

# THE PRICE OF FREEDOM: BAIL IN THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

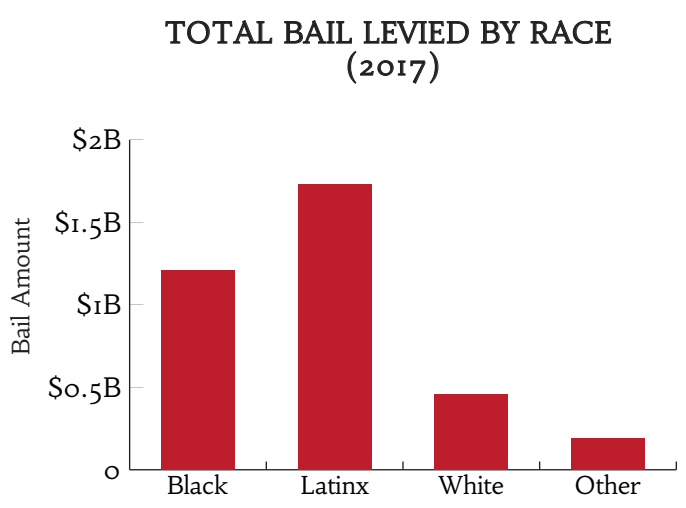
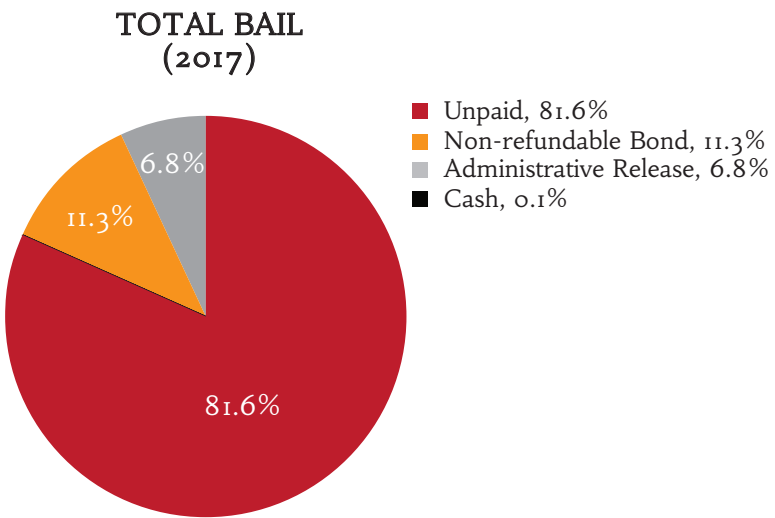
## A MILLION DOLLAR HOODS REPORT

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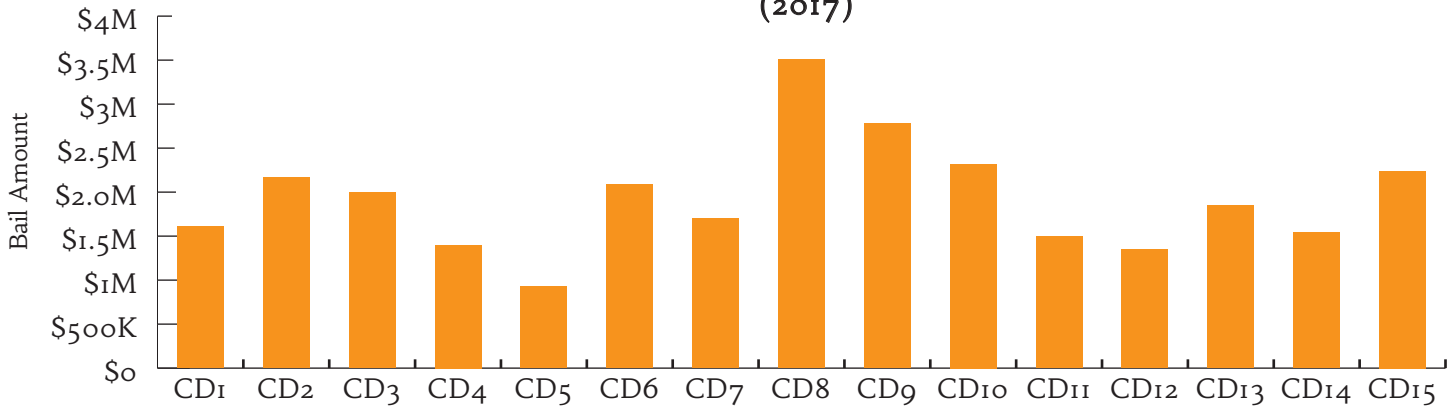


In California, adults facing criminal charges are guaranteed the right to freedom before trial, except in a few cases. One way to secure that freedom is to pay money bail. Between January 1 and December 31, 2017, 65,411 bookings into LAPD custody were levied a total of **\$3,602,693,975 in money bail**. Of the total bail levied, \$517,835,768 was set on houseless individuals. Most persons either could not or otherwise did not pay for release prior to arraignment. Instead, they remained in custody. Of those who did bond out, 0.1% paid in cash and 99.9% contracted with a bail bond agent. Collectively, the persons who used a bail bond agent paid an estimated **\$40,799,500 in non-refundable bail bond deposits**. The most impacted racial/ethnic populations were Latinx and Black residents, paying \$19,614,938 and \$10,169,118 respectively in non-refundable bail bond deposits. Additionally, \$7,884,391 was paid on behalf of women in exchange for their pretrial release.

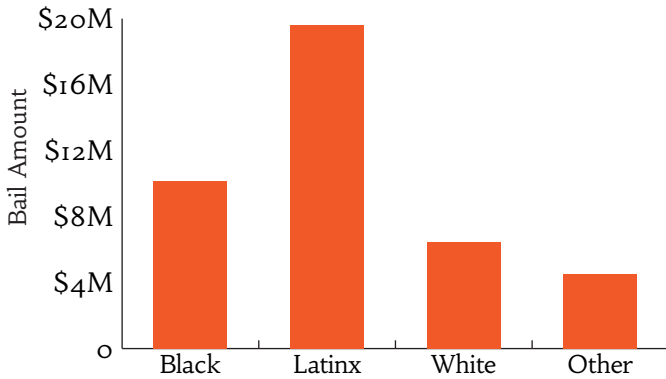
Using 2017 LAPD data, this report provides rare insight into the scale of the money bail system in the City of Los Angeles. Like our previous report, “The Price for Freedom: Bail in the City of Los Angeles, 2012-2016,” it offers just a peek at the total costs. One limitation to this report is that LAPD data only captures the amount of bail levied and paid prior to seeing a judge for the first time. Moreover, LAPD data does not account for any additional charges assessed by bail bond agents. But LAPD data provides one of the most clear-eyed looks at the money bail system in Los Angeles, unmasking the fact that the financial toll for pretrial release largely impacts African Americans, Latinos, and the City’s most economically-aggrieved communities.



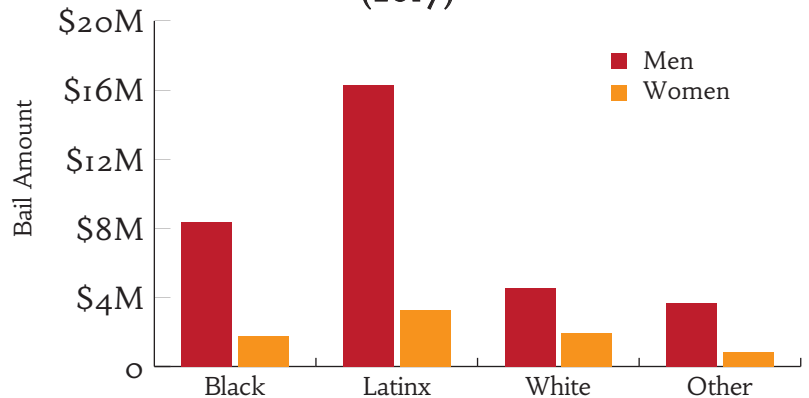
### TOTAL NON-REFUNDABLE BOND PAID BY CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT (2017)



### TOTAL NON-REFUNDABLE BOND PAID BY RACE (2017)



### TOTAL NON-REFUNDABLE BOND PAID BY RACE AND GENDER (2017)



### TOP 5 ZIP CODES BY TOTAL NON-REFUNDABLE BOND PAID (2017)

Zip Code	90033	90044	90011	90037	90002
Non-Refundable Bond Paid	\$1,227,876	\$1,017,721	\$979,949	\$748,152	\$550,348

Methodology. On March 15, 2018, the LAPD fulfilled a Public Records Act request submitted by Professor Kelly Lytle Hernandez on January 4, 2018. The data provided included more than twenty categories of information for all detention bookings made by the LAPD between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2017, including arrests made by LAPD and other law enforcement agencies within the City of LA. For this report, we utilized the following categories of information: Race, Sex (gender), Total\_Bail (the sum of all bailset), Rel\_Reas (release disposition), and Home\_Res (home address). To calculate total money bail set, we calculated the sum of all numeric values included in the "Total\_Bail" category. To calculate how much was paid to bail bond agents, we estimated that for persons released on "BOND" 10% of their total money bail charge was paid to a bail bond agent. To estimate bail by residence, we geo-coded and cross-referenced the home addresses provided in the "Home\_Res" category within The City of Los Angeles. Houseless persons were determined by aggregating individuals with the "Home\_Res" "1942 Transient" or the address of a known homeless shelter.

Recommended Citation:

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