



Envision Freedom Fund

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ENVISION FREEDOM FUND CALLS FOR BIDEN & ADAMS TO MAKE BIG COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS TO ADDRESS VIOLENCE

NEW YORK, NY — Today’s meeting between President Biden and Mayor Eric Adams is likely to produce a string of photo-ops and conversations about ending violence dominated by the usual law enforcement talking points. Envision Freedom Fund is calling for a different conversation.

New York City’s current response to harm in our communities consists of a punitive criminal legal system that depends on detaining the accused before they have their day in court. Yet, pretrial detention has not been shown to increase safety; rather it causes more harm, instability, and despair, particularly for Black families and communities. Data show that non-punitive approaches, such as neighborhood-based, public health-centered violence intervention programs, do a better job of preventing and decreasing gun crime than policing and prosecution. The safest communities are the ones with the most resources, not the highest jail populations.

“The political will to address gun violence in our communities seems to only gain traction when the solutions being offered are more policing, more prosecuting, and more imprisonment. And yet, not one of those so-called solutions has ended gun violence or made New York City safer. What will *save* lives are big investments in community-based social programs, housing, education, health care, and other services—that’s where we need political will and the funding that comes with it,” says **Carl Hamad-Lipscombe, executive director of Envision Freedom Fund.**

[Envision Freedom Fund](http://envisionfreedom.org) (formerly Brooklyn Community Bail Fund) works alongside impacted communities to dismantle the oppressive and interconnected criminal legal and immigration systems. With freedom as our guiding principle, we invest in innovative campaigns and programs that aim to win long-term, transformative change, while meeting the urgent needs of community members in the present.

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