



OKLAHOMA COUNTY BONDSMAN ASSOCIATION
OKLA. CITY, OKLAHOMA
IMPROVING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE BAIL INDUSTRY AND THE
LEGAL COMMUNITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 20, 2026

MEDIA CONTACT:

Jessica Williams, President
Oklahoma County Bondsman Association
Phone: 405-525-8600
Email: oklahomacountybondsman@gmail.com

OKLAHOMA COUNTY BONDSMAN ASSOCIATION CALLS FOR ACCOUNTABILITY FOLLOWING REPEATED RELEASE OF ALLEGED OFFENDER

Public safety must not become collateral damage of criminal justice reform.

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. — The Oklahoma County Bondsman Association is deeply concerned by the repeated release of Jeff Asare and the policy failures that preceded the alleged attack at Lake Hefner.

This did not occur in a vacuum. It is not the first time Oklahoma County's release policies have produced alarming consequences—not even close. It is simply the first time one of these failures has captured headlines and public attention on this scale.

For years, District Attorney Vicki Behenna and certain Oklahoma County judges have challenged secured bail while promoting and expanding taxpayer-funded pretrial release. The public was assured these programs could provide supervision and accountability without compromising safety. This case reinforces the serious concerns we have long raised about those assurances.

According to KOCO 5, complaints arising from Asare's first two August arrests were declined after investigators could not locate the alleged victims, who were homeless. Within days, Asare—who has an extensive criminal history—was arrested again for allegedly attempting to rape a woman on the Lake Hefner Trail.

The contradiction is alarming. Behenna recently told The Frontier that prosecutors are less likely to support TEEM release for defendants who are homeless or experiencing mental-health challenges because they are difficult to locate. Yet TEEM receives up to \$1.3 million annually to address those very barriers. Meanwhile, allegations involving homeless victims may go unfilled because those victims are also difficult to locate.

This creates the appearance of a system that releases difficult-to-supervise defendants but is unprepared to protect or pursue justice for the vulnerable people they are accused of harming.

The officials who promoted and expanded these policies owe Oklahoma County a transparent accounting of who authorized Asare's releases, why the earlier complaints were declined, and what safeguards failed. Public safety must never become collateral damage of criminal justice reform.

###

ABOUT THE OKLAHOMA COUNTY BONDSMAN ASSOCIATION

The Oklahoma County Bondsman Association represents licensed bail bondsmen serving Oklahoma County and works to promote accountability, public safety, professional standards, and constructive relationships between the bail industry and the legal community.