

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-02-009R

**RESOLUTION REGARDING INCARCERATION AND INCARCERATION ALTERNATIVES IN
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY**

WHEREAS: Statistics show that the United States incarcerates a far larger percentage of its residents than any other nation in the world, with a significant fraction of those incarcerated being detained prior to trial, and

WHEREAS: Recent evidence shows that excessive level of incarceration is not contributing to the public safety, but on the contrary is needlessly damaging many lives, and

WHEREAS: Pretrial detention and the current bail system has been shown to be a burden to people of limited means, and

WHEREAS: Recent studies indicate that evidence-based risk assessment produces better outcomes for individuals brought into the justice system for a variety of lesser charges, and

WHEREAS: Excessive incarceration damages both the public and private economy in addition to the human cost, and

WHEREAS: The Champaign County Board is now considering plans for the construction of future jail facilities in Champaign County.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; that the Urbana City Council:

Urges the Champaign County Board to work with other entities in Champaign County on planning for a substantial reduction in the number of people incarcerated in the County.

Strongly supports planning that include provisions for alternatives to incarceration for non- violent offenders, and people afflicted with mental health and substance abuse problems.

Strongly supports including the affected municipalities, law enforcement agencies, State's Attorney's office, health care providers, and social service agencies in the planning.

Pledges, on behalf of the City of Urbana, to actively participate in such planning.

Urges that the planning for mental health services, substance abuse services, and appropriate treatment of nonviolent offenders, be pursued with the same urgency, including the funding necessary for these plans to be implemented, as the planning for physical upgrading of the jail and funding for the physical upgrading.

PASSED by the City Council this _____ day of _____ 2015.

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSTAINED:

Phyllis D. Clark, City Clerk

APPROVED by the Mayor this _____ day of _____ 2015.

Laurel Lunt Prussing, Mayor