



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Statement from Minnesota Justice Research Center on
Closing of MCF-Stillwater**

MINNEAPOLIS— In response to the Department of Corrections announcing the phased closure of Minnesota Correctional Facility-Stillwater, the Minnesota Justice Research Center (MNJRC) issued the following statement.

The following quote can be attributed to Justin Terrell, Executive Director of MNJRC:

“The Minnesota Justice Research Center hosted a community conversation on May 8 to explore recent research on and discuss the future of our state’s crumbling, expensive, and inhumane prisons in Stillwater and St. Cloud. While we commend the state’s recent decision to close Minnesota Correctional Facility-Stillwater, as an organization grounded in community, we know that a decision of such magnitude must include those most impacted in the plan to carry it out. With the input of incarcerated people and correctional staff, we encourage the state to devise a plan that reduces Minnesota’s prison population, improves working conditions for staff, and provides residents with real rehabilitative opportunities to prepare them to re-enter society. The conversation shouldn’t end at closing Stillwater—this is an opportunity to critically reimagine incarceration in Minnesota.”

The following quote can be attributed to Zeke Caligiuri, Community Engagement Manager at MNJRC and advocate for incarcerated individuals and their families:

“There is the utmost need to consider the lives that are directly impacted by this decision including the 1,100 men currently incarcerated at Stillwater. At other significant points in the history of these institutions these voices have not been listened to. There has to be an addressing of the needs of the long-term population that will be displaced with these moves. And the state must commit to making sure all the facilities within the system are addressing the human needs of these people during this transition.”

About the Minnesota Justice Research Center

The Minnesota Justice Research Center (MNJRC) is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to driving meaningful change to Minnesota's criminal legal system through rigorous and community-centered research, education, and policy development. The MNJRC works with people with a wide range of knowledge and experience in the criminal legal system, including scholars, practitioners, students, survivors, and those who have served time in prison. For more information, go to www.mnjrc.org.

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