



Sarasota Faith Leaders Pray to Stop Criminalizing Poverty

Faith leaders call on State Attorney
to create a new adult civil citation program without fees

SURE Press Conference / Prayer Vigil

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

**At the courtyard in front of the Sarasota Jail
2020 Main Street**

The congregations of SURE will gather for a prayer vigil / press conference on **Tuesday, March 8**. We want to make people aware that the **State Attorney's pre-arrest diversion program (SURE refers to this as Adult Civil Citation)** is **too expensive** for participants and discriminates against the poor. **SURE wants a program with no fees.** Pinellas County charges no fees to participate and Hillsborough County charges \$50.

In 2019 there were 7,230 misdemeanor arrests in Sarasota County. 3,348 of them (46%) were for offenses related to suspended/expired/no drivers license. Non-white people in Sarasota County are five times more likely to be arrested for a misdemeanor offense than white people.

Diverse faith leaders throughout Sarasota County will be present. There will be opportunity for media personnel to speak to clergy leaders and those who have been branded for life with misdemeanor arrest records because they were driving on a suspended license or expired vehicle tag.

We need you to join us as we collectively ask God to hear our prayers.

Do justice, love mercy, walk humbly with our God. - Micah 6:8

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