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Summary

Board Bill Number 212

Committee Substitute

Primary Sponsor: Alderman Jeffrey Boyd

January 8, 2021

The proposed bill will submit to the qualified voters of the City of St. Louis a non-binding, preferential vote on the question: Should the City of St. Louis close the Division of Corrections Medium Security Institution incarceration center located at 7600 Hall Street, commonly referred to as the Workhouse? The purpose of the non-binding, preferential vote is to assist the Board of Aldermen, Mayor, and Comptroller in their management and direction of the City.

**BOARD BILL NUMBER 212 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE INTRODUCED BY:
ALDERMAN JEFFREY BOYD/ PRES. LEWIS REED/ALDERMAN JOSEPH
VACCARO/ ALDERMAN JOHN COLLINS-MUHAMMAD/ ALDERWOMAN CAROL
HOWARD**

1 An ordinance submitting to the qualified voters of the City of St. Louis a non-binding preferential
2 vote authorized by Article II, Section 9 of the City’s Charter to vote on the question of whether
3 the City should close the Division of Corrections Medium Security Institution in order to assist
4 the Board of Aldermen, Mayor, and Comptroller in the management and direction of the Medium
5 Security Institution.

6 **WHEREAS**, the City operates two incarceration centers, the St. Louis City Justice Center (CJC)
7 located at 200 S. Tucker with a capacity of 860 detainees, and the Medium Security Institution
8 (MSI) located at 7600 Hall Street commonly referred to as “The Workhouse,” which has a capacity
9 of 1,138 detainees, for a combined capacity of 1,998 detainees; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Ordinance 71217, which was passed by the Board of Aldermen July 17th, 2020 and
11 became effective July 24th, 2020, directed the Commissioner of Corrections to begin efforts to
12 close the MSI with a planned closure date of December 31st, 2020, to perform an evaluation of the
13 CJC to determine if more detainees could be safely held there, and contact surrounding facilities
14 to determine the daily cost of outsourcing detainees; and

15 **WHEREAS**, due to efforts to prevent the spread of Covid-19 in the City’s two incarceration
16 centers the MSI has not yet closed; and

1 **WHEREAS**, while there is substantial and vocal support for closing the MSI many City residents
2 oppose its closure due to potential negative impacts on the welfare of the detainees, the safety of
3 the community and the City’s economy.

4 **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS AS FOLLOWS:**

5 **SECTION ONE.** The following non-binding preferential vote as authorized by Article II, Section
6 9 of the Charter of the City of St. Louis is hereby proposed and submitted to the qualified voters
7 of the City of St. Louis and shall be voted upon at an election to be held as herein after provided.
8 To assist the Board of Aldermen, Mayor, and Comptroller in their management and direction of
9 the City shall be read as follows: Should the City of St. Louis close the Division of Corrections
10 Medium Security Institution incarceration center located at 7600 Hall Street commonly referred
11 to as the Workhouse.

12 **SECTION TWO.** The forgoing non-binding preferential vote shall be submitted to the qualified
13 voters of the City of St. Louis at the April 6, 2021 city-wide election. The qualified voters of
14 the City of St. Louis voting at said election shall deposit a ballot substantially in the following
15 form:

16 PROPOSITION [___]. PREFERENTIAL NON-BINDING VOTE ON CLOSING THE
17 ST. LOUIS DIVISION OF CORRECTIONS MEDIUM SECURITY INSTITUTION

18 Instructions to voters: To vote in favor of the non-binding proposition submitted on this
19 ballot, place an [X] in the square opposite the word YES and to vote against the non-
20 binding proposition place an [X] in the square opposite the word NO.

21 The proposed non-binding proposition shall appear on the ballot substantially, as follows:

1 Should the City of St. Louis close the Division of Corrections Medium Security Institution
2 incarceration center located at 7600 Hall Street, and commonly referred to as the
3 Workhouse? If you are in favor of the non-binding proposition, place an [X] in the box
4 opposite YES. If you are opposed to the non-binding proposition, place an [X] in the box
5 opposite NO.

6 []YES []NO

7 **SECTION THREE.** The Board of Election Commissioners shall provide the ballots and or voting
8 machines, and conduct the vote and shall ascertain and certify the result thereof according to the
9 law. If voting machines are used, the aforesaid "PROPOSITION" shall be placed or posted on the
10 said voting machines wherever said machines are used under the direction of the Board of Election
11 Commissioners for the City of St. Louis and according to law.

12 **SECTION FOUR.** Emergency clause. This being an ordinance calling for submission to the
13 people of a proposed non-binding preferential vote, it is hereby declared to be an emergency
14 measure and shall become effective immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor
15 pursuant to Article IV Sections 19 and 20 of the Charter.