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PLAYERS COALITION HOSTS PHILADELPHIA BAILOUT AND SERVICES FAIR

(Philadelphia, PA, November 26) - Today, the Players Coalition, in partnership with the Philadelphia Community Bail Fund and the Defender Association of Philadelphia, addressed the injustices with the money bail system in Philadelphia. Hosted by Players Coalition Co-Founder and Eagles Safety Malcolm Jenkins, various community leaders came together to hold a press conference and services fair at Impact Services in Philadelphia for impacted citizens and their families.

With money donated primarily from Philadelphia Eagles players and matched by the Eagles organization through the Eagles Social Justice Fund, nine individuals were bailed out by the Philadelphia Community Bail Fund on Wednesday, November 21st before Thanksgiving and invited by the Players Coalition to Impact Services to participate in the services fair.

The money bail system in Philadelphia does not make us safer, leads to more not less crime, and it is applied in a racist fashion. It also punishes poverty not guilt. According to the Defender Association of Philadelphia, almost half of those incarcerated pretrial are never found guilty, as they have their cases dismissed, withdrawn, or they are found not guilty. When their case is over, they are given no assistance in repairing the harm caused by unnecessary pretrial incarceration. An individual is more likely held on unaffordable bail if he/she is a person of color than a white person, even accounting for charges and criminal history.

It is also unnecessary. Of the people incarcerated pretrial who are found guilty, nearly 4 out of 10 are not even sentenced to incarceration. Instead, the court has found that they can be effectively supervised in the community.

“Our city has been dealing with poverty with a criminal justice solution – and it’s getting us nowhere. People are sitting in jail simply because they cannot afford to pay their bail,” said Keir Bradford-Grey, Chief of the Defender Association of Philadelphia. “Men and women in our jails leave traumatized and more desperate, without the supports they need to get back to their lives. Our cash bail system often forces people to accept a plea – even for a crime they didn’t commit – to get out of jail and back to their lives. It’s time for real reform. Reform that’s not just a policy; it’s a practice. The Defender Association is proud to partner with the Players Coalition, the

Philadelphia Community Bail Fund, and the incredible community organizations throughout our city to work toward ending cash bail.”

To lend support towards a better model, Players Coalition, in conjunction with the Philadelphia Community Bail Fund, worked with grassroots groups, organizers, and service providers to offer services to those bailed out (and their families) including housing, educational and economic support, and mentorship to address the root cause of alleged crimes.

Participating organizations who provided specialized services included Ardella's House, Broad Street Ministries, E.M.I.R., First Step Staffing, Frontline Dads, Impact Services, Menzfit, Mothers In Charge & Mothers In Charge Participatory Defense Hub “Best Outcomes”, People’s Paper Co-Op, Philadelphia’s Auto & Parole, Philadelphia Community Bail Fund, The Center for Returning Citizens (TCRC), The Philadelphia Opportunities Industrialization Center, Inc (OIC), and South Philadelphia “Circle of Hope.”

In addition to Jenkins and Bradford-Grey, District Attorney Larry Krasner, Bail Advocate LaTonya Myers and Community Advocate Reuben Jones addressed the current landscape around money bail in Philadelphia, the tremendous progress that has occurred, and the need for future progress in Philadelphia.

"The City of Philadelphia is a unique community. There is a vibrant group of grassroots, non-profit organizations that provide support for those who need it, support that addresses the root causes of why people end up in the criminal justice system in the first place. These community-based organizations know that we must prioritize people and do everything we can to avoid, not use, the criminal justice system. This will make us safer and more just," said Reuben Jones, Executive Director of Frontline Dads.

Players Coalition has been advocating to end cash bail for the past year through attending courtwatches, writing Op-Eds, creating PSAs and social media campaigns and meeting with members of Legislature. In June, Jenkins and Players Coalition task force members and Eagles teammates Chris Long and Rodney McLeod met with the National Legal Aid & Defender Association to strategize and work together on bail reform across the country. Additional Players Coalition members have watched bail hearings and conducted advocacy efforts with subject matter experts in New York, New Orleans, Seattle, Atlanta and Charlotte among others.

“There is no community that compares to Philadelphia. People know us as a tough city – and we are. We are fortunate to have community leaders who are providing tremendous resources on the ground to help people avoid incarceration, and critically, to help address the root causes of what catches people in the system in the first place. They put people over profit and punishment,” said Malcolm Jenkins. “Many are survivors of an often unforgiving criminal justice system that have emerged to lead mentoring groups, help people find housing and employment, and groups that pay bail for those who are held in jail solely because of poverty. We must invest in these organizations and in the treatment and services they provide.”

About Players Coalition

Players Coalition is an independent 501c3 (charity) and 501c4 (advocacy) organization, working with professional athletes, coaches and owners across leagues to improve social justice and racial equality in our country. The work is focused on three key pillars: Police & Community Relations, Criminal Justice Reform and Education & Economic Advancement. Players Coalition is solution-oriented, and members invest significant time and resources to educate themselves on various issues impacting their communities to identify where their influence can have the greatest impact. In 2017, the Players Coalition was co-founded by NFL Pro-Bowl Safety and 2017 NFLPA Byron “Whizzer” White winner Malcolm Jenkins and retired wide receiver and NFL 2015 Walter Payton Man of the Year winner Anquan Boldin. Players Coalition continues to grow in numbers of ambassadors with the collective goal of making an impact on federal, state and local levels through advocacy, engagement and providing resources. For more information follow @playercoalition on Instagram and Facebook and @playercoalition on Twitter.

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