

Sept. 27, 2022

To: Mayor Eric Adams

Today we are calling on you to address the growing crisis on Rikers Island and at the City's other jails by moving forward with the following seven (7) steps:

1. Issue an official call to make decarceration the guiding policy goal of New York City.
2. Present your plan to "close the pipeline that feeds Rikers" no later than Nov. 1
  - This plan should adopt recommendations laid out by The Commission on Community Reinvestments and the Closure of Rikers Island in their 2021 [report](#) that addresses the root causes and drivers of criminalized behavior.
  - And should include a plan to release all people and to stop sending people to these deadly jails
3. With the ultimate goal of releasing everyone from Rikers, immediately release all people sentenced to City time as you have the authority to do. Additionally, we ask you to call for the immediate release of the following categories of people awaiting trial:
  - Pregnant people, all women, all transgender people, and all gender non-conforming people
  - People with mental health needs
  - People with chronic health problems
  - People with city sentences
4. End the Use of Solitary Confinement
  - Support the passage of Int 0549-2022, a bill to end the barbaric practice of solitary confinement in NYC
5. Require an actionable commitment to harm reduction within DOC
  - Advocate for the release of all people with substance use needs
  - Create transparency on the training of corrections staff on the carrying and administering of NARCAN
  - Ensure that staff with mental health training and placed in units with those with mental health complexities
  - Provide individual first aid kits that include fentanyl test strips to everyone detained, in a way that eliminates any possibility of retaliation or further prosecution
  - Reconvene the Suicide Prevention Taskforce, complete suicide prevention trainings for all staff, and reestablish the use of Suicide Prevention Aids.
6. Address gendered harm on Rikers
  - Establish accountability metrics for the implementation of the Prison Rape Elimination Act that include women, trans, and gender expansive people.
7. Require the City to create and sustain a pathway for stability for those leaving DOC facilities
  - Halt plans to close the City's six reentry hotels. The hotels have contributed to lower recidivism rates and public safety. Closing them will only strengthen the pipeline to Rikers that Mayor Adams claims to want to close.
  - Support the passage of the Fair Chance for Housing Act, a bill to end housing discrimination against people with criminal records.

