

SURVEY OF JCRC CRIMINAL JUSTICE WORK

Name: Leslie Anderson
Title: Executive Director
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Name of organization: JCRC Atlanta

With respect to criminal justice reform, JCRC Atlanta is primarily focused on expungement of record restrictions, bail reform, protection of women in prison, and voting rights for people who have been incarcerated. JCRC Atlanta is part of a national multi-faith task force to end mass incarceration, started two years ago. JCRC Atlanta developed a toolkit incorporating JCPA's toolkit and distributed it to everyone who came to their recent conference and all JCRC members. JCRC Atlanta is also working with legislative partners on protecting women and moving the First step act from federal to the state level. While they are working on cash bail reform, they are concerned that they may not be able to tackle on state-level, because GA is too conservative, so they are developing a municipal-based program to focus on cities and counties instead.

Name: Howard Libit
Title: Executive Director
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Name of organization: JCRC Baltimore

JCRC Baltimore has joined in efforts to support expanded expungement opportunities for minor offenses, as well as the development of reentry programs for those who are returning to their neighborhoods from prison sentences. More recently, they have worked to develop a policy on juvenile justice reform that aims to limit the impact that non-violent criminal actions can have on educational and employment futures.

Name: Ben Poor
Title: Senior Synagogue Organizer
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Name of organization: JCRC Boston

JCRC Boston works with 40 local synagogues, churches and mosques as part of a group called the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO), with the goal of passing meaningful legislation to end mass incarceration. One important priority of JCRC Boston's work is working on solitary confinement. JCRC Boston is also very focused on organizing local and state-wide. They have their own criminal action tool (phone to action tool) where people put in their phone number on a website and it automatically connects people with their state legislature and state representative. They are also very focused on the following policy issues:

- Repeal mandatory minimum sentencing for non-violent drug offenses and restore the discretion of judges in handing down sentences that reflect the particular circumstances of each case.
- Reform the pretrial bail system so that it incarcerates people on the basis of flight risk, not on their ability to raise the required funds.

- Reduce or eliminate excessive fees and fines that contribute to high rates of recidivism.
- Eliminate excessive and lengthy solitary confinement practices, which are inhumane, traumatizing, and ineffective in reducing violence.

Name: Mara Koven-Gelman

Title: Director

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Name of organization: JCRC Buffalo

JCRC Buffalo uses media to spread information about conditions of confinement in local prisons (Erie County Holding Center and Correctional facilities). JCRC Buffalo serves on a CJ reform committee created by the Erie County legislature. With scarce resources, JCRC Buffalo targets the local community to get more people involved in criminal justice reform advocacy.

Name: Justin Kirschner

Title: Associate Director

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Name of organization: JCRC Cincinnati

JCRC Cincinnati works with non-Jewish community partners to focus on state policy advocacy and community education (*Jewish and non-Jewish constituents*). Some of JCRC Cincinnati's priorities include grassroots court accountability measures and changing unjust bail reform policies and practices. A big achievement was receiving verbal recognition from their non-Jewish partners and their leaders about how the Jewish community truly showed up in mass to help collect signatures and campaign for a statewide ballot initiative last year ([Ohio Issue 1](#)). Their support has made them a key community engagement player in the fight for criminal justice reform locally and we've been invited to be at a variety of tables this year.

Name: Debbie Klein

Title: Managing Director, Community Relations

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Name of organization: JCRC Cleveland

JCRC Cleveland, along with several coalition partners, have been engaged in bail reform efforts in Ohio over the course of the last year. In 2018, JCPA participated in a local advocacy day on bail reform organized by the CRC of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland, which brought together 25 Jewish, black, and Latino leaders to lobby state lawmakers and influencers as part of an interfaith coalition of Cleveland-based community organizations. The Federation cohort was joined in Columbus by several community groups including Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry, the United Black Fund, Hispanic Alliance, Inc, Towards Employment, the NAACP of Greater Cleveland. The groups met with several state legislators to voice concerns and recommend changes to a pending bill.

Name: Rabbi Sam Englender

Title: Community Outreach Manager

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Name of organization: JCRC Detroit, AJC

JCRC Detroit is convening CJ reform convene groups to help determine and shape its future reform agenda. JCRC Detroit held a launch event in September 2019 with a community education panel where they invited different leaders in the local scene who are dealing with the issue in order to educate and provide avenues for menu of options for folks who can be active in various ways. The event went very well. It was called “Sentence Served – Exploring Barriers to Reentry” and it was cohosted by JCRC/AJC and the Coalition for Black and Jewish Unity, which they co-founded with the Council of Baptist Pastors of Detroit and Vicinity. They had approximately 100 people in attendance. They have a coalition for black and Jewish community and their main partner is Council of Baptist Pastors of Detroit. Over the past few months, Rabbi Sam and Lauren have been building the network within the state and decided to focus on supporting. returning citizens. Rabbi Sam sits on a council of members of Detroit that has round table where all different advocates in local area of returning citizens meets every few months.

Name:

Title:

Email address

Name of organization:

Date: **JCRC of the Milwaukee**

The JCRC of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation co-founded and leads the Community Coalition for Quality Policing. Driven by an executive team comprised of the JCRC, Felmers Cheney Advocacy Board, the League of United Latin American Citizens, the NAACP-Milwaukee Branch, the coalition includes 28 advocacy, service, and faith-based organizations. They have worked with the U.S. Department of Justice, Milwaukee’s Fire and Police Commission, the Mayor’s Office, the Milwaukee Common Council, the Milwaukee Police Association, and members of the community to push for transformative change in how our community approaches law enforcement. CC4QP’s coordinated work of advocacy, private meetings, public testimony, statements, public education programs, and public relations has led to the selection of a new chief of police, one who is committed to implementing community-based problem-oriented policing. The group has collaborated on other issues of state, regional, and national importance, often acting as a diverse and unified voice against hate and discrimination in our community.

Name:

Title:

Email address

Name of organization: **JCRC of New York**

JCRC New York, in partnership with JCPA, co-sponsored a Fall 2019 one-day conference on “Criminal Justice Reform: A Jewish Call to Action.,” to raise awareness of mass incarceration to the larger Jewish community and to build a coalition and common table for the diverse Jewish community to work together on reform in New York. The conference was a huge success, with over 200 people in attendance, including many Jewish Institutional “heavy hitters,” members of the advocacy community, philanthropists and policymakers.

Name: William D. Franklin

Title: President

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Name of organization: JCRC Reading

JCRC Reading is focused on justice for their Hispanic and African-American community members and just, quality treatment of immigrants housed in the local detention center. The Jewish Federation of Reading monitors facilities and corresponds with official locally and at the state and Federal levels. JFR formed the Greater Reading Unity Coalition (GRUC) with Muslim, Hispanic, African-American and gay partners to fight racism and bigotry in the community.

Name: Cheryl Adelstein

Title: Deputy Director, Jewish Community Relations Council

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Name of organization: JCRC St. Louis

JCRC St. Louis is primarily focused on addressing the issue of overcrowded prisons and a growing female prison population. JCRC St. Louis joined the Smart Sentencing Coalition and is actively engaged in Legislative Advocacy. JCRC St. Louis engages the Jewish Community about the need for criminal justice reform. The goal of the JCRC of St. Louis work in criminal justice reform is to work with many partners in our region and state to address issues specific to Missouri. Missouri has overcrowded prisons and a growing female prison population. The Governor of the State has indicated he does not want to build any more prisons. This creates an opportunity for legislative reforms at all levels of the system - pre-prison, while in prison, probation and parole, and reentry services.

JCRC St. Louis has joined the Smart Sentencing Coalition and have become actively engaged in Legislative Advocacy. Five of the measures they supported were signed into law in July 2019.

They are also committed to educating the Jewish Community about the need for criminal justice reform. They educational goals are threefold:

- to raise awareness of issues regarding criminal justice reform to the entire community, regardless of faith or political views;
- to demonstrate where and how our community can support people who were formerly-incarcerated
- to prepare our community to engage in direct advocacy on the state and federal level.

Their Education Series includes:

- August 18 - Showing of the film 13th, along with facilitated discussion - at Temple Israel
- September 22 - Panel featuring justice-involved individuals who will educate on the school to prison pipeline, opportunities and challenges during incarceration, and the challenges faced when returning after incarceration – at Jewish Federation of St. Louis
- November 3 - Criminal Justice Reform Opportunity Fair, which will highlight many of the organizations who are assisting ex-offenders, and who need volunteers – at United Hebrew Congregation
- November 17-19 - 3-day bus trip to Montgomery/Birmingham and Memphis to visit the EJI Museums and other civil rights sites.

Name: Meredith Weisel

Title: Director of Maryland Government and Community Relations

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Name of organization: JCRC Greater Washington

JCRC Greater Washington is focused on working with the community and law enforcement to address encounters with law enforcement, encouragement of community policing, post-arrest and pre-conviction proceedings, mandatory minimums, juvenile justice issues and the overuse of solitary confinement. In September of 2017, they rewrote their criminal justice reform policy resolution. It more specifically talks about action items put forth like encounters with law enforcement and what has come up recently with immigration and refugee issues. Another issue they are focused on includes the overuse of solitary confinement. Lastly, JCRC Great Washington is also focused on reentry and specifically looking at voting rights for people with felony records.

Name: Aaron Welcher
Title: Program and Communication Coordinator
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Name of organization: JCRC Indianapolis

They have done two screenings of 13th, the movie. They are looking to begin with educating the community, while they decide what issues they will focus on.

Name: Carol Brick-Turin
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Name of organization: JCRC Greater Miami

During the last election cycle, the JCRC Miami worked with their local black-Jewish coalition to advocate for Florida's Amendment 4, which restored the vote to formerly incarcerated people. They are also part of a coalition of the Miami Bay county community relations corp. (CRB), a quasi-governmental group appointed by Miami Bay county board of commissioners who are nominated to sit on the board. They are involved in criminal justice reform as a board member and have a subcommittee for criminal justice reform and law enforcement in terms of focusing on issues and the greatest potential for tension in the community. They work to identify "hot spots" to minimize tensions in the community. Lastly, they are involved in law enforcement accountability and monitoring.

Name:
Title:
Email address:
Name of organization: JCRC Silicon Valley

JCRC Silicon Valley has been part of the Santa Clara County Faith Based Coalition. The Coalition tables at the County Jail to provide information for people recently released and has regular meeting to update the membership on current issues. They have also participated in Resume Writing support for recently released men and women. JCRC members have attended Beloved Community (Black Lives Matter group) for Police & Community Relations Improvement. SVJCRC hosted Aaron Zisser, who was the previous

San Jose Police Auditor for a lecture and question and answer session. This year the JCRC Board decided to have three task forces; one of them was Criminal Justice Reform. They encouraged all members to watch '13th' and to acquaint themselves with JCPA Criminal Justice Tool kit. One of their task force members is also on the County Jail Oversight Committee and focused on explaining the relatively new 'no cash bail' policy to members.

Name: Josh Sayles

Title:

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Name of organization: JCRC Pittsburgh

JCRC Pittsburgh partnered with the Aleph Institute on visits to jails and prisons as well as volunteering as mentors to people who are incarcerated. They are also partnering with rabbis and emerging black leaders, which includes sponsoring a cohort to participate in JCPA's recent Civil Rights Mission. During election cycles, JCRC Pittsburgh also runs #BeOurVotePgh, a nonpartisan civic engagement initiative that educates Pittsburgh-area high school students about the importance of voting. The name "BeOurVote" was chosen because most of the participating students are not old enough to vote, so they are asking those who are of age to vote on their behalf.