

August 17, 2023

To: Mayor Eric Adams

We are again calling on you to address the growing crisis of Rikers Island and at the City's other jails by moving forward with the following eight (8) 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 Oct. 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. Direct the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, the Department of Correction and all other relevant agencies to actively support the work of the Jail Population Review Initiative to divert people from jail.**
- 4. With the ultimate goal of releasing everyone from Rikers, 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 substance use needs
 - People who are sole caretakers of children or other family members
 - People sentenced to city time
- 5. 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
- 6. Require an actionable commitment to harm reduction within DOC**
 - Create transparency on the training of corrections staff on the carrying and administering of NARCAN
 - Ensure that staff with mental health training are placed in units with those with mental health complexities
 - Provide individual first aid kits that include fentanyl and xylazine 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.
- 7. 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.
- 8. Require the City to create and sustain a pathway for stability for those leaving DOC facilities**
 - Halt plans to close the City's remaining three 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.
 - Allocate sufficient funds to open the 380 more units of Justice Involved Supportive Housing that the [City agreed to in 2019](#).