



Elizabeth Rossi <elizabeth@civilrightscorps.org>

Fwd:

Brittany White <bwhite@faithintx.org>
To: Elizabeth Rossi <elizabeth@civilrightscorps.org>

Fri, Jan 19, 2018 at 12:43 AM

**Brittany M. White**Live Free Organizer at [Faith in Texas](#)**Address** [1111 W Mockingbird Ln Ste 595, Dallas, TX 75247](#)**Mobile** 937-546-1668**Email** BWhite@faithintx.org**Website** www.faithintx.org

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From: Brittany White <bwhite@faithintx.org>

Date: Thu, Jan 18, 2018 at 11:27 PM

Subject:

To: <Diana.lugo@dallascounty.org>, <ANTONIA.TAPIA@dallascounty.org>

Cc: Brianna Brown <bbrown@organizetexas.org>

January 18, 2018

Dear Sheriff Brown:

Faith in Texas is a multi-racial faith movement for social justice. We train teams of leaders in local churches, mosques, and synagogues that serve low- and moderate-income people. These Justice Teams identify systemic problems that affect their communities and move entire congregations to action through policy campaigns like our Live Free campaign, which has as its chief goal ending mass incarceration in the state of Texas.

Texas Organizing Project (TOP) promotes social and economic equality for low to moderate income Texans through community and electoral organizing. TOP provides hard working Texans the opportunity to implement real change by organizing their own neighborhoods, investing their time and energy in causes relevant to their respective communities, and collectively taking ownership over TOP's agenda, strategy and direction.

Each of our organizations are very concerned about the money bail system in Dallas, which disproportionately affects poor people and people of color. We, Brittany White, Live Free Organizer with Faith in Texas and Brianna Brown, Deputy Director of Texas Organizing Project are writing to ask that we, as well as our organizations, their leaders, members, and member congregations be allowed to observe the bail hearings that take place inside the Lew Sterrett Jail, and to take notes on what happens at the hearings. We want to use the notes we will take for outreach to the community, including potentially using the notes to provide information to the families of the people in the hearings who are in urgent need of real-time information about what's happening to their loved one who has just been arrested. We would also like to take our observations and produce reports for the public. Further, we want to be able to identify

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whether certain zip codes are disproportionately represented in the jail population, as well as identifying factors that determine a person's money bail and eligibility for release.

We do not want to watch recordings of hearings that have taken place in the past. It is important that we be able to watch the hearings live.

We would like to begin our observations as soon as possible and no later than February 1. Please let us know by January 23 whether this will be possible so that we can make further plans for organizing our staff and members to observe.

Matthew 25:36 says "I was in prison and you visited me." As faith and community leaders, we are called to be physically present with people in their bail hearings, granting this access is critical to us living out this calling.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Brittany White
Live Free Organizer at Faith in Texas

Brianna Brown
Deputy Director at Texas Organizing Project



Brittany M. White

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