

Hello,

My name is Jesse Aguiar, I'm a community organizer with the youth justice coalition, a Public Policy Major at East LA College, a member of the Anti-Racism Coalition and most importantly, I am formerly incarcerated.

I am aware that your decision on this agenda item has been previously agreed upon, but my mission today is to influence any future decisions that you make, that will impact the lives of the people who live in our communities.

Now, it does not take a genius or an expert to see that detaining someone and simply warehousing them does nothing to solve the problem, it does nothing to help heal or rehabilitate the individual and most certainly, does NOT lower crimes. Lock-up is proven to be ineffective, and too often, the door that leads to a cycle that only leads to higher recidivism rates and a total waste of tax-payer money, when facilities fail to provide opportunities for rehabilitation.

See, I've been to Los Padrinos Juvenile hall, I've sat in boys R at east lake and I've visited Sylmar Juvenile hall far too many times. I've been to camp challenger, to camp page which has a good fire program, I've been to camp miller and even got to play football at camp kilpatrick, but they were ineffective in helping me not re-offend. The fire camp taught me about poison out and trail maintenance, but provided no therapeutic counseling, I essentially gained nothing that would prevent me from being re-arrested. Camp kilpatrick taught me how to hit and tackle, but taught me no life skills, which also led to me being re-arrested. And as far as the other facilities, all they ever did was warehouse and damage me more than I already was.

It wasn't until my arrival at camp gonzales which has an overflow of programs, where I gained some actual tools that have led me to a 3.5 gpa.