



JJC NEWS

MAY 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, met with Chris Ronayne, the County Executive of Cuyahoga County, and his leadership team to discuss Juvenile Justice in Cleveland as well as RECLAIM money.

At JJC, we are always looking for ways to expand our knowledge. This month, our team has been doing extensive research on effective gun intervention strategies happening across the nation that we could implement in Ohio. Our team submitted our feedback on the new Ohio Peace Officer Curriculum as well. We are also reading *Burning Down the House: The End of Juvenile Prison* by Nell Bernstein as our staff book. TaKasha and our Operations Director, Erikka Sawdey, attended a nationwide training on strategies to prevent Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). The more we can learn together the more we can try to understand the difficulties our youth face daily.

Communities Coming Together

Erikka and Alleana, our Community Outreach Coordinator, attended City Year's Career Fair to kickstart recruitment for our 2023 Pilot Mentorship Program. Alleana has also been recruiting for our community school conversation to support Columbus Education Justice Coalition's 2023 Listening Campaign. TaKasha met with nationwide anti-incarceration advocates on collaboration for a project with Aubin Pictures. We will contribute a chapter on juvenile justice to the workbook being created. Our JJC staff has also been attending Ohio Police Reform Policy Table meetings to discuss police reform initiatives and police injustices. It's crucial for us to unionize and join together in times of need to support each other which, in turn, supports our youth. JJC banded together with CEJC and many other concerned community members and professionals to strategize and testify against the stop-and-frisk policies being implemented at Columbus City Schools (CCS). This initiative states that students will be randomly searched upon entry to school, including their personal belongings, which is unconstitutional and unjust. TaKasha attended the CCS board meeting to advocate against this invasive policy.

Alleana and Erikka also attended a large demonstration at the statehouse to protest against HJR1, which would undemocratically require a 60% vote to pass amendments. One person, one vote!

A Passion for Partnerships

May has been a busy month for new relationships, and we couldn't be happier! Alleana has been connecting with new organizations to strategize how to keep our youth safe when they come into contact with law enforcement, as well as how we can hold police accountable through policy. Some of these new relationships include Us Together, Mothers of Murdered Columbus Children, Columbus Advisory Committee on Disability Issues, Transition Network, and more!

WHAT'S NEXT

- JJC is hosting our first in person board meeting May 10th!
- JJC's CEJC Listening Campaign Conversation will be happening Tuesday, June 6th. If you're interested in participating please contact Alleana at alleana@jjcoho.org



DID YOU KNOW?

There are **423** kids currently in our prisons, and **68%** of them are black.

Ohio's Population is only **13%** black!

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
- ✓ 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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