic campaign on December 7, 2022,
especially people inside Sacramento County jails and their loved ones.

The Vote
Despite hours of public opposition, on December 8th, the Sacramento County Board of
Supervisors voted to move forward with plans to build an annex of the downtown jail.
Supervisors Nottoli and Serna voted against the jail expansion and
Supervisors Desmond, Frost and Kennedy voted in favor.

This jail expansion is anticipated to cost an initial $450 Million dollars from our county’s
General Fund. The 30 year costs to taxpayers could exceed $3 Billion
when including staffing, operations, maintenance, and loan interest costs.

The Board of Supervisors claimed to base their decision on the jail conditions lawsuit
Mays v. County of Sacramento. The lawsuit requires the county to address the dangerous
living conditions inside the jail, including the failure of jail staff to follow patient privacy laws
(HIPAA), and inaccessible facilities for disabled people (ADA). But the leadership in
Sacramento County made this decision without adequately considering alternatives to building
a larger jail facility. For example, the County never sought an unbiased architectural
peer-review to determine if it is possible to meet their legal obligations without a major
construction project. Instead, the County funded and heeded the opinion of an architecture firm
that built the current downtown jail and continues to profit from this expansion project—while
ignoring critical questions and recommendations from community and industry experts.

What’s Next
This loss feels devastating to our community.

We understand that prioritizing our public spending on healthcare and housing will accomplish
far more toward public health and community safety than building a more expansive jail system
ever could.

New opportunities will emerge to prevent this jail expansion and redirect funds towards
reducing incarceration and preventing harm.

We hope you will continue to fight with us.
For now, we encourage everyone to rest and care for each other.
Our work is far from over.