



April 6, 2020

Apax Partners
601 Lexington Ave
New York, NY 10022
(212) 753-6300

Dear Andrew Sillitoe and Mitch Truwit,

The COVID-19 pandemic has overwhelmed many public systems, and the correctional system is no different. Prisons and jails are breeding grounds for infection as people are crowded into tight quarters and forced to share cells and showers, making social distancing impossible and allowing the disease to spread rapidly.

We are writing to demand that you take action to address the predatory behavior of your portfolio company: Attenti. Attenti is using the COVID-19 pandemic as an opportunity to further exploit people in the criminal legal system, which will cost people their health and wellbeing, and even their lives.

Attenti barter with peoples' freedom, which is troubling under normal circumstances but can be deadly today. Attenti charges people as much as \$15 per day to be on an electronic monitor.¹ As facilities release vulnerable people from incarceration to stop the spread of COVID-19, Attenti should not be working against them by encouraging law enforcement to employ electronic monitors on those released, charging insurmountable fees for electronic monitoring, and sending people back to prison for the inability to pay—a common practice for Attenti and others in the surveillance industry.

To protect the lives of people, you must immediately direct executive management at Attenti to:

- Cease all lobbying and refrain from encouraging the use of electronic monitoring in the release of incarcerated people,
- Eliminate all activation and monitoring fees for recently released people, and
- Waive monitoring fees for people currently being surveilled.

Through Attenti, Apax generates revenue and builds wealth off people in the criminal legal system, disproportionately people of color and in poverty. You now have a responsibility to

¹ "Continuing Incarceration: Apax Partners' Digital Shackles." *PE Stakeholder Project*, 3 Oct. 2019, <https://pestakeholder.org/continuing-incarceration-apax-partners-digital-shackles/>.

protect the population you have been profiting off of. You must take immediate steps to prevent and address their exploitation during COVID-19.

We are open to dialogue on the above matters, and in the meantime, we will be sharing this letter with Apax's investors and other private equity firms that own prison service corporations. We are also contacting the following bodies with similar demands: Federal Communications Commission, Federal Bureau of Prisons, National Governors' Association, United States Conference of Mayors, and National Sheriffs' Association.

In closing, we urge you to use this moment to reevaluate your investment portfolio and the role Apax plays in upholding the nation's long-lasting carceral crisis that has decimated communities of color and poverty. Until you exit this industry entirely, you will have a hand in exploiting vulnerable people, exacerbating racial disparities, separating loved ones, and driving families into poverty. You have a choice. This will be your legacy.

Sincerely,

Bianca Tylek
Executive Director
Worth Rises

Jim Baker
Executive Director
Private Equity Stakeholder Project

Scott Roberts
Senior Director of Criminal Justice Campaigns
Color of Change

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CC:

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