



Erica Gilmore Prepared Remarks For RS2018-1309 Press Conference

Remarks as Prepared for Delivery

Today, we stand here in solidarity urging my fellow colleagues to cease Nashville Metro Government contracts with CivicCore because of its unprecedented track-record of mismanagement, abuse, neglect and a lack of transparency in its prisons.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, for-profit companies were responsible for approximately 7 percent of state prisons and 18 percent of federal prisons in 2015 (the most recent numbers currently available) U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement reported in 2016, private prisons held nearly three-quarters of federal immigration detainees.

While supporters of private prisons tout the idea that governments can save money through privatization, the evidence is mixed at best- in fact, private prisons may in some instances cost more than governmental ones. These private prisons have also been linked to numerous cases of violence and atrocious conditions.

Simply put, private prisons violate human rights.

Our moral compass should guide us on this issue. By taking bold action to divest in private prisons, we are promoting proper stewardship of our city pension funds and the values, ideals, and principles that are the bedrock of this city.

I call on the Nashville Metro Government to stop handing control of prisons to for-profit companies.

Thank you.

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