**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FORMERLY-INCARCERATED PEOPLE TO PROVIDE VISION FOR REPURPOSED ATLANTA CITY DETENTION CENTER AT TOWNHALL, NOVEMBER 1ST**

**Contact:** Marilynn Winn, (404) 322-5116, [marilynn@rjactioncenter.org](mailto:marilynn@rjactioncenter.org)

WHAT: Formerly-Incarcerated & Detained People’s Townhall to Repurpose Atlanta City Detention Center

WHO: Hosted by Women on the Rise *(co-sponsors include 9to5 Atlanta, Asian Americans Advancing Justice, Atlanta Victims Assistance, Inc., Atlanta/Fulton County Pre-Arrest Diversion Initiative, Forever Family, North Georgia Works, Georgia Micro Enterprise Network, Offender Alumni Association, New Georgia Project, Project South, Converted, Committed, & Commissioned, The Re-Entry Connection, Inc., Women Watch Afrika, and Urban League of Greater Atlanta)*

WHEN: November 1st, 6-8pm

WHERE: Russell Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship, 504 Fair Street SW, Atlanta, GA 30313

Women on the Rise is calling on 100 formerly-incarcerated people from across the Atlanta Metro area to attend a [Formerly-Incarcerated & Detained People’s Townhall](https://www.closethejailatl.org/fip-townhall) on November 1st at the Russell Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship.

The Townhall is part ofan initiative to close and repurpose the Atlanta City Detention Center (ACDC) and is being hosted by Women on the Rise. It will be an opportunity for formerly-incarcerated people to offer their visions for transforming the 11 story, 471,000 square foot space into one that serves communities most impacted by mass incarceration. Representatives from the Mayor’s Office will be present and there will be a panel to answer questions about the repurposing process.

Women on the Rise’s Executive Director, Marilynn Winn, is one of the Co-Chairs of the [Reimagine ACDC Taskforce](http://reimaginingacdc.org/), the 25 member body convened to lay the foundation to shutter and transform the extra city jail, and was one of the leaders of the [Communities Over Cages: Close The Jail ATL Campaign](http://www.closethejailatl.org/) that resulted in the Mayor’s signing of legislation to close and repurpose the jail last May.

Winn said, “The Formerly-Incarcerated & Detained People’s Townhall will be an important opportunity for people who have been locked away inside these cages to determine the path forward for a redeemed Atlanta, one that no longer relies on incarceration and instead, truly takes care of its own. People who have experienced incarceration first hand are the experts on the types of services we need to invest in to make our city safer and our communities stronger.”

Bridgette Simpson, organizer with Women on the Rise said, “It was the bold vision of Black formerly-incarcerated women who led the campaign to move the city to stop wasting millions of dollars on an extra jail and to instead break the cycle of incarceration for Atlanta’s residents. It is critical we continue leading the process to close and repurpose the jail because it’s our lives and our communities that are at stake.”

Thanks to a series of progressive reforms in the city of Atlanta, including bail reform and the cancelling a contract with ICE that wascontributing to one side of the jail with detained immigrants, the jail has a population only between 60-70 people on any given night. All of the people held in the jail are there on municipal offenses, such as driving with a suspended license.

Two other formerly-incarcerated members of Women on the Rise also have seats on the Taskforce, alongside community members from the Communities Over Cages: Close The Jail ATL Campaign, including [Black formerly-incarcerated women, queer and transgender people of color, and immigrants](https://www.closethejailatl.org/post/formerly-incarcerated-women-black-queer-tgnc-folks-appointed-to-design-taskforce). The Reimagine ACDC Taskforce [meets again on Tuesday, October 29th](https://www.closethejailatl.org/post/reimagine-acdc-taskforce-meeting-october-29th).

###