



Sexual Violence Allegations Strengthens Calls that the City of Philadelphia Cancel all Contracts with Devereux

In response to allegations highlighted in the recent [Philadelphia Inquirer Article](#), Juntos demands that the **City of Philadelphia end all of their contracts with Devereux and commit to ending child detention**. We are deeply concerned about the allegations of grave violations of basic human rights and safety of children and youth in Devereux's care over the last 25 years due to entrenched impunity and complete lack of accountability.

We urge **Cynthia Figueroa** as the Deputy Mayor of the Philadelphia Office of Children and Families and **Donna Bailey** as the CEO of Community Behavioral Health to **lead the way to protect youth** in the City of Philadelphia and take a stand against the detention of migrant youth at Devereux. **We call on you to end all contracts that the City of Philadelphia maintains with Devereux!**

This is not the first time that Devereux has been accused of severe mistreatment of the youth in their facilities, from November 2018 to September 2019, 9 employees in Chester County have been arrested and charged for carrying out or witnessing and failing to report multiple assaults of children. **This needs to be put to a stop now.**

We support the 14 city council members in their [six demands](#) that include the **end to all city contracts with Devereux**. We also highlight that Devereux still has an active \$40.2 million contract with the U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) to detain migrant youth in several states, including PA. As of November 2019, plans to open the Devon facility were stalled after a zoning denial, which Devereux is currently appealing.

Under these conditions of systematic abuse and clear inability to protect youth in their custody, it is absolutely unfathomable that the government should be considering detaining migrant youth at this facility.

Join Juntos & Chester County residents in demanding that all City of Philadelphia contracts with Devereux be ended, and that the local zoning board take immediate action to disallow use of the facilities to detain migrant youth. **No more detention in Pennsylvania, now or ever!**

Sincerely,

1. Juntos
2. 215 People's Alliance
3. Act UP Philly
4. Amistad Law Project
5. Asian Americans United
6. Black Lives Matter Philly
7. Caribbean Community in Philadelphia
8. Casa San Jose
9. CB Community Schools
10. Devon / Highland Concerned Neighbors
11. Disabled In Action of PA and PA ADAPT
12. Free Migration Project
13. HIAS Pennsylvania
14. Juvenile Law Center
15. Law Office of Karenina Wolff, Esq
16. Liberty Resources, Inc.
17. Make the Road PA
18. MILPA
19. Movement Alliance Project
20. Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala
21. New Sign ons
22. PCCY
23. Philadelphia Neighborhood Networks
24. Philadelphia Participatory Research Collective (PPRC)
25. Philly ADAPT
26. PhillySUN
27. PICC
28. PSU
29. Reclaim
30. The Coalition for Restaurant Health and Safety
31. The National Domestic Workers Alliance Pennsylvania Chapter (NDWA-PA)
32. The Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies
33. Victim/Witness Services of South Philadelphia
34. Vietlead
35. Way Forward
36. Welcoming the Stranger
37. Youth Art & Self-empowerment Project