

## **MEDIA ALERT - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, May 5th, 2023

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**Concerned community members, formerly incarcerated people and activists will rally in support of people currently incarcerated in Cook Co Jail and in protest of increasingly worsening conditions. Remote actions will follow.**

**When: Sunday, May 7th, 2023 at 4-5:30pm**

**Where:** Outside Cook County Jail between Division 10 & Division 11 (2944 S California Ave, Chicago)

**Who:** Concerned Chicago residents & community members; people who are formerly incarcerated; people with incarcerated loved ones.

**What:** A rally in support of those currently incarcerated in Cook County Jail, uplifting their demands for humane living conditions, highlighting the increasingly brutal restrictions being brought upon them, and calling for community care, not punishment.

**Why:** People have witnessed & been subjected to increasingly harsh conditions inside of CCJ. The public must be made aware so that we can call upon our elected officials and hold Tom Dart & his Sheriff's Dept accountable for inhumane treatment of people incarcerated in the jail.

Some of the immediate concerns:

1. Inadequate access to hygiene products, including soap
2. Inadequate access to medical services- for both physical & mental health concerns- and fear of retribution for requesting these services
3. Severe restrictions on possession of personal items, such as family photos; theft of personal items, such as books, by CCJ employees
4. Restricted access to paper means that people are unable to properly review their cases before trial- remember that the majority of people are held in CCJ pre-trial
5. Increased and severe use of restraints & excessive force by employees
6. Inadequate nutrition provided (no fresh fruits or vegetables) or available through commissary
7. Violation of First Amendment Rights to worship as they so choose
8. Severe restrictions on rec time; up to & exceeding 6mo w/o opportunity to exercise
9. CO's issuing unwarranted PREA-related tickets, which can result in sex offender charges
10. No access to (or existence of) a law library or equivalent resources
11. Censorship of books & reading materials people are receiving
12. Exorbitant prices on commissary items