



# JJC NEWS

JUNE 2023

FOR THE UNSEEN. FOR THE UNHEARD.

## HIGHLIGHTS

At JJC, we are excited to share the essential work we have accomplished in the past month! We could not achieve this without your continued support, advocacy, and passion for a better future for our youth.

### Packed with Policy

Our Executive Director, TaKasha Smith, testified in the Senate Finance Committee Hearing on the Department of Youth Services (DYS) budget. From this hearing, she drafted an amendment to ensure an increase in community programming. She also met with state senators and staff to increase support for it.

The JJC team showed up to protest to oppose the unconstitutional bills HJR1 and SJR2 which would require a vote of at least 60% of the electors to approve any constitutional amendment. We do NOT support bills that directly limit the voice of our community and we're glad JJC was able to be a part of the change we wish to see. We also have been actively fighting a bill to allow 18 year olds to become police officers. Teens are NOT of the proper developmental age to make life-or-death decisions.

### Communities Coming Together

With our 2023 Pilot Mentorship Program currently in the works, we decided to extend our programming a step further to not just the Juvenile Correctional Facilities (JCF), but the Juvenile Detention Centers (JDC) as well! Our Community Outreach Coordinator, Alleana Moss, created a proposal for the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Detention Center (CCJDC) to start a book club and restorative justice program. Our team is excited to connect with youth in the facilities directly and provide enriching, meaningful programs that they can relate to and benefit from.

JJC has been working to elevate our police reform efforts by building coalitions of local organizations and individuals who want to help promote the Minimum Youth Interaction Standards created by the Ohio Collaborative Police Advisory Board. Our staff also continues to participate in the Police Reform Round Table which recently held meetings with Representative Brent and Representative Plummer to discuss future reform.

### A Passion for Partnerships

Our efforts to increase community support surrounding the Minimum Police Youth Interaction Standards have produced many new connections and allies. We are thrilled to start new connections with the Center for Disability Empowerment and learn more about the significant work they do. In addition, our team has also made connections with local Cleveland organizations to recruit volunteers to come join our CCJDC Book Club and Restorative Justice Program such as Justice for Our Youth and Ohio Crime Victims Justice Center (OCVJC). We also started a new grant partnership with the Elevate 2.0 Cohort from the City of Columbus!

## WHAT'S NEXT

- Our first CCJDC Book Club and RJ Program is June 28th! Sign up to be a volunteer today!
- Is your organization a part of our Police Reform Coalition? Contact [alleana@jjcoho.org](mailto:alleana@jjcoho.org) to learn more about what your involvement could look like in your community!



### DID YOU KNOW?

70-80% of youth released from juvenile facilities are rearrested with 2-3 years.

**This is a failure of reentry planning, NOT a failure of our youth.**

### GET INVOLVED!

- ✓ Share our campaigns and posts on social media!
- ✓ Become a mentor in our 2023 Mentorship Pilot Program. Email our Community Outreach Coordinator for more info: [alleana@jjcoho.org](mailto:alleana@jjcoho.org)
- ✓ Share your thoughts in our Community Forum! New question posted weekly. <https://tinyurl.com/VolunForum>
- ✓ Join our volunteer list for more information about upcoming opportunities! <https://www.jjcoho.org/jointhemovement>

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