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New York City Council Committee
on Fire and Criminal Justice Services

Hearing to Discuss:
Intro. 1348-A

Monday, June 19, 2017
11:00 AM

Testimony Presented By
Ariany Polo
BronxConnect,
Alternative-to-Incarceration Manager

Good morning Chairperson Crowley, and all the members of the Fire and Criminal Justice Committee.

I am Ariany Polo the Manager of our Supreme Court Alternative to Incarceration Program. BronxConnect is a faith-based, community-based program that offers alternatives to detention and incarceration that connect court-involved youth with positive resources in the local community. Through mentoring relationships, we prevent recidivism and address youth-initiated goals in education and employment.

BronxConnect was the first Bronx-based Alternative-to- Incarceration (ATI) and Alternative-to-Detention (ATD) program serving our community. We also serve the Bronx with Crisis Management and Cure Violence Services. BronxConnect began as a response from the community to the high incarceration rates of our African American and Hispanic youth. We recently won a Department of Corrections sub contract via the Friends of Island Academy to provide pre-release services to 60 young adults charged and serving time at Rikers Island.

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. I testify as a resident of the Bronx, Management of a community-based program, staffed by members of the community, ex-offenders and people of color. We have served over 2,000 children and young people over the last 17 years.

BronxConnect has developed its own unique service model to achieve successful outcomes with court-involved youth. BronxConnect's alternative-to-incarceration services are based on many of the same assumptions as Multisystemic Therapy Model (MST) yet include additional services and methodologies unique to its own community context. This has allowed us to have unprecedented success at keeping youth from re-offending. The BronxConnect program has been the object of a research study published in "Overcoming the Magnetism of Street Life: Crime-Engaged Youth and the Programs That Transform Them."ⁱ Trevor Milton, Ph.D. (Principal Investigator), in collaboration with BronxConnect, the Heckscher Foundation for Children, and the New York State Department of Criminal Justice Services, conducted a recidivism study of our BronxConnect ATI. In Dr. Milton's study within 12 months of contact with the BronxConnect program, only 4.4% of Successful Graduates of BronxConnect were convicted of felony offenses. After 3 years only 8.7% of BronxConnect Successful Graduates who were convicted of a new

felony offense, and after 5 years only 12.9% of BronxConnect Successful Graduates who were convicted of a new felony offense.

BronxConnect fully supports Intro. 1348-A and the efforts to improve the lives of those inmates serving 30 days or more at Rikers Island. The City has an opportunity to intervene in the lives of those affected by incarceration and begin to direct them in other position.

We appreciate the efforts of the city to introduce rehabilitation to our criminal justice system, as a purely punitive system does nothing to change and improve our society and urban communities that have been plagued by excessive arrests.

According to the Vera Institute of Justice, up to 60% of adolescents age 16-18 in New York City jails read below a fifth grade reading level. A research study by Public Private Ventures has demonstrated that two-thirds of young adults returning from New York State prisons never return to school.ⁱⁱ We have found these dismal statistics to be true, and seek to incorporate employment readiness, job placement and academic enrichment into all our programs to support long term success.

According to the NYC Department of Correction, each year, approximately 75,000 people return to NYC following a period of incarceration in jail or prison.ⁱⁱⁱ According to recidivism data compiled by New York City's Criminal Justice Agency, more than half (51.2%) of defendants sentenced to jail or prison citywide in 2009 were re-arrested within a year, and nearly a quarter (22.9%) of them were re-arrested for a felony offense. Citywide, 51.5% of defendants between the ages of 16 and 24 were re-arrested for any crime with a year of release from jail or prison versus 59.6% for Bronx defendants in the same age bracket. The Bronx had the highest number of re-arrests for the age group out of all five boroughs.^{iv} Over 60% of the state's prison population hails from the five boroughs and city data released in 2013 shows that the South Bronx is one of the top five communities where NYC-based inmates list their home address.^v

New York City's unemployed and under--employed population is also predominantly made up of African-- American and Latino males, many of whom have had contact with the criminal justice system. The tough-on-crime policies of the War on Drugs, especially aggressive "broken --

windows” policies, and over-policing in communities of color have left tens of thousands of African American and Latino workers in New York City with some type of prior justice involvement that will appear on a criminal history report.^{vi}

A NYC study released in early 2014 found that by age 18, 30% of black men, 26% of Latino men and 22% of white men had been arrested. By age 23, the numbers climbed to 49% for black men, 44% for Latino men and 38% for white men.^{vii} It is in such a context that young recently incarcerated individuals are more likely to return to the criminal justice system than to pursue sustainable employment and higher education.

Without targeted intervention in the area of employment and education, most of these formerly incarcerated citizens will return to custody. A recent recidivism study found that 38% of people released from New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) prisons who were originally committed to prison from New York City returned to DOCCS custody within three years of their release.^{viii}

We are grateful to have won the Friends of Island Academy Department of Corrections subcontract to provide 6 months of pre-release services to 60 young adults in Rikers Island, which include the ability for these young people to receive up to \$200 in incentives. Yet, for every class we offer, there are many more youth who want to attend but cannot.

Currently, according to Just Leadership USA, it cost \$167,000 per year to hold a person at Rikers Island^{ix}. It only cost between \$11,000-\$20,000 a year per person for a young person to be in an ATI program within their own community. Hire more ATI’s like BronxConnect, an agency that can and will receive young people from Rikers and rehabilitate them in order to be part of the community they were taken out of.

Thank you for your time.

ⁱ Trevor Milton, Ph.D., *Overcoming the Magnetism of Street Life: Crime-Engaged Youth and the Programs that Transform Them* (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2011)

ⁱⁱ Lennon, C. (2014, October 30). Lack of skilled workers threatens economic growth in STEM fields. U.S. News & World Report.

ⁱⁱⁱ New York City Department of Corrections (NYC DOC). Releases in 2015. Provided by DOC to ISLG on January 25, 2016.

^{iv} 2009 City of New York Data: <http://recidivism.cityofnewyork.us/index.php?m=search>

^v First Steps Taken to Convert Closed Bronx Prison to Re-entry Hub, Gotham Gazette

^{vi} New York American Civil Liberties Union. (2013). Analysis finds racial disparities, ineffectiveness in NYPD stop-and-frisk program; Links tactic to soaring marijuana arrest rate [Press Release]. Retrieved from <http://www.nyclu.org/news/analysis-finds-racial-disparities-ineffectiveness-nypd-stop-andfrisk-program-links-tactic-soar>

^{vii} Brame, R., Bushway, S., Paternoster, R., & Turner, M. (2014). Demographic Patterns of Cumulative Arrest Prevalence by Ages 18 and 23. *Crime & Delinquency*, 471-486.

^{viii} 2010 Inmate Releases: Three Year Post Release Follow-up, State of New York Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, Page 24

^{ix} Just Leadership USA (2017). Advocating for our future: Current Issue- Local. Retrieved from <https://www.justleadershipusa.org/advocacy/>



**TESTIMONY OF
THE FORTUNE SOCIETY**

**JOINT HEARING: NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES ON
FIRE & CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES**
City Hall: Council Chambers

June 19th, 2017

SUBJECT: Proposed Int. No. 1348-A

PURPOSE: The legislation will amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring the Department of Correction to provide inmates vocational or educational programming

Presented by:

Ismael Nazario
I-CAN Case Manager

The Fortune Society
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Good morning. My name is Ismael Nazario; I am the I-CAN Case Manager of The Fortune Society (Fortune), a New York City-based nonprofit organization that provides nearly 7,000 individuals per year with the support they need to break the cycle of crime and incarceration, and thrive in their communities. Thank you for this opportunity to express my strong support for Bill Number 1348-A, which would require the Department of Corrections (DOC) to offer vocational or educational programming for people who are incarcerated in city jails for 30 days or longer. For 50 years, Fortune has worked to promote a fair, humane, and truly rehabilitative justice system, and we believe that this legislation represents a major commitment in that direction.

At Fortune, we have intimate knowledge of the importance of providing programming to incarcerated individuals prior to their release. Starting in 2005, we were one of the very first **Rikers Island Discharge Enhancement (RIDE)** providers, funded through the DOC, to provide discharge planning and transitional services to city-sentenced individuals preparing for release back into the community. Today, we are one of two community agencies contracted by DOC to provide services under the **Individualized Correction Achievement Network (I-CAN)** program, which is the second generation of RIDE. For five days a week, and on some weekends, our staff engages individuals on Rikers Island in a full day of service offerings including soft-skills trainings such as Workforce 101, **Relapse Prevention**, **24/7 Dads**, Parenting Workshops, Creative Writing Classes, and **Moral Reconnection Therapy (MRT)**. We also provide hard-skill workforce development trainings, such as the Food Handlers Certification; CPR, OSHA 10, and OSHA 30 Certification; and G|PRO Electrical Certification. Each year, over a thousand people enroll in our I-CAN program, and we cannot understate the value that this resource creates for our clients and our community. Rather than languishing in a jail cell, these individuals are able to

use their time to address the underlying causes that led to their incarceration, while building the skills they need to successfully transition back into the community. The program gives participants a sense of purpose, and a clear path to becoming productive and contributing members of society.

I-CAN, and programs like it, are also at the center of DOC's violence prevention strategy. As noted in the recently released Request for Proposals for the I-CAN contract, "During their incarceration, lack of programming and the resultant idle time can lead to incidents, compromising the safety of inmates and staff." As such, this legislation will not only promote a more rehabilitative correctional system, it will also promote the safety of the men and women who are incarcerated and those who work within the DOC facilities.

In addition to working inside DOC, Fortune provides support to formerly incarcerated populations post-release. We are also part of the Alternatives to Incarceration/Re-entry Coalition; a collaboration of organizations that run community-based programs that provide alternatives to incarceration, as well as training, counseling, education, drug and alcohol treatment, mental health services, anger management, family and parenting services and other essential tools that help formerly incarceration participants to find employment and housing and to live stable, crime-free lives. We firmly believe that expanding access to structured programming to incarcerated individuals prior to their release will have a positive impact on their lives, increase safety within Rikers Island, and help to end the cycle of crime and incarceration that has plagued our communities for generations.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide Fortune's strong support for this legislation.

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6/19/2017 CITY COUNCIL HEARING

TESTIMONY OF NEW YORK COUNTY DEFENDER SERVICES

This city fails its criminal justice system and its entire citizenry if it continues to neglect the critical rehabilitative component of incarceration. NYCDS's social work unit witnesses firsthand our clients' experiences when they are released from Rikers, and there's a dispiriting sameness to it. The formerly incarcerated of this city are often left adrift with no ability to build the kind of employment history that allows an individual the dignity of supporting themselves in a law-abiding manner while contributing to society as a whole. The result is increased recidivism, adverse physical and mental health outcomes, and a tremendous burden to society in the form of higher costs paired with decreased productivity.

A 2013 report by the Rand Corporation ably demonstrated the pitfalls of incarceration without rehabilitative training and the advisability of providing these services. According to the report, inmates who receive general education and vocational training are significantly less likely to return to prison post-release and are more apt to locate employment than those who do not receive such opportunities. Moreover, prison education programs are cost effective, with a \$1 investment in prison education reducing incarceration costs by \$4 to \$5 during the first three years post-release. Inmates who engage in correctional education programs are 43% less likely to return to prison.

So educational and vocational interventions reduce recidivism and better prepare inmates for their transition back into the community. There's also the potential for other meaningful impact during the incarceration itself. According to the Institute of Higher Education Policy and

Just Leadership USA, education and job training of inmates improves the social climate and communication level of the incarcerated population while enhancing their critical thinking skills. Any proposal, such as the instant one, that will make incarceration even slightly more dignified and productive can only inure to society's benefit.

In 2016 there were approximately 61,000 admissions into Department of Correction custody with an average daily population of around 9,700. The average length of time spent in custody was fifty-seven days. Educational and vocational training would have a significant impact not just for those individuals directly involved but also in furthering what must be the goal of any stakeholder in our criminal justice system: the reduction of crime and the incidence for incarceration.

Mayor Bill de Blasio has stated: "Everyone deserves a second chance. We're working to break the cycle of returning to jail for those in City custody by making sure they have opportunities to learn and grow while in jail, and connecting them with the re-entry services to support a pathway to stability when they leave." NYCDS supports this bill as a step in the right direction toward that ultimate goal. This new approach is not only wise, it is a moral mandate.

Mai Le
Managing Forensic Social Worker
New York County Defender Services



TESTIMONY

The Council of the City of New York

Committee on Fire and Criminal Justice Services and
Committee on Juvenile Justice

Intro 1348A - In relation to requiring the department of correction to
provide inmates vocational or educational programming

June 19, 2017
New York, New York

The Legal Aid Society
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New York, NY 10038

Good morning. I am Nancy Ginsburg, Director of the Legal Aid Society's Adolescent Intervention and Diversion Project in the Criminal Practice, a specialized unit dedicated to the representation of adolescents aged 13 to 18 who are prosecuted in the adult criminal courts. This testimony is based on consultation with our Prisoners' Rights Project. We submit this testimony on behalf of the Legal Aid Society, and thank Chair Crowley and the Committee on Fire and Criminal Justice Services for inviting our thoughts on Intro 1348A, proposed legislation requiring the Department of Correction to provide vocational or educational programming to individuals held in custody.

The Legal Aid Society is the nation's oldest and largest provider of legal services to low-income families and individuals. As you know, from offices in all five boroughs, the Society annually provides quality legal assistance to low-income families and individuals in legal matters involving civil, criminal, and juvenile rights issues. The Criminal Defense Practice of the Legal Aid Society is the largest defender organization in New York City, representing the majority of individuals in trial, appellate, and post-conviction cases for clients accused of criminal conduct. Many thousands of our clients with criminal cases in Criminal Court and Supreme Court are teenagers who are treated as if they are adults. The Criminal Practice has a specialized unit of lawyers and social workers dedicated to representing many of our youngest clients prosecuted in the criminal system. The Adolescent Intervention and Diversion Project provides enhanced representation for our most vulnerable clients who are often involved in many systems in addition to being court-involved: foster care, special education, mental health, substance abuse. Our Criminal Practice also provides services for clients challenging punitive segregation sentences while in City custody.

The Prisoners' Rights Project ("PRP") of The Legal Aid Society has addressed problems in the New York City jails for more than 40 years. Through advocacy with the Department of Correction ("DOC") and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene ("DOHMH") as well as individual and class action lawsuits, PRP has sought to improve medical and mental health care and to reform the systems for oversight of the use of force and violence in the jails. Each week PRP receives and investigates numerous requests for assistance from individuals incarcerated in the City jails. Years of experience, including daily contact with inmates and their families, has given The Legal Aid Society a firsthand view of problems in the New York City jails.

Our perspective comes from our daily contacts with clients and their families, and also from our frequent interactions with the courts, social service providers, and City agencies, including the New York Police Department, the Department of Education, the Department of Youth and Family Justice, the Department of Correction, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Department of Probation as well as the Administration for Children's Services.

Because of the breadth of The Legal Aid Society's representation, we are uniquely positioned to address the issue before you today. We have more than 50 years of experience assessing the cases and needs of clients, advocating for programming and education services for those in custody and identifying diversion programs, and advocating for alternatives to incarceration. We have developed effective advocacy relationships in the courts, with prosecutors, and with City and State agencies, which have resulted in connecting our clients with the services that best meet their needs as well as those of the community.

Our extensive experience indicates that community safety is best protected when appropriate services are identified and accessed for clients so that they are treated safely and humanely while in the system and less likely to be entangled again in the criminal systems. The Legal Aid Society strongly supports the provision of services to our incarcerated clients.

We appreciate the intent of the current legislation, but have concerns about unintended consequences of the language as set forth. We believe the intent of the legislation is to set a floor for service provision to individuals in the custody of the Department of Correction and we support that goal. However, we believe the language is both too broad and too limiting to achieve the goals it sets out to reach.

We are concerned to the extent that the bill suggests programming could be provided in lieu of education. There are many adolescents and young adults who are entitled to education either due to compulsory education laws or special education laws and we are concerned that this bill would allow programming to be provided in lieu of educational services. We fully support a requirement of five hours of academic services for those entitled or requesting them regardless of their security classification or housing location. The Department of Education currently provides a five hour school day to adolescents enrolled in school and we believe that standard should be maintained by legal mandate.

Additionally, it should be ensured that as many individuals as possible should have access to school. Furthermore, the broad brush exemption for circumstances where "education cannot safely be provided" is far too vague to address the security aspects of correctional education. There is already existing law and regulation setting forth the circumstances in which educational programming can be restricted for security reasons. This language should be omitted from this bill.

We support the provision of a wide variety of services to all individuals in custody regardless of security classification or housing location. In our experience, a small number of individuals are provided with access to programming while many receive nothing at all. Social services to incarcerated individuals must be increased, both to protect them during their incarceration and facilitate their re-entry to society upon release. The period of incarceration presents an opportunity to teach social skills, enhance academic skills, to expose clients to new possibilities for their future. Study after study has shown that those who are incarcerated stay more motivated, prepare for release and engage in less violence when they have access to productive activities.

The requirement in the current legislation that limits education and programming to individuals in general population excludes those in specialized housing including but not limited to protective custody, mental health settings, high security settings. Individuals in alternative settings can benefit from education and programming as much, if not more, than those in general population.

Additionally, adolescents and young adults are placed in school in a far shorter timeframe than thirty days. It is our position that they should have access to school as soon as possible after being placed in the custody of the DOC and this legislation should formalize the practice that is currently in place or improve upon it. Given the prevalence of individuals classified with special education needs and the percentages of youth and young adults performing far below grade level, connection to the academic setting is critical to their successful reintegration to the community.

The Legal Aid Society appreciates and supports the effort that the Department of Correction has made to expand services for adolescents and young adults. We would like to see a wide menu of services provided to the adult population as well regardless of housing unit or security level. We have seen the access to services improve our clients' ability to meaningfully connect to community based services. Progress in services reduce periods of incarceration and increase clients' adherence to community programming upon release. In particular, vocational services are critical to clients' success upon release in reducing recidivism and improving community outcomes.

We look forward to working with the Council to refine the language of this legislation so the goals of academic and programming services to all individuals in the custody of the Department of Correction are fully realized. We thank the Committee for this public forum. The City Council plays and must continue to play an important role in understanding, monitoring and tracking the conditions of confinement for individuals incarcerated in the City jail system.



Testimony presented to
New York City Council
June 19, 2017

Re: Intro 1348A - In relation to requiring the department of correction to provide inmates vocational or educational programming.

Approximately 24,000 people are released from prisons and jails annually in New York State; 47% of these people are from New York City. Based on statistics of prior years, over 10,000 are destined to cycle back through prison and jail.¹

Increasing opportunities for successful re-entry leads to safer communities and lower recidivism rates. When people are offered opportunities to engage in programming inside prison, their opportunities for success on the outside increases.

Nationally, Only about half of incarcerated adults have a high school degree or its equivalent.² Youth in the juvenile justice system are significantly more likely than other youth to be suspended or expelled, have academic skills well below their grade level, possess a learning or developmental disability, and drop out of school. Enrollment in school and academic achievement is associated with lower rates of reoffending and better outcomes into adulthood.³

Providing meaningful activities in prisons and jails can help alleviate stress, reduce altercations, and increase positive communication, making the overall culture and environment safer for inmates and staff. Writing programs in particular serve a therapeutic function while supporting literacy development and continued education.

Thirty years of research indicates that therapeutic writing results in tangible outcomes that improve overall health and functioning including: improved emotional and physical health, positive behavioral changes, boost in academic ability, improved working efficiency, better sleep habits and improved connections to others.⁴

Reducing recidivism saves money, and saves lives. Therapeutic writing can help people process and cope with the trauma of incarceration and reintegrate into their communities in healthy and productive ways.

In over a decade of working with people who've experienced incarceration in New York City, I've seen them return traumatized and less able to function, with a whole new set of problems than when they left, and much less able to comply with the terms of their release. So many of

¹ New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision Fact Sheet, June 1, 2017

² Caroline Wolf Harlow, Education and Correctional Populations (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2003), available at bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/pdf/ecp.pdf.

³ Antonis Katsiyannis, Joseph Benedict Ryan, Dalun Zhang, and Anastasia Spann, "Juvenile Delinquency and Recidivism: The Impact of Academic Achievement," Reading and Writing Quarterly 24.2 (2008), available at researchgate.net/publication/271929587_Juvenile_Delinquency_and_Recidivism_The_Impact_of_Academic_Achievement.

⁴ James w. Pennebaker, Ph.D. and John F. Evans, Ed. D., Expressive Writing, Words that Heal (Idyll Arbor, Inc., 2014) p. 42-43

the challenges of re-entry are a result of trauma people have suffered while in prison. The suffering of people in this punitive system is a shame for our City and our Nation and does nothing to prepare them for re-entry.

Through humane treatment of people who are incarcerated, including the provision of rehabilitative and educational activities and programs in prisons and jails, we can create a narrative of successful re-entry, safer communities, and reduced recidivism rates.

Respectfully yours,
Jessica Hall, LMSW
Executive Director, Prison Writes
www.prisonwrites.org

Thank God

Thank God I've come to prison
Because now all my madness, betraying, and pretending now has an ending
I had so much money that you couldn't even tell
I always stayed totted, had a couple of hammers and a few empty shells
I hated constantly looking over my shoulder
Wondering if it was my day to go to jail
Or if last night's shootout would have landed a bullet in my head
I was thrown into a lifestyle
Without a choice or an option
My father told me it's either
You sale something or you sale something
So, since a young girl raised in the streets of Baltimore
I ran down, no lacking, no fronting
Never gave anybody the satisfaction
I was getting money
Aiming for the 50s, 20s, and the hundreds
For your safe, your shop, your life, I was coming
I did my thing on my own
I constantly wondered if I wasn't going to make it home
If I was ever going to be able to live a normal life
Get married, have a real job, and a few kids
I prayed and prayed and God seemed to hear
But I forgot to do the most important thing to change and to give
Because all I knew was take, take; get, get
So God blessed and cursed me for the way that I had to live
But I thank him even in the worse situations
Cause he still gave me the opportunity to make choices and a few more changes
To give back time and change lives and brighten a few spirits
Everything happens for a reason.
I can still go home, have a few more children
I can still get a job and make an honest living
Maybe be an entrepreneur, have my own business
Living normal, making legal seven figures
That God for this reality check experience
So I know it might sound crazy
But Thank God I came to prison.

- By Arkia, participant in Prison Writes workshop via the Brooklyn DA's Office of Re-entry Gender Responsive Re-entry Assistance Support Program (G.R.A.S.P.)



Transforming Lives, Communities,
and the Criminal Justice System

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June 18, 2017

Testimony before New York City Council
Committee on Education
Committee on Fire & Criminal Justice Services
Committee on Juvenile Justice

Joint oversight Hearing On
Educational Services for Detained and Placed Youth
&

Int. 1348-A: To Require the Department of Correction to Provide Inmates Vocational or
Educational Training

Written Testimony Submitted by

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Good Afternoon.

My name is Fernando Martinez and I am the Fulton Project Director at the Osborne Association. The Osborne Association is a 95 year old justice agency serving people at all stages of justice involvement with alternatives to incarceration, reentry services, and family support. I am here today with the ATI/Reentry Coalition.

As one of the largest service providers on Rikers Island and working with young men and women as they return to the community from our City's jails, we know the imperative role that education and work force related training and services plays in the success of youth in detention, placement and serving local jail sentences, both inside and upon return to the community. We currently contribute to the Department of Correction's goal of providing people in City jails with five hours of services per day. We provide a variety of 2.5 to 3 hour group services throughout each day in eight of the City's jails, serving more than 4,000 people per year. From April 1, 2016 through March 31, 2017 Osborne assisted 1,343 individuals to earn 2,082 hard skills training certificates inside City Jails, with 762 of those folks earning OSHA certifications.

We support Int. No. 1348A, requiring the Department of Correction to provide people detained and incarcerated in City jails with vocational and educational programming. We particularly support Int. 1348-A's assertion that the Department "may establish schools or classes for the instruction and training of inmates." Currently most of our services, including educational and vocational training, are provided in day rooms of housing areas, which are not environments generally conducive to learning and training. We are in day rooms because there is an utter lack of appropriate classroom space in DOC facilities simply due to the nature of the original design of the buildings. The Department of Correction and we have been creative in making the best use of the limited space available, but few areas meet the basic standards of a classroom. They are cramped and they have unmovable furnishing making it hard to properly set up the room for learning and they have little or poor temperature regulation (no AC in summer). Day rooms are also the only common spaces for people to use. They are where the televisions and telephones are located. They are where people eat meals and snacks. With up to 50 people living in a housing area with no alternate class space, it can also create an unmanageable class size when everyone is participating.

Most of the young people we serve inside (and outside) are eager for education and training that will prepare them for success in the world of work. Many have not had success in traditional school settings in the community and benefit from alternative options that couple education with much needed support services such as housing, therapy, family reunification, medical and behavioral health treatment and trauma services. At an event I attended last week at GMDC on Rikers Island, young people spoke of the vital role that programming had in the detention setting and in changing their

thinking and creating options for new and alternative choices in their lives. One young man remarked on how grateful he was to have received his OSHA training, and to have completed basic plumbing and electrical training. He had some success under his belt and felt optimistic about his chances for meaningful work upon returning home. However, he sadly shared that he “had to come to jail for this” and that he could not afford to access these trainings in the community. He wondered aloud whether having had these trainings a year or two ago would have altered his path, turning it away from the courts and jail. While we agree that these services are sorely needed in the community, we are so glad that they are available in the jails and in higher volume now than they have ever existed before.

Osborne provides many hard skills trainings like OSHA, Fire Guard, Scaffolding, Flagging, Plumbing, Carpentry, and culinary arts. We provide these in eight of the City’s jails and in our community sites in the Bronx and Brooklyn. We hope to begin providing fork lift operator training in partnership with DOC shortly. We also provide soft skills training, job placement, job retention, and TASC (high school equivalency), and paid apprenticeship and internship services in our community sites.

Several thousand people per year participate in our education and employment services with a good many being between the ages of 16 and 25 years old. We know that these services buffer people from further justice involvement and bring them meaning, pride and self-sufficiency. We support the provision of these services inside and the creation of appropriate classroom spaces. We also support transparency with the reporting of aggregate data or de-identified (anonymous) person level data. This will allow the community to know the great work that is being done inside by many providers and the Department of Correction, as well as to help determine funding, policy and programmatic solutions to meet the full need and fill the gaps that still exist.

Osborne and the other ATI/Reentry Coalition members¹ play a significant role in providing these services to young people. Incarceration disrupts the course of youth development, pushing aside milestones such as high school graduations, first jobs, and entering higher education and/or trade training. Youth in detention and placemen often see only one path ahead of them, more trouble and more jail. Without intervention and services, that is true for many young people. They know schools are unlikely to welcome them back from jail and that employment will be even harder to get. Introducing alternative paths to education, career exploration, and hands on training on the inside and continuance of these services on the outside gives them access to the correct belief that there is a future for them after incarceration and provide them a realistic path to a career.

¹ The ATI/Reentry Coalition members are: The Osborne Association, CASES, Center for Employment Opportunities, Center for Community Alternatives, Fortune Society, NY TASC & Mental Health Programs (EAC), Women’s Prison Association, Greenburger Center, Legal Action Center, Urban Youth Alliance (Bronx Connect).

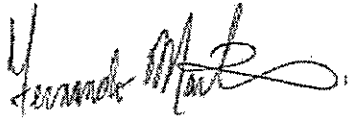
Young people in our classes discover their talents and that they can be relied upon to learn special skills and do good work. That feels good and they want more of it.

The City Council has been a key partner through the Coalition's 20+ year history, providing critical funding that enables the Coalition to meet its mission to reduce crime, strengthen families, and bringing hope and opportunity to New York City's most troubled communities. Thanks to the Council's support, Osborne and our fellow Coalition members are able to provide services for individuals from all 51 Council Districts who are involved at each stage of the criminal justice continuum, from initial detention/court hearings to incarceration to reentry into the community.

We urge the Council to support the continuance of this programming and to support the Department of Correction in furthering their current success in program provision by creating and maintaining appropriate classroom and training spaces.

We thank the Council for your care and concern in this area and appreciate your continued partnership and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fernando Martinez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Fernando Martinez
Fulton Project Director
The Osborne Association

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1348A Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 6-19-17

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Name: Mai Le

Address: _____

I represent: NYCDS

Address: 225 Broadway Suite 1100

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

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Date: 6-19-17

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Ariany Polo

Address: 452 E. 199th Street

I represent: BranyConnect

Address: _____

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

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Date: 6-19-17

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jessica Hall

Address: 71 E. 3rd St. #6

I represent: Prison Writes

Address: _____

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Date: _____

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Name: Nancy Ginsburg

Address: 49 Thomas

I represent: Legal Aid

Address: _____

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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Date: _____

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Name: Ismail Nazario

Address: 545 Franklin Ave #3

I represent: The Fortune Society

Address: 29-76 Northern Blvd.

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