



DARLENE GREEN
Comptroller

**OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER
CITY OF ST. LOUIS**



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April 8, 2019

Montague Simmons
Campaign Manager
Close the Workhouse

Dear Mr. Simmons:

Thank you for contacting me regarding the Medium Security Institution (known as "the workhouse"). MSI is an obsolescent facility and closing it is both fiscally and morally responsible.

Although the city's two facilities currently hold more persons than could be held at the City Justice Center (CJC) alone, a roadmap to closing MSI is achievable. This effort will take leadership and collaboration—across multiple departments and jurisdictions. First, eliminating pretrial detention for those facing nonviolent charges would significantly reduce the number of beds needed. Second, coordinating with other departments of correction in the region could potentially provide any beds needed beyond what's available at CJC.

Spending more city resources on stop-gap measures to keep MSI open is not the right answer; implementing a roadmap to close it should be the priority. I encourage and support the mayor, the director of public safety and the circuit attorney making the necessary changes so that all persons in custody of the City of St. Louis can be housed at the City Justice Center or other modern facilities in the region.

Closing MSI is the right thing to do. It is within reach and can be completed in a matter of months, not years, with focus from the administration.

Sincerely,

Darlene Green
Comptroller
City of St. Louis

CC: Lyda Krewson, Mayor
Jimmie Edwards, Director of Public Safety
Kimberly Gardner, Circuit Attorney