



**Testimony before the  
New York City Council  
Committee on Criminal Justice  
Keith Powers, Chairperson  
By Cynthia Brann, Commissioner  
NYC Department of Correction**

**March 14, 2019**

Good Morning, Chair Powers and members of the Committee on Criminal Justice. I am Cynthia Brann, the Commissioner of the New York City Department of Correction (DOC). Joining me at the table this morning are members from my leadership team who will assist with answering questions today: First Deputy Commissioner Angel Villalona, Chief of the Department Hazel Jennings, Acting Deputy Commissioner Patricia Lyons, and Acting Associate Commissioner Joseph Antonelli. I am pleased to join you this morning to discuss the Department's FY20 preliminary expense plan, the capital commitment plan, and the FY19 PMMR. I thank you for affording me this opportunity to describe my vision for the Department, discuss our goals and various challenges, and share with you some of the good work we have done over the past fiscal year.

As you all know, DOC is a vast, complex organization, more in the public eye now than ever before – which is quite the change from just six years ago before this Administration took over. We have more than 12,000 members of staff and process more than 45,000 admissions every year. We currently operate eleven separate jail facilities, on and off Rikers, as well as two hospital prison wards and court facilities in each borough. In addition, we operate support service divisions including our transportation division and facility maintenance division. Our staff are responsible for the care, custody, and control of approximately 7,900 - 8,000 individuals every day. While jail and prison populations around the country increased, New York City's jail population has fallen by half since 1990. New York City's jail population is now approximately 1,000 lower than at this time last year, which is a decrease of 11.5% - giving us the lowest incarceration rate of any big city and the steepest four-year decline in the jail population since 1998.

We recognize that those in our custody have unique needs and challenges, which we strive to meet every day. Even before realizing the significant reduction in population, we took a conscious effort to move away from a one-size-fits-all model and specifically looked at how we

could provide more tailored management – a combination of both security and care – to smaller sub-populations that all have different needs. We are responding to the lowering population by identifying means to better serve unique populations. We have vastly increased programming, services, training, and tools, all while changing our custody management models.

Since I last testified before this body one year ago, the Department has made significant and impactful changes. We modernized our bail process by implementing online bail and are working directly with public defenders to improve the bail process. The Department now has bail facilitators and bail kiosks in courts in all five boroughs so that anyone eligible to pay their bail online can do so without having to enter the Department's custody first. The Department is continuing to make progress in caring for special populations. This year, the Department opened a transgender housing unit at the Rose M. Singer Center to more appropriately meet the needs of our transgender population. In October, we moved our adolescents from Rikers Island to the Horizon Juvenile Center in the Bronx. Despite a tough first month, the Horizon Juvenile Center has made tremendous strides and I am proud of the dedication and efforts by my staff, in coordination with ACS, to apply new training techniques in challenging situations to create a culture of safety at that facility.

We have continued our commitment to the reduction of the use of punitive segregation for adults ages 22 and older, focusing specifically on violent infractions and sentence durations that are directly proportional to the specific act committed. Since 2015, the Department's use of punitive segregation has declined by 77%, with punitive segregation only used as a last resort. At the same time, the Department has worked collaboratively with the Board of Correction to develop and refine alternative housing options in order to safely house a limited number of violent young adults in both a structured and secure setting that manages their contact with other inmates and staff, but also provides for the delivery of enhanced programming that focuses on facilitating rehabilitation, addressing the core causes of violence, and minimizing idleness. Eliminating the use of punitive segregation for young adults ages 18-21 was a dramatic change in policy and did not happen overnight. It has taken a lot of training and readjusting for staff to reach a level of confidence and comfort that this can work. Over the past year, through consistent hard work, adherence to program fidelity, and the establishment of an operational structure that is embedded within the agency and that has the full support of staff, the Department has seen significant progress in our limited use of these alternative housing options.

The Department is committed to lasting culture change and shares the City's goal of smaller, safer, and fairer justice system. For the Department, closing Rikers is an opportunity to build new, modern jails, which we need. DOC's facilities are old and outdated. They have antiquated designs that do not align with modern correctional best practices and require ongoing and significant capital investment in order to maintain them in a state of good repair. Modern jails are designed to improve safety but also fundamentally integrate services and programs to give staff and people in our custody the best opportunities to succeed. The Department is proud to partner with city agencies, criminal justice policy experts, and passionate community voices to profoundly reshape and reimagine correctional services in New York City. In the past year,

Department staff have attended hearings and community meetings to answer New Yorkers' questions about the borough-based jail plan and listened to their concerns surrounding jail facilities in their communities. The Department is committed to being a good neighbor and I am proud that these conversations have led to some positive immediate changes, including a community beautification effort outside of the Manhattan Detention Center.

Looking ahead, my goal is to make our Department a national leader in corrections and establish procedures for long-term success. My vision is clear:

- **Maintain safety and security in DOC facilities** – If staff and individuals in our custody are not safe, then no other policies or reform matters;
- **Investment in our uniform and non-uniform staff** that gives them better tools to work with the population under their care;
- **Enhance and strengthen programming** – This will improve the Department's ability to meet individuals' critically important educational, vocational, and therapeutic needs while in custody;
- **Move the population off Riker's Island;** and
- **Ensure that the individuals in our custody are better prepared to contribute to their communities** on their way out of custody than they were when they entered.

### **Update on Reforms**

The Department is dedicated to operating a system that is safe, humane, and produces positive outcomes for those in our custody. We are committed to managing our incarcerated population in a way that addresses individual needs, the foremost of this being personal safety. First we have eliminated the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) backlog and successfully met our hiring targets to expand the PREA investigations team. In addition, the Department continues to meet its mandate to investigate all sexual assault allegations within 72 hours and ensure that we separate any individuals who should not be together. Further, PREA investigators now have dedicated spaces that enable them to speak with witnesses and victims in private spaces and all PREA investigators have recently received the Department of Justice's training on investigating sexual abuse in confined spaces. Sexual abuse in a jail setting is completely unacceptable and I am proud of this Department's efforts to uphold the PREA mandate.

Over the past fiscal year, the Department continued to work closely with reentry providers to improve the visitor experience and encourage visits between children and their mothers. Sadly, women held in the Rose M. Singer Center receive fewer visitors than any other facility in the Department's jurisdiction. The Department has undertaken several steps to combat obstacles to visitation faced by children and families. We have instituted a free shuttle bus service in both Central Brooklyn and Harlem that provides hourly transportation to and from Rikers Island. The bus has been extremely successful. Between April 2018 and December 2018, there were over 32,000 free rides taken on the visitor shuttle bus. In addition, we have created expedited visit times for visitors and have partnered with ACS to offer Saturday visit hours for children in foster care. The Department also hired greeters for our central visit house and is investing in customer

training programs for all visitor staff. Furthermore, the Department is partnering with the Children's Museum of Manhattan to provide off-island visits for incarcerated mothers with at least one child under the age of sixteen. The Department remains committed to providing gender-responsive services to the women in our custody and recently hired an Executive Director of Women's Initiatives to support these important efforts. The Department also recognizes the need to support the LGBTQI population within our care and is hiring a Director to focus on the needs and services for that community as well.

In recent years, with support from this Committee, the City Council, and the Mayor, the Department has made significant advances in growing its network of program providers, its range of program offerings, and its responsiveness to the distinct needs of different populations.

As a component of the Department's commitment to housing young adults in young adult specific housing whenever possible, we strive to provide education and programming services consistent with young adults' development and needs. It is our job to ensure that people are better prepared to contribute to their communities on their way out of custody than they were when they came in. The Department is dedicated to a programming vision that promotes prosocial behavior and provides individual services targeted to specific needs.

In partnership with the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, we facilitate several reentry initiatives that provide pathways following incarceration. As noted in the FY19 PMMR, the Department saw increased enrollments in the Individualized Corrections Achievement Network (I-CAN) program, which provides comprehensive re-entry services, including job readiness, hard-skills training, and post-release employment assistance to those in our custody. From July to October 2018, the number of I-CAN enrollments increased 25.1 percent from 2,335 to 2,922 while the number of I-CAN workshops offered increased 68.8 percent from 4,902 to 8,273. The Department remains committed to ending the cycle of incarceration and looks forward to working the Council in the coming year to enhance its efforts to reduce recidivism in New York City.

### **Security Indicators**

Protecting the wellbeing and safety of everyone who stays and works in our facilities is the Department's primary goal. We recognize that violence remains a concern and do not deny our obligation to address these issues. While there is still work to be done, I remain proud of our officers' efforts to reduce violence despite an increasingly challenging population. As per the PMMR, from July through October of 2018, compared to the same period in 2017, the percentage of inmates in a Security Risk Group (gang affiliation) increased from 15% to 16%; the percentage inmates with serious mental health diagnosis increased to 17%; and there was a 25% increase in the number of inmate assaults on staff. While the rate of use of force increased overall, the rate of use of force resulting in any serious injury declined during this PMMR period.

The Department is dedicating to finding and removing dangerous contraband. Total searches increased 14% from the last PMMR period, while weapons recovered decreased by 20%. Given that the total number of weapons recovered has increased 156% from 2008-2018, even with a



rapidly declining population, we take this recent drop in recovered weapons to mean would be smugglers are getting the message: if you attempt to bring weapons into the facility, you will be caught. As noted in the FY19 PMMR, the number of stabbings and slashings between July 2018 and October 2018 declined by 22%. This is no small achievement; although we have seen an overall reduction in population, the Department is concurrently experiencing a concentrated rise in violent offenders. Despite the challenges faced, our officers remain dedicated to maintaining a safe environment in every jail facility and I thank them for their efforts. Officers who work in our jails not only need but must have confidence that this administration can keep them safe in return. In the coming weeks, the Department will be taking further steps to prevent weapons from entering the facility through the use of ionizing body scanners that will assist in recovering non-metallic weapons and blades.

The PMMR also highlights areas where we must improve. During the reporting period, inmate fights/assaults increased by 11.4 percent and the overall rate of incidents involving uses of force increased by 31 percent. Force by DOC officers defines a broad range of actions that are not necessarily violent. In fact, our internal audits show that our officers are often using force to rescue detainees who have been injured by another detainee. We take these increases seriously, and we know that we have a lot of improvement to do in this area. Reducing uses of force remains a challenge, but we are committed to taking a holistic approach to force and violence reduction. Moving forward, we will continue to work with the Nunez monitor team to address the root causes of violent incidents and reduce unnecessary force within our facilities

We could not talk about our violence reduction efforts without highlighting the good work of the Department's Correction Intelligence Bureau (CIB). Located in the NY/NJ High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Fusion Center on Rikers Island, CIB works alongside law enforcement professionals from local, state, and federal agencies to monitor groups with gang affiliations, intercept contraband, and disrupt smuggling networks. In 2018 alone, CIB prevented over 100 acts of violence and provided information that led to the discovery of nearly 200 items of contraband. Information initially uncovered by CIB led to a coordinated, interagency takedown of 29 individuals both inside the jail and in the community who were engaged in a coordinated criminal enterprise. CIB's efforts led to the successful breakup of a ring of individuals who planned to smuggle weapons and drugs onto Rikers Island and prevented a murder in the community of the Bronx. I remain thankful to CIB for their work and am grateful to our partners in law enforcement for their partnership in addressing any attempt to compromise the safety of New York City's jails and in the community at large.

## **Training**

Training is at the very heart of our efforts to maintain safer, fairer jail facilities. The Department has recently reimagined the structure of its training and development programs, consolidating officer training, leadership and professional development, and volunteer services training under one umbrella. Going forward, anyone entering our facilities will receive a uniform message on safety, on procedure, and on my expectations for a culture of mutual respect between everyone working and living in the facilities. The closure of the George Motchan Detention Center

(GMDC) has allowed the Department to reimagine this space for a number of staff related services, including providing some training courses for officers directly on the island and scenario-based training within a genuine jail setting. GMDC will also soon be the home of our new staff wellness center, which will offer a range of opportunities for physical wellness and stress reduction, all of which will support our officers in their work within the facilities.

The Department continues to refine its training courses and tailors trainings to the care of specific populations. For example, officers located in mental health observation units receive crisis intervention and mental health first aid training whereas officers located in young adult housing units receive training in conflict resolution and motivational interviewing. Regardless of their post, our goal is to ensure all of our officers are equipped with tools to properly respond to violence and disruption with the most appropriate tools. By incorporating on-the-job training and simulation components early in the academy curriculum, cadets will have a better understanding of their fit in the Department and be more likely to develop successful careers at the Department. To that end, for the past nine months we have been operating a Mentorship program. Mentor Captains are outstanding, specially trained staff who serve as the primary support for probationary officers by coaching, counseling and nurturing their targeted growth needs. They serve as an additional resource for staff, who may seek support outside of their supervising captain. In December 2018, the program was expanded to thirteen Mentor Captains across both daytime tours.

### **Fiscal Year 2020 Preliminary Budget and Its Impact on DOC**

The Department's Fiscal Year 2020 Expense Budget is \$1.41 billion. The vast majority of this, 88%, is allocated for Personnel Services, and 12% for Other than Personnel Services. The Fiscal Year 2020 budget is \$27 million more than this year's budget of \$1.38 billion. This increase is mainly due to one-time Personnel Services accruals taken as part of a prior financial plan that only impacted Fiscal Year 2019.

Included in the Preliminary Budget are decreases of \$5 million in Fiscal Year 2019 and \$12 million in Fiscal Year 2020 and the out years.

The following are some highlights of the major programs that were included in the budget:

- **Uniformed Position Reduction** – Additional savings from the closure of GMDC: 179 uniformed positions in Fiscal Year 2020 and the out years; \$7 million in Fiscal Year 2019 and \$14.1 million in Fiscal Year 2020 and the out years. At the time of the GMDC closure last year, it was assumed these positions would be needed to manage the Young Adult population. However, now that the Young Adult population has been fully relocated out of GMDC, it is recognized that these remaining positions are no longer required. The reduction in headcount was achieved through decreasing the size of the Correction Officer class that entered the Academy in February, meaning no Correction Officers have, or will, lose their jobs as a result of this savings.

- **Various Collective Bargaining Increases** – \$1.2 million in Fiscal Year 2019, \$1.9 million in Fiscal Year 2020, and \$2.1 million in Fiscal Year 2021 and the out years.

### **Capital Funding**

With regard to capital funding, the Fiscal Year 2020 Preliminary Capital Budget and Commitment Plan totals \$2.4 billion, which covers Fiscal Years 2019 through 2029. In this Plan, no additional funding was added to the Department's Capital Budget.

### **Headcount**

During the past five years, the Department has been able to achieve unprecedented levels of Correction Officer recruitment and hiring. The Department has hired over 6,500 new Correction Officers since May 2014. These new Correction Officers have enabled us to enact the reforms necessary to provide a safer and better environment for the people housed in our facilities, as well as our staff. With the graduation of our last Academy class in December 2018, Fiscal Year 2019 will be the first year we will be fully staffed in our jails for the entire fiscal year since our reform agenda began in 2015, which has led to further overtime reductions and more efficient use of our resources. In addition, over the past few years, we have been able to reduce uniformed overtime spending from \$240.4 million in Fiscal Year 2017 to \$198.1 million in Fiscal Year 2018. Through January 31, Fiscal Year 2019 uniformed overtime spending has totaled \$89.3 million, which is down 28% from \$124.3 million for the same period last year in Fiscal Year 2018.

The following is a summary of the changes to the Department's civilian and uniformed authorized staffing levels included in the Preliminary Plan:

- The civilian authorized full-time headcount is 2,274 in Fiscal Year 2019 and 2,043 in Fiscal Year 2020 and the out-years. The authorized headcount decrease from Fiscal Year 2019 to Fiscal Year 2020 is mainly due to a savings initiative taken in the Fiscal Year 2020 November Plan that will not begin until Fiscal Year 2020.
- The uniformed authorized headcount is 10,226 in Fiscal Year 2019, 10,063 in Fiscal Year 2020, and Fiscal Year 2021 and 9,904 in Fiscal Year 2022, Fiscal Year 2023 and the out years. The authorized uniformed headcount decreases from Fiscal Year 2019 to Fiscal Year 2020 due to the additional headcount reductions from the closure of GMDC, which takes effect in Fiscal Year 2020, and the expiration of staffing funded for the Horizon Detention Facility, which takes effect in Fiscal Year 2022. The average uniformed headcount is estimated to be 10,542 in Fiscal Year 2019, which represents a decrease of 170 compared to an average of 10,712 in Fiscal Year 2018.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify today and for your continued support. Without the Mayor and Council's vision for Criminal Justice Reform, we would not be able to talk about the

many reforms we have undertaken. I look forward to working with you all in the years to come. My colleagues and I are available to answer any questions that you may have.



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## **Statement to the New York City Council Committee on Criminal Justice**

**By Ana Bermúdez**

**March 14, 2019 – 10am**

Good morning Chair Powers and members of the Criminal Justice Committee. I am Ana Bermúdez, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Probation (DOP). Joining me today is my cabinet: Deputy Commissioners Sharun Goodwin, Gineen Gray, Michael Forte, and General Counsel Wayne McKenzie. Thank you for the opportunity to testify about the important work of the Department of Probation and its Preliminary Fiscal Year 2020 Budget.

Before getting into the budget, I want to outline Probation's unique role in the community safety continuum. Probation is preventive: an alternative to incarceration, where a judge has determined that the person can redress their actions while safely remaining in the community under our supervision. Too often, public safety is narrowly defined as the absence of crime. However, true safety is much more than that – it is about trust and having a strong connection to fellow human beings in your community.

Often when people come onto Probation, that trust and connection has been eroded. We work to restore that trust by helping people change their behavior and connect to opportunities, thereby *preventing* incarceration. We do this for more than 27,000 people on probation each year by leveraging *both* risk management: the supervision or monitoring intensity, and risk reduction: the supportive elements that help people to change. That combination creates the individual accountability needed for someone to get out and stay out of the justice system. We do all of this through the work of our incredible staff, along with our government and community partners. This holistic approach helps to ensure that people on probation are supported as they create what we refer to as their "New Now."





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**Fiscal Year 2020 Preliminary Budget**

As the City's largest alternative to incarceration, I am proud of DOP's critical role in reducing the use of incarceration while keeping New York the safest big city in the nation. In 2018, Probation provided intake, investigation, and supervision services for nearly 50,000 cases, and directly supervised 25,195 adults and 2,258 juveniles. Our Intelligence unit (Intel) completed 2,253 field enforcement actions including gang-related investigations, DUI field visit checks, failure-to-report home visits, bench warrant enforcement actions, response to NYPD domestic incident reports, and the transportation of prisoners to and from various jurisdictions. These enforcement actions resulted in the recovery of firearms, drugs, and other contraband, making them critical risk management tools that allow us to safely supervise a sentenced population more than double the City's daily jail census in communities throughout New York City.

For Fiscal Year 2020, the Department of Probation has a Preliminary Budget of \$116.2 million as compared to our Fiscal Year 2019 Adopted Budget of \$119.7 million. When compared to our current budget of \$121.4 million, the FY20 Preliminary Budget is \$5.2 million, or 4.5 percent, less -- which is primarily attributable to intra-City funding historically added to our budget post-adoption.

Of the \$116.2 million allocated to our Preliminary Budget: 74 percent, or \$86 million, is for Personal Services (PS,) and 26 percent, or \$30.1 million, is for Other-Than-Personal Services (OTPS). \$95 million are City tax levy funds, \$15 million are state funds, \$6 million are intra-City funds, and \$.2 are federal grant funds. State funding, which previously reimbursed almost half of local probation costs, now provides only 13 percent of our operating costs.

Our budget priorities reflect critical investments in meeting the unique needs of people on probation, especially our young people and their families. Today, I want to update you on three important areas that help us do that: our efforts to implement "Raise the Age," the work we are doing both locally and nationally involving Credible Messengers, and our award-winning Neighborhood Opportunity Network, also known as NeON<sup>SM</sup>.



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**"Raise the Age" (RTA) & Age-Appropriate Interventions**

As you know, in 2017 the State Legislature took the developmentally appropriate step of "raising the age" of criminal responsibility. As Probation is the agency in the juvenile justice continuum most impacted by "Raise the Age," I am proud of the level of preparation undertaken by this Department to ensure a successful implementation.

Much of this was accomplished through building upon the robust range of evidence-based juvenile services we have been steadily developing and expanding our current operations. As part of that expansion, we recruited and trained *seven* new **Probation Academy** classes totaling an additional 243 new Probation Officers. This hiring also paved the way for important new promotional opportunities for current staff and for the agency to benefit from new supervisory expertise.

Additionally, we expanded our Family Court alternative to detention (ATD) Program known as ICM, which stands for **Intensive Community Monitoring**, to the newly created **Youth Parts** in criminal court. ICM in the Youth Parts is specifically available to young people who otherwise would be detained while their case gets resolved, and now connects young people and their families to credible messenger mentors – which, as you know from previous testimony, is an effective intervention that helps to prevent further justice involvement.

We also worked closely with the Court system to secure dedicated space for our officers in the Youth Parts to ensure that young people and their families immediately connect with our staff and begin the restorative work of Family Court right away. Our leadership also maintains on-going open communication with system stakeholders to ensure that collectively, we are working towards the best possible outcomes for New York City's young people.

While "Raise the Age" ensures fewer young people are in the criminal court system, in the juvenile justice system we also want to minimize the use of out of home placement. To that end, last fall, together with the Mayor's Office for Economic Opportunity (NYC Opportunity), we released the findings of an independent evaluation conducted by the Urban Institute for **Advocate, Intervene, Mentor**, or AIM - our individualized alternative to placement (ATP) program for high risk youth ages 13 to 18. At roughly one-



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tenth the cost of placement, AIM instead utilizes credible messenger mentors who are available 24/7 to the youth and their family. The evaluation found that over two-thirds of AIM participants completed the program without having to go to placement and that over 90% avoided felony re-arrest within one year. During the evaluation period, AIM participants collectively spent a total of 52,663 days in the community – thereby avoiding placement and creating a cost-avoidance for the City of more than \$29 million. Preventing even just one more youth from going to placement is a success: for the young person's well-being, their family, and their community. And considering that the \$29 million in cost-avoidance, or savings, for the City from just this one program amounts to nearly one-third of our total agency budget, it exemplifies for me the critical role of community supervision and this Department in helping to make New York City the least incarcerated and safest big city in the nation.

**Credible Messengers: Trusted Relationships that Transform Communities**

As mentioned previously, in our work, it is not only the services and resources that we offer, but also *how* they are offered and by *whom*, that makes the difference. Credible messengers make that difference, as their life experience - including their own criminal or juvenile justice involvement - helps them to engage young people and their families in ways that other system stakeholders, alone, cannot.

In addition to AIM, we also address the needs of juveniles on probation and their families by working with parent coaches who are credible messengers in our Family Court **Peer Support Program**. **Parent coaches**, whose own children have been justice involved, provide individual support to parents, guardians, and families, who are often confused, frustrated, and overwhelmed, by both the behavior of their loved one and how to navigate the juvenile justice system. We have served over a thousand families, seen an increased parental understanding of the system, and achieved a reduction in out of home placement as parent coaches and families work together to find community-based options to support their children.

As you recall from previous testimony, in an effort to grow and further leverage this important work, we launched the **Credible Messenger Justice Center (CMJC)**, a clearinghouse and technical assistance provider for government and community partners nationwide to learn how to effectively utilize the credible messenger approach. CMJC amplifies the work already underway in programs like AIM, Parent Coaching, and **Arches** – which was recently a semifinalist in the Harvard Kennedy School's prestigious



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**Innovation in American Government Awards.** CMJC is also committed to ensuring that credible messengers have the personal and professional support they need to thrive and grow. To that end, in partnership with CUNY's (City University of New York) School of Labor and Urban Studies, last year we began offering a 16-credit certificate program in Community Leadership for credible messengers. Our CMJC Scholars recently met with Council Member Barron to share their personal stories and discuss the need for scholarships and other educational supports for credible messengers, and we look forward to the possibility of further partnership with the Council. And thank you again, Chair Powers, for attending the annual CMJC Conference last June and recognizing the unique and profound impact of credible messengers in keeping our communities safe and thriving. This year's conference is shaping up to be even bigger and better, with credible messengers from New York City and across the nation, so be on the lookout for your invitation.

**The Neighborhood Opportunity Network (NeON)**

Part of why the credible messenger approach is such a strong, proven, and cost-effective intervention, is because it is deeply rooted in community. This could not have happened without the existence of our community probation offices called "NeONs<sup>SM</sup>" (Neighborhood Opportunity Network) that were created in, and more importantly *with*, the seven communities that many people on probation call home: The South Bronx, Harlem, Jamaica, Bed-Stuy, Brownsville, East New York, and Northern Staten Island. As this model of community corrections is rooted in partnership with community based service providers, it gives us the opportunity to contribute valuable resources to those communities.

In addition to meeting with one's Probation Officer, people on probation and other members of the community can access a variety of needed services at their local NeON, such as IDNYC, High School Equivalency or OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) classes, and voter registration.

Wellness has also been a staple within the NeONs for many years: last year we enrolled nearly 1,200 people in health insurance and are excited to continue that work as part of the Mayor's "Health Care for All" initiative announced in January. To ensure we do our part to combat the opioid crisis, many Probation Officers have received training in how to administer Narcan, and we also provide kits and training to people on probation and other community members.



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Our **NeON Nutrition Kitchens** continue to be a source of stability in the community, feeding approximately 84,000 people last year. And in response to the government shutdown, we extended our hours and outreach to furloughed federal workers through our "We Are Here for You" campaign.

All these supports ensure that time with probation, mandated or not, is a holistic experience that connects people to new opportunities. As you heard at the hearing last December, one of our most visible initiatives that does precisely that is **NeON Arts**<sup>SM</sup>, our public-private partnership with Carnegie Hall. Independently evaluated by Westat and Metis Associates, NeON Arts increases engagement, builds stronger relationships - particularly with adults and other community members, and creates change within the participants in how they view themselves and their hope for the future. It is a strong model for how the arts can reduce stigma and increase understanding between individuals, institutions, and communities.

Thank you, Chair Powers, and the members of this Committee, for allowing a law enforcement agency the opportunity to speak on the record about the importance of providing access to arts and cultural programming for the justice involved. I can honestly say that the hearing was a transformative moment for this Department. The opportunity for our staff, NeON Stakeholder group members, arts and cultural partners, and most importantly, the participants to be formally recognized, and speak about how NeON Arts has positively affected their lives, was truly remarkable. It was especially moving to see the NeON Photographers learning in real time from City Council Photographer Will Alatrisme as they photographed the hearing.

Clearly, the word about NeON Arts got out! Since the hearing, we have seen more than double the number of applications from local arts organizations. This increase in outreach and awareness is why partnership with the Council on this community-focused work is so critical. Last Friday, we held an opening reception for the **NeON Photography** Exhibition at the Hunter College East Harlem Gallery and were thrilled to be joined by Council Member Holden. I want to thank you Council Member for generously giving your time and expertise. You already had a profound impact on our participants at last December's hearing, when they learned that someone in your position had a similar experience to theirs and the role the arts played in providing direction in your life. We appreciate the time you spent with the photographers at the opening, and look forward to taking you up on your generous offer to teach NeON Photography classes in the near future. For those who have not yet seen it, the exhibit runs until the end





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of March and includes photos from NYC Fashion Week - where six of our NeON Photographers received photographer credentials - and their work is remarkable! I encourage you to visit the Hunter East Harlem gallery to see their beautiful portrayals of the city.

Lastly, I would be remiss if I did not thank you Council Member Ampy-Samuel, as well as Council Member Gibson, for your support of NeON Arts over the years. This year, in addition to discretionary funding requests from the individual NeON Stakeholder Groups, a City Council **Speaker Funding Request** for NeON Arts was submitted by Carnegie Hall, so that we can further expand the reach and impact of this incredible life transforming initiative. As allies of this program, I ask you all for your help in sharing the impact of NeON Arts with your colleagues.

**CONCLUSION**

As I said earlier, true safety is about trust. True safety happens when community residents have a strong connection to each other. True community safety is knowing that there is a village around each and every one of us made up of family, neighbors, community organizations, and government, all working *together*. All of the work I have spoken about today helps to build and strengthen that village for people on probation and their communities.

Developing a "New Now," as we call it, is helping the people in our care figure out what new role in the village they will play – mentor, photographer, parent – and what steps we need to take together to help them get there. That is the essence of our work: creating a "New Now" for people on probation in a one-size-fits-one approach so that together, we are successful in our mission of *Strengthening Communities* and *Changing Lives*.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. And thank you, Council Members, for the incredible and continued support you have shown this Department and the people we serve. We are pleased to answer any questions you may have.



NEW YORK CITY  
BOARD OF CORRECTION

Statement before the New York City Council

Committee on Criminal Justice  
Keith Powers, Chair

March 14, 2019  
By Martha W. King, Executive Director  
New York City Board of Correction

Good afternoon Chair Powers and Members of the Committee on Criminal Justice. My name is Martha King, and I am the Executive Director of the New York City Board of Correction, the independent oversight agency for the City's correctional facilities.

Today, I am joined by one of our Board members who was appointed by the City Council, Dr. Robert Cohen, and our Deputy Executive Director of Research, Emily Turner. The City Charter outlines the Board's broad mandates, including to establish local regulations, investigate any matter within the jurisdiction of the Department of Correction (the Department or DOC), and evaluate the Department's performance.

The Board of Correction is using much needed, new resources to strengthen its effectiveness as one of the City's key levers in creating safer, fairer, smaller, and more humane jails. New funding and staff, a renewed commitment from Board members, a focus on data and research, and collaboration with the Department has re-established the Board as a partner in the critical work to build a justice system that reflects the City's values and brings dignity and respect to people held within, working in, or connected to the system. Today, I will explain our current budget and share some highlights of our oversight during the past year.

**Recent Growth**

The Board had 16 staff and a budget of \$1.6 million in June 2015. With the increased support of the City Council and Administration, a FY19 budget of approximately \$3 million will allow our staff to grow to 36. We have 29 staff today and currently are hiring for seven positions and expect to reach our headcount in the coming year. This recent growth has supported: our development of groundbreaking new rules on restrictive housing; strengthened monitoring in the areas of sexual abuse, health care access, and grievances; and increased transparency and data-driven policymaking in the jails.

We look forward to continuing our discussions with Council and OMB on our need for a new secure information technology system that will keep pace with DOC's technology and the

Board's mandates to investigate and evaluate jail conditions and monitor compliance with the Standards. In 2018, an independent consultant identified serious deficiencies, inefficiencies, and risks in the Board's current technology. The Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications (DoITT) uncovered similar concerns in their 2019 review.

## **Recent Highlights**

### **1. Updated and expanded regulations**

In 2018, the Board voted to approve 21 variances from the Minimum Standards. This process requires DOC and CHS to explain the reasons why they cannot meet the relevant Minimum Standard and to propose alternate plans. The process also allows for public comment prior to voting. At its 2018 public meetings, the Board received over 90 public comments. Most of last year's variances related to changes in restrictive housing practices by DOC. In these cases, the Board imposed conditions, often reflecting recommendations from its studies, that have led to safety improvements and increased fairness in restrictive housing units.

In one of the Department's largest restrictive housing units, Enhanced Supervision Housing (ESH), Board interventions led to faster reviews of individuals' progress through the program, a multidisciplinary team leading these reviews, and the participation of the person being reviewed in the process. As a result of Board conditions and oversight, the amount of time young adults spend in ESH has decreased 29%, from 86 days in 2017 to 61 days by the end of 2018. The percent of young adults in ESH placed in restraint desks decreased from 90% in 2017 to 56% in 2018. Furthermore, in the last quarter of 2018, 58% of young adults who left ESH did so because they successfully moved to a less restrictive unit, compared to zero in the first quarter. These are significant steps toward fairness, transparency, and the goals of the program, and the Board continues to commend DOC on this progress.

In 2016, the Board voted to pursue rules regarding restrictive housing in the jails. In 2018, the Board completed fact-finding, which included meeting with more than 30 stakeholders. These rules will establish oversight over the continuum of restrictive housing options so they safely, fairly, and in the least restrictive manner necessary respond to safety and security risks. The rules will emphasize restorative justice and accountability in restrictive housing and the jails' response to violence. They will also emphasize procedural justice through a commitment to improve due process, perceptions of fairness, and the overall effectiveness of restrictive housing. Finally, the rules will require transparent public reporting that allows for more effective Board monitoring.

### **2. Strengthened and structured monitoring**

Our monitoring staff, whose work is based in the jails, conduct site visits, resolve and refer complaints from staff and people in custody, monitor compliance with the Minimum Standards, and help facilitate the delivery of basic services. Through this work, staff play an important role in calming tensions in the facilities and helping DOC identify issues which may escalate if left unresolved. Increased funding has allowed more frequent monitoring of the hospital prison wards and courts, extended observations of specialized units, and a focus on improving the grievance system, investigations, and health care access.

Following recommendations from the Board's annual study of the grievance program and our oversight efforts through an interagency team, the Department updated their grievance policy.

They now provide more information to people in custody about the process. They also improved their response to grievances submitted through 311. Finally, the Department now tracks all complaints in a centralized electronic system and has provided the Board direct access to check the status of complaints, review patterns, and inform future Board audits.

If the Department of Correction limits a person in custody's access to any of eight key programs or services – including visits, law library, and religious services – then that person can appeal the restriction directly to the Board. In 2018, we investigated and responded to approximately 400 appeals, including the Board's first appeals regarding limitations on the practice of religion. This is a 200% increase in the number of appeals received by the Board since 2014. The Board's role as an independent and neutral arbiter on appeals is a national model for jurisdictions that are trying to improve their jail grievance systems.

In 2018, we also focused on monitoring DOC's investigations into sexual abuse and harassment, releasing an audit of these investigations. This led to corrective action by the Department to improve the process and close the backlog of cases sitting open for more than 90 days. The Board has scheduled a special hearing for April 23<sup>rd</sup> that will focus solely on compliance with the Minimum Standards on the elimination of sexual abuse and harassment in the jails.

We continue to focus on access to health and mental health care. In addition to monitoring monthly reports on health care access, we released a report on jail sustained injuries to incarcerated people and found significant underreporting of serious injuries. We will release a report on hospital specialty clinics this year.

### **3. More transparency, research, and public reporting**

Evaluating operations and outcomes in the jails, increasing transparency, and sharing data is crucial to maintaining compliance with Board Standards. In 2018, the Board released 25 reports on issues such as visiting, lockdowns, health care access, injuries, grievances, violence, and investigations. This is more than double the number of reports issued by the Board in 2014 and 2015 combined.

Additionally, we have worked with DOC to develop multiple public reports to track compliance and performance. In 2018, DOC released 60 reports required by the Board on segregation reform, restrictive housing, and young adult programming. The Board's conditions led to unparalleled data access for the public about young adults in custody and the first public audits of jail conditions in New York City. These new sources of information inform policymaking and make the City a national leader in correctional transparency. This higher level of transparency and increased engagement by the Board has meant more fact-based and data-driven policy decisions in the jails. After Board investigations this year, the Department pursued reforms and new policy in areas such as transgender housing, young adults, injury prevention, and lockdowns, including a 20% decrease in lockdowns.

We are thankful that the City Council and this Administration have shown increased commitment to a strong, active, and effective Board of Correction, and we look forward to collaborating with the Council and its many members who are engaged on these issues. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. We are happy to take any questions.

I would like to thank the Committee on Criminal Justice for holding this hearing regarding the preliminary budget for the Department of Corrections and allowing public testimony. It is essential that those most impacted by the system have the opportunity to be heard.

My name is Turquoise Juanita Martin and I have been directly impacted by incarceration. During my youth, I was placed in the foster care system due to my parents' substance abuse and my dad's incarceration. I met a young man who shared similar experiences as me and we fell in love, his name was Jason. Jason spent most of his youth on Riker's Island and other New York state correctional facilities.

Jason was paroled to my apartment in the Bronx. He didn't have his GED and had no employment opportunities. Only 3 months after being paroled, he was murdered. His case is still unsolved.

I was overcome with depression and grief and it affected my overall wellbeing. One day, I ran into a woman I knew from church and told her about my struggles. She directed an ATI program in the Bronx and invited me to an event for loved ones affected by gun violence. I began to attend regularly and with encouragement from my peers, sought counseling. I became a part of the CUREVIOLENCE movement and earned a certification as a First Responder. With this support within my community and access to high quality programming, I was able to turn my life around. I went on to receive my CASAC certification, and with the assistance of the nonprofit College & Community Fellowship, I will be graduating with my associate degree in Human Services in May.

I wish Jason were here to see me now. I wish he were also given the opportunity to access programs that could have allowed him the opportunity to thrive. Our current justice system is punitive and traumatizing. It causes daily harm to the people and communities it touches and disregards an individual's humanity.

Have you ever told a lie or had a lie told to you?

Have you ever been a child forced to make adult decisions that didn't pan out and when the time for judgement came, the world forgot you were a child and charged you as an adult?

Have you ever been mentally ill and undiagnosed?

Have you ever been love-starved for affection and found friends as love-starved and misguided as you?

Have you ever been misinformed by the misinformed?

Have you ever been afraid of the very people and agents meant to protect you?

Have you ever been black, brown, or oppressed?

Have you ever been poor?

***For more information and specific recommendations about ATI's, decarceration, and investments in programming please refer to the JustLeadershipUSA #buildCOMMUNITIES platform.***

<https://justleadershipusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/buildCOMMUNITIES-platform.pdf>



Have you ever been loved by a mother who gave all she could give yet did not possess a diploma?

Have you ever lost a brother, sister, cousin, friend to violence and not receive the proper support and services to grieve?

These circumstances are representative of issues that people face daily. They are also issues that have led many to arrest and incarceration. Our system must change and address the root causes of incarceration, specifically—trauma. Our personal, communal, and historic traumas must be addressed with substantial investments in programming.

I am here today sharing my experiences because I want the council to understand the importance of expanding investments in diversion and alternatives to incarceration and community-based programs. I ask that you follow the recommendation of the Lippman Commission and establish an annual \$270 million investment in diversion and ATI programs. Expand the CURE Violence program with each site having a minimizing funding stream of 1.5 million for services, not including the cost of space. Actively fund programming that supports communities, whether that's creating paid opportunities for community members to learn conflict de-escalation techniques or investing in public libraries to expand educational and recreational services. What you cannot do, is invest money back into law enforcement agencies.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

# Serving the Mental Health Needs of New Yorkers



These programs have been proven to break the cycle of justice-involvement. Help us expand their reach.

## Expand Mental Health Initiatives

### Vulnerable Populations

#### APPLICATION #75702

**Bronx Child Trauma Support** — Increase therapy hours to serve more children who are victims and witnesses to violent crimes.

« *The children served are victims or witnesses to crimes such as domestic violence homicide, rape, shootings and other violent crimes.*

— Kristen Slesar LCSW, MS

#### APPLICATION #76621

**Brooklyn Justice Initiatives** — Provide part-time psychiatric support for prescription oversight of Behavioral Health Unit defendants.

147

clients were served in the Behavioral Health Unit in 2018

over 50%



clients in the Behavioral Health Unit are mandated to at least 6 sessions that include mental health treatment sessions

#### APPLICATION #75742

**Strong Starts Court Initiative** — Increase staff to serve more infants and toddlers' families in neglect cases.

6 – 8 months

time child returned to family with Strong Starts compared to 17 months without program



75%

families have continued to reach out for services after case resolution

#### APPLICATION #73866

**Brooklyn Mental Health Court** — Hire bilingual mental health staff to serve more defendants receiving diversion from jail.



1 in 10

clients do not speak English as their primary language

### Court-Involved Youth

#### APPLICATION #76382

**Queens Youth Justice Center** — Support the Enhanced Supervision mental health group for youth and families who are involved in the juvenile justice system. Within this group:

21%

diagnosed with ADHD

19%

diagnosed with depression

16%

diagnosed with bipolar disorder

#### APPLICATION #73876

**Brooklyn Mental Health Court** — Create therapeutic and workforce development groups for court-involved youth with mental health needs.

1 in 5

clients between 16 and 24 years old—a critical window for intervention

For more information, contact Shane Correia at [correias@courtinnovation.org](mailto:correias@courtinnovation.org).



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Greg Berman. Director

February 28, 2019

Speaker Corey Johnson  
New York City Council  
250 Broadway  
Suite 1804  
New York, NY 10007

Re: Center for Court Innovation FY20 Applications

Dear Speaker Johnson,

I write to you on behalf of the Center for Court Innovation to seek City Council's support for our programs in Fiscal Year 2020. Our requests include a continuation of our FY19 core support for ongoing alternative-to-incarceration, and access-to-justice programs in all five boroughs, as well as support for critical new diversion and mental health programming.

Researchers have documented that our operating programs throughout the city have decreased violence, aided victims, reduced the use of jail, and transformed neighborhoods. Beginning with Manhattan's Midtown Community Court, the Center now has more than two dozen operation programs serving tens of thousands of New Yorkers each year. Our work provides meaningful off-ramps, helping participants move from a cycle of poverty and recidivism to real engagement and leadership in their communities. To continue to accomplish this work, we seek to renew funding for our core Citywide Speaker request, our youth-focused supervised release programming in Brooklyn operating out of Brooklyn Justice Initiatives, and our Bronx pre-court diversion (Project Reset) programming.

We also seek expanded City Council support to address several additional needs. The Council provided mid-year FY19 support to implement the Center's pre-court diversion program, Project Reset, in Brooklyn. With continuation and expansion of this funding in FY20, thousands more individuals would be diverted, significantly reducing the

**Operating Programs** Bronx Community Solutions, Brooklyn Justice Initiatives, Brooklyn Mental Health Court, Brooklyn Treatment Court, Brownsville Community Justice Center, Child Witness Support Program, Civil Alternatives, Crown Heights Community Mediation Center, Domestic Violence Courts, Harlem Community Justice Center, Harlem Reentry Court, Legal Hand, Midtown Community Court, Newark Community Solutions, Parent Support Program, Peacemaking Program, Project Reset, Poverty Justice Solutions, Queens Youth Justice Center, Red Hook Community Justice Center, Save Our Streets, Staten Island Justice Center, Strong Starts Court Initiative, Westchester Court Education Initiative, UPNEXT, Youth Court, Youth Justice Board

number of people going to court and improving the fairness of the system. Further, Council support for citywide expansion of our Driver Accountability Program would complement pending legislation, holding reckless drivers accountable through alternative sanctions, reducing dangerous driving, and saving lives.

We also seek the Council's help to expand access to mental health services for those in the justice system – a stated priority for the Council. In Brooklyn and Queens, we are seeking funding to provide programming for justice-involved youth to help them address their often unmanaged mental health needs. In Staten Island, Queens, and the Bronx, we are seeking funding to provide age appropriate and trauma-informed mental health services to children who are victims or witnesses to serious crimes.

I cannot close without thanking you again for the Council's partnership. We have done an enormous amount with the Council over the years including implementing the Cure Violence model in the Bronx and Brooklyn, building award-winning youth development programs in Queens and Staten Island, and diverting thousands of low-level cases out of the criminal justice system at projects such as the Red Hook Community Justice Center. We look forward to continuing our mission with the City Council to enhance New Yorkers' trust in the justice system in the next fiscal year.

If you have questions, you can reach me at (646) 386-3830 or [bermang@courtinnoation.org](mailto:bermang@courtinnoation.org). I look forward to speaking with you in the near future.

Sincerely,  
Greg Berman  
Executive Director

# Approximately 2,500 New Yorkers served through City Council's Investment in the Center for Court Innovation

Selected Results of Citywide Speaker Initiative Funding in FY18\*

## Harlem Community Justice Center

**129** reentry court hearings held

## Midtown Community Court

**195** hours of group and individual therapy and support

## Citywide

### Training Institute

**20** trainings provided

### Youth Justice Board

**22** youth met weekly for a year to learn about and advocate for policy reform

### Access to Justice\*\*

**50** community members equipped with information about their rights

## Staten Island

### Staten Island Justice Center

**14** youth trained to facilitate youth court hearings

## Bronx

**Center for Court Innovation**

### Bronx Child Trauma Support

**71** families with children therapeutically assisted following violent crimes

### Bronx Community Solutions

**208** Driving While Intoxicated screenings and assessments completed

### Save Our Streets (S.O.S.) South Bronx

**15** youth engaged in S.O.S. Basketball Clinic

## Queens

### Queens Youth Justice Center

**19** youth engaged in justice trainings and as youth court members

### Brownsville Community Justice Center

**25** events and rehabilitations made public spaces safer

### Neighbors in Action

**100** community residents received walk-in services

### Red Hook Community Justice Center

**270** youth court service learning hours

## Brooklyn

The Center seeks a continuation of its \$500,000 Citywide Speaker Initiative funding for FY20. For more information, contact Shane Correia at [correias@courtinnovation.org](mailto:correias@courtinnovation.org).

\*Outcomes in FY19 and FY20 may differ based on funding allocations.

\*\*This reflects FY19 projections.





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## **Center for Court Innovation Initiative Applications**

- **Center Core-Ask Application #73443 \$500,000** This is an application to support the continuation of our alternative-to-incarceration, youth-diversion, and access to justice programs across all five boroughs in New York City. The Council's support allows us to serve tens of thousands of New Yorkers with mental health services, family development, youth empowerment, workforce development, and housing, legal, immigration and employment resource services. Our goal continues to be improving safety, reducing incarceration, expanding access to community resources and enhancing public trust in government to make New York City stronger, fairer, and safer for all.
- **Project Reset (Bronx) Application #74655 - \$710,000** Bronx Community Justice is a diversion program offering a new response to low-level offending that is proportionate, effective, and restorative. The program offers people who are arrested for low-level, non-violent crimes and receive a Desk Appearance Ticket the opportunity to avoid court and the possibility of a criminal record by completing community-based programming. Participants engage in a one-time restorative circle discussion with community volunteers, during which they discuss their strengths and needs, the impact of their offense, and what they can do to improve their community. The program holds people accountable for their actions, involves community members in the administration of justice, and strengthens public trust in the justice system.
- **Project Reset (Brooklyn) Application #75477- \$977,182** Starting in March 2019 the Center for Court Innovation will expand Project Reset to Brooklyn. The expansion will unfold in two stage, first to Brooklyn North precincts, and then to Brooklyn South precincts later in the year. The program will serve people of all ages who are arrested for low-level, nonviolent charges a receive a Desk Appearance Ticket. Programming will occur at a new community office in downtown Brooklyn and/or arts spaces across the borough - including a collaboration with the Brooklyn Museum - and will cover themes of accountability, community harm and repair, and the role of law enforcement in Brooklyn.
- **Felony ATI (Brooklyn) Application #76711 - \$777,930** The Brooklyn Felony ATI Court will offer community-based interventions and rigorous judicial monitoring to felony cases (which are otherwise ineligible for drug, mental health, and domestic violence courts), that can decrease the use of jail and prison sentences and potentially



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lead to reduced criminal dispositions. The court will be staffed by a team of resource coordinators and social workers who will conduct independent assessments, prepare recommendations for programming and supervision, provide referrals to community-based providers, offer ongoing case management, supervision, and compliance monitoring, and pilot new services, such as restorative justice interventions. The program will seek to significantly increase the use of ATIs and supervision offered to felony defendants and could provide a model for jurisdictions across the country interested in enhancing public safety and reducing incarceration.

- **Far Rockaway Community Justice Center (Queens) Application #76774 - \$1,635,315**  
Far Rockaway is geographically isolated, with 19% of residents living below the poverty line – a higher percentage than the rest of Queens. The Far Rockaway Community Justice Center will improve public safety, reduce the use of incarceration, and enhance public trust in justice by involving communities in the work of “doing justice.” The Justice Center will provide a local hub for crime prevention, youth development, and alternative-to-incarceration services, enabling residents of the Rockaways to engage in programming and resolve their court cases without numerous lengthy trips across the borough. The Justice Center will invest in local residents -- particularly young people -- providing services that build on their strengths, address trauma, and prepare them to become community leaders. Its placemaking initiatives will seek to revitalize distressed vacant lots and underutilized public spaces, activating the neighborhood’s physical infrastructure to strengthen its social infrastructure.
- **Driver Accountability Program (Citywide) Application #77926 - \$885,082** The following application is for support of the expansion of the Driver Accountability Program that was developed and piloted at the Red Hook Community Justice Center, is also run on a limited basis in Staten Island and Brooklyn Criminal Courts. City Council support would allow the Driver Accountability Group to be facilitated in Brooklyn, Manhattan, Staten Island, and the Bronx, as sentences for misdemeanor driving offenses and as a requirement for drivers receiving multiple speed camera violations, both in connection with Councilmember Lander’s Reckless Driver Accountability Act. Research appears to show that the Driver Accountability Group may change participant behavior and encourage safer driving.

## **Expansion of Mental Health Services Initiative Applications**

- **Mental Health Services for Vulnerable Populations (Bronx – Bronx Child Trauma Support) Application #75702 - \$33,000** This application will support the provision of assessment and treatment of child victims and witnesses to crimes in the Bronx, in partnership with the Bronx District Attorney's Office. Direct services are conducted through evidenced-based, trauma-informed intervention models designed to prevent or reduce post-traumatic stress symptoms, suicidality, re-traumatization, and future victimization.
- **Mental Health Services for Vulnerable Populations (Bronx – Strong Starts) Application #75742 - \$100,000** This application is to support the Strong Starts Court Initiative for infants and toddlers involved in neglect petitions. Funding will support outreach to local community partners to forge strong partnerships with high-quality service providers so that participant families can access a range of family focused interventions required to prevent maltreatment recurrence, prevent developmental delays, and promote the safety, stability and self-sufficiency of their parents.
- **Mental Health Services for Vulnerable Populations (Brooklyn – Brooklyn Justice Initiatives) Application #76621 - \$50,000** This application request would provide Brooklyn Justice Initiatives with the capacity to contract with a part-time psychiatrist. The psychiatrist would assist project staff in determining program eligibility for high-risk and/or high-need client cases by creating treatment plans alongside BJI staff and providing case consultations. The support would allow for high-need clients to receive a psychiatric evaluation for the purposes of determining eligibility and appropriateness for community-based treatment and medication management.
- **Mental Health Services for Vulnerable Populations (Brooklyn – Brooklyn Mental Health Court): Application #73866 - \$100,000** This is an application for funding to provide non-English speakers the support necessary to have a positive and procedurally just experience in the Brooklyn Mental Health Court (BMHC). BMHC has experienced an influx of non-native speakers and funding for various translation services will ensure quality participation in BMHC programming. These services are essential to conduct successful clinical evaluations and secure treatment for those who cannot afford to pay and are not eligible for insurance. By contracting with locally culturally competent community-based organizations, BMHC can call upon its partners to confidently convey

important information to non-native English speakers. Funding will also cover costs associated with translating important program documents including consent forms and participation guidelines into the top five most commonly used languages by BMHC participants and community members with open cases in the Kings County Supreme Court. Additionally, a portion of funding will be used to link participants to programming specifically tailored for immigrants and uninsured community members.

- **Court Involved Youth Mental Health (Brooklyn – Brooklyn Mental Health Court)**  
**Application #73876 - \$150,000** This is an application that would allow support to Brooklyn Mental Health Court staff to take advantage of professional development training opportunities and contract with local community-based organizations for technical assistance. Training and technical assistance would be aimed at learning cognitive behavior therapy curriculums and best practices. Additionally, funds would be used to contract with the same organizations to run groups for youth and young adults, potentially on a weekly basis. Groups will include cognitive behavior therapy groups and professional development workshops, among other groups with an emphasis on reengaging the community and [re]entering the workforce. Council support would also allow BMHC to provide supplies for workshops and other activities for participants, outreach to parents, and materials for monthly parent support workshops. Lastly, a portion of the funding will be used to provide participants with healthy meals and snacks upon their return from court or holding.
- **Court Involved Youth Mental Health (Queens – Queens Youth Justice Center)**  
**Application #76382 - \$150,000** This is an application to assist in the revitalization of QYJC's Futures Mental Health Programming. Currently operating as Enhanced Alternative to Detention, our mental health services provide linkage and referrals to participants who may have or need to be evaluated for mental health concerns. Case managers provide screening and assessment, treatment referrals, ongoing coordination, and linkages to family therapy and psycho-educational groups for both young people and family members.



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**Center for Court Innovation Testimony  
New York City Council  
Committee on Criminal Justice  
Preliminary Budget Hearing  
March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**Good Morning Chairman Powers and members of the Committee on Criminal Justice. My name is Chris Heinrich and I am a Program Manager at the Midtown Community Court, a project of the Center for Court Innovation. I'm here with Shane Correia, who is the Associate Director of Strategic Partnerships at the Center for Court Innovation. We thank you for the opportunity to speak today.**

**I am here to request the Council to support the Center for Court Innovation as it seeks to renew and strengthen the work we do with over 75,000 New Yorkers annually in early diversion, youth and adult alternatives-to-incarceration, and mental health support for children.**

**Our programs have been shown to be effective. Researchers have documented that our operating programs throughout the city have decreased violence, aided victims, reduced the use of jail, and transformed neighborhoods. Our City Council funded work has provided individuals with meaningful off-ramps from a cycle of poverty and recidivism to real integration back into their communities. To continue to accomplish this work and as we look to reduce the Rikers population, which is a stated goal of this committee, we seek continuation funding for our core Citywide Speaker request, our youth-focused supervised release programming, and our pre-arraignment diversion (Project Reset) programing.**

**Reset specifically permits New Yorkers to resolve low-level misdemeanors without ever setting foot in a court, and the case disappears from the criminal justice system as a declined-to-prosecute, avoiding many of the collateral consequences associated with a prosecuted case. Reset cases have been evaluated to be resolved significantly more quickly than traditional criminal court cases, and participants have a lower likelihood and frequency for new arrests. Council provided mid-year FY19 support to begin borough-wide implementation of Project Reset in Brooklyn. We seek Council's support of our application to continue this implementation in FY20.**

**We also seek Council's support to bring innovative public safety models to more New Yorkers. In targeting opportunities for low-level diversion and decreasing recidivism, we ask for Council support for the creation of a Far Rockaway Justice Center, which would bring the Center's wholistic approach to justice to the neighborhood, and to expand our Driver Accountability Program pilot to all boroughs. Since 2015, this group-based intervention for traffic related offenses has been found to reduce the likelihood of rearrests by 40% for those who complete the program. Council's support for citywide expansion of the Center's Driver Accountability Program would complement pending legislation to hold reckless drivers accountable through alternative sanctions, reduce dangerous driving, and save lives for New Yorkers.**

**Finally, we request Council to expand funding available under the Mental Health Initiatives for Vulnerable Populations, and for Court-Involved Youth. We have submitted several applications to permit us to increase mental health access where demand outstrips our current capacity. This ranges from increasing bilingual therapists who assist mental health defendants, with demonstrated success in court compliance, to hiring a psychiatrist to manage client prescriptions while they complete court mandated mental health treatment sessions in community. A summary of our applications has been submitted with our testimony.**

The City Council's support has been invaluable to our work in improving public safety. **We respectfully urge you to continue to support our work and thank you again for the opportunity to speak.**

# **CARNEGIE HALL**

New York City Council Fiscal Year 2019  
March 14, 2019  
Preliminary Budget Hearing: Criminal Justice

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Good morning Chairman Powers and Members of the Council Committee on Criminal Justice.

My name is David Freudenthal, and I am the Director of Government Relations at Carnegie Hall. I first want to express how grateful we are to the City Council for the chance to speak today about the critical role of the arts in advancing the shared mission of the Department of Probation and Carnegie Hall to connect young people in a positive and meaningful way to their communities.

Commissioner Bermúdez and her fantastic team at the Department of Probation deserve the highest praise for including arts in their portfolio of solutions to forge pathways for clients and help them succeed. In our work together, we have shown the power of arts and culture to engage young people, strengthen our communities, and collaborate with local artists and organizations to make our city a better place.

For Carnegie Hall, it's our belief is that all young people, regardless of their circumstances, need to have the opportunity to be creative, explore their talents, and develop skill sets that can help them grow and overcome challenging periods of their lives.

Since 2013, the Hall has worked with Probation to deliver NeON Arts programming. Our work has brought together young people, community leaders, local artists and arts organizations, and others to help seven of the highest-need neighborhoods. We are proud of the many success stories that come out of NeON Arts over the years. They illustrate the transformative power of the arts and the creative potential that exists in every young person if given the opportunity to be involved with the arts.

In December, I testified with my colleagues on the value of activating the arts in community spaces as a means to galvanize the social, emotional, and creative development of young people in a positive and supportive setting. In addition to connecting young people with opportunities to explore artistic expression and develop an increased sense of self-agency, we are intentional about building employment pathways from participants' experiences in the program. To

**David Freudenthal**  
Director of Government Relations  
Tel: 212-903-9835 | fax: 212-903-9797  
881 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY 10019  
dfreudenthal@carnegiehall.org





date, Carnegie Hall and NeON Arts partner organizations and agencies have employed 37 NeON Arts participants as interns and apprentices.

Carnegie Hall also provides NeON Arts participants with the chance to enhance their artistry and gain exposure to cultural experiences. These opportunities have included attendance at Carnegie Hall performances, NeON Arts showcases in the Hall's Resnick Education Wing, and group field trips to other cultural organizations. On Sunday, May 19, young people from across Carnegie Hall's education and social impact programming spanning the five boroughs—including participants from NeON Arts—will share their original work that explores the migration experience from generation to generation and across borders inspired by the themes of the Hall's festival this season, *Migrations: The Making of America*.

The NeON Arts program is a prime example of a robust, public-private endeavor that is taking a new approach to addressing some of our city's most pressing issues. We are grateful for the Administration's support of the partnership through the Mayor's Grant for Cultural Impact, an initiative of the Department of Cultural Affairs that supports partnerships between New York City's municipal agencies and cultural organizations to use arts and culture to reach underserved and vulnerable New Yorkers. Based on the success we have seen here in New York City, it is our hope that NeON Arts can serve as a model for other law enforcement agencies across the country.

We thank the Committees for their interest in and support for this program—very many thanks to Council Members Gibson and Ampry-Samuel for their support of the program last year—and we encourage the Council to support NeON Arts and other programs by our cultural colleagues across the city. While we aggressively seek private funding to support the program, we are currently facing a shortfall of approximately \$200K and need Council funding to continue to build this highly effective citywide initiative. In addition to funding the individual NeON Stakeholder group requests of \$10,000 for Fiscal Year 2020, we respectfully request the expressed support of the Committee to the Speaker regarding Carnegie Hall's \$200,000 request to fund the following NeON Arts initiatives in FY20:

- Strengthen the administrative infrastructure of NeON Arts and NeON stakeholder groups through: building youth stakeholder groups, ensuring more young people are involved in the grantee decision-making process; creating a NeON Arts professional advisory council; identifying new artist and arts organizations partnerships through increased outreach to the creative community; implementing new systems to manage employment opportunities and career pathways for NeON participants; tracking participant growth after completion of NeON Arts projects; and designing powerful citywide NeON Arts events.
- Extending funding relationships between artists and partner organizations, providing more activity and programs for NeON Arts participants at the each of the seven sites and new funding to the local artists and arts organizations who are selected.

Participant and stakeholder recruitment events in new neighborhoods to attract residents to the NeONs, such as pop-up performances. Locations to be determined in consultation with the City Council and the Department of Probation.

- Professional development workshops for grantee artists and arts organizations. Carnegie Hall will provide a professional development series focused on the intersection of arts and juvenile justice, teaching practices, and curriculum design. This series will work with participants to develop strategies aimed to intervene and provide individual and organizational support to those who are already working in the youth justice space as well as those who are interested in learning how to become service providers in the youth justice space.
- New apprenticeship/internship opportunities through NeON Arts grantees and Carnegie Hall. Funding will help formalize and expand young people's opportunities to engage in creative career development and become a part of NYC's creative economy. Youth who are awarded internships/apprenticeships will serve at NeON Arts grantee organizations and be eligible to be a part of Carnegie Hall's Social Impact pathways programming.
- Develop partnerships with job preparation and financial literacy organizations to design career-focused activities and materials for NeON Arts participants.

We hope that the Council will enhance support for NeON Arts in the coming year. Thank you, and thanks to Probation, grantee arts organizations, stakeholders, and the talented young people of NeON Arts for being a part of these transformational changes.

Lastly I note that Carnegie Hall is a member of the NYC Cultural Institutions Group (CIG), a coalition of 33 cultural organizations who share a public-private partnership with the City of New York and are located in all five boroughs. The program I've just described is representative of that partnership. The CIG has asked the City Council to increased funding in FY20 to the Department of Cultural Affairs and—while not the purview of this committee—we ask your consideration of these requests in the budget process.



**March 14, 2019**

**Testimony to the City Council Committee on Criminal Justice  
Submitted by Sarita Daftary, Senior Organizer, JLUSA**

Dear Chairperson Powers and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify at today's budget hearing. I'm an organizer with JustLeadershipUSA. You most likely know us for our work on the #CLOSErikers campaign. An essential component of that campaign has always been the second part -#buildCOMMUNITIES - which refers to the investment that **MUST** happen in communities that have suffered decades of divestment and seen community services and resources starved for funding while funds are disproportionately allocated to law enforcement. We cannot get to the point of making those community investments unless we start reducing law enforcement budgets, including the vastly over-resourced and underperforming Department of Corrections.

First, I'll elaborate on the ways in which the Department is OVER-RESOURCED.

Not just the cost per detainee but the overall Department of Corrections budget has continued to grow. Over the past ten years, the Department budget grew 46% while the number of people detained fell by 36%.<sup>1</sup> More specifically, the number of uniformed officers increased 51% while the number detainees fell 36%. This last fact flies directly in the face of the excuses DOC makes for these increases -- that they are providing more programs, or that they are dealing with a population with an increasing rate of mental illness.

- Uniformed officers do not and are not qualified to provide programs or services. In fact, the president of the Correction Officers Benevolent Association is on the record saying "We're not mental-health workers, we're not social workers...We're the police of the jails."<sup>2</sup>
- Second, effective treatment for people with severe mental health needs, approximately 12% of the current jail population, must be provided outside the criminal punishment system. The healthcare providers who work with these people on Rikers are clear that their treatment would be more effective anywhere else.
- Third, the 44% of people in City jails with an M designation does not mean severe mental illness, just that someone has a need for mental health care, including managing the stress, depression, and anxiety of being in jail, especially on Rikers, and not knowing when they'll get out or what will happen with their case. This is a fairly natural response to being locked in a cage with no end in sight. High rates of health challenges should result in more healthcare resources, not more guards who have a poor track record in treating clients with mental health needs humanely.

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<sup>1</sup> Report by NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer, NYC Department Of Correction FYs 2008-18 Operating Expenditures, Jail Population, Cost Per Detainee, Staffing Ratios, Performance Measure Outcomes, and Overtime. January 22, 2019

<sup>2</sup> The Chief Leader, Judge's ORder to Delay Juvenile Center Transfer, September 17, 2018

Next, I'll elaborate on the ways in which the Department is UNDERPERFORMING.

Underperforming is an understatement. Despite the oversight of an independent, court-appointed monitor, the number and rate of uses of force continues to rise.<sup>3</sup> The Department underreports serious injuries, and its investigation process "is plagued by delays, poor accountability, and incomplete reviews."<sup>4</sup> The Department is in violation of Board of Correction minimum standards due to its untimely and inadequate investigations into sexual abuse and sexual harassment.<sup>5</sup> DOC also fails to produce bring people to mental health treatment appointments about 19% of the time.<sup>6</sup> The Department of Corrections either cannot or will not fulfill a function of "correcting" anything. Either way, they are not. The DOC also often fails at its most clear and simple purpose - to make sure people appear at for their court dates, when they are brought for their hearings late or not at all.

Rather than continuing to pour this level of resources into a failed agency, we must start to imagine and plan for a just transition. Union jobs are important. But the City must move to create those jobs in other agencies, and in roles that are not based in brutalizing, caging, or controlling people. The City must also plan for ways to transition people to those jobs. This Committee and the Council as a whole must push the Mayor to appropriately reduce the Department of Correction's expense budget in scale with the reduced jail population, and to shift those funds to creating living wage jobs in ways that #buildCOMMUNITIES.

Sincerely,

Sarita Daftary  
JustLeadershipUSA  
sarita@justleadershipusa.org

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<sup>3</sup> Nunez Independent Monitor (Sixth Report), October 17, 2018, p. 8.

<sup>4</sup> Serious Injury Reports in NYC Jails, January 2019, p. 4.

<sup>5</sup> See Audit Report on the New York City Department of Correction's Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment (PREA) Closing Reports, September 2018

<sup>6</sup> Correctional Health Services Access Report, January 2019.



**Committee on Criminal Justice: Preliminary Budget Hearing**

Good morning members of the Committee on Criminal Justice. My name is Coco Culhane and I am the founder and director of the Veteran Advocacy Project ("VAP"). Since 2010, we have been providing free legal services to low-income veterans and their families, with a focus on those who have Post Traumatic Stress ("PTS"), Traumatic Brain Injury ("TBI"), and other mental health issues. Our holistic approach to advocacy removes barriers to housing, health care, and income; and our work doesn't end when the legal matter does; we ensure that veterans access these services and benefits through our many partnerships across the city.

Too often VAP sees the consequences of criminal-justice involvement crashing down on veterans in unique ways. They come to us asking for assistance because they owe the Department of Veterans Affairs ("VA") thousands of dollars. What no one told them: When a veteran is incarcerated for more than 60 days they need to notify the agency to reduce their benefits.<sup>1</sup> That's usually not a priority on the 61st day at Rikers. Eventually the VA finds the record of incarceration and issues a notice of "overpayment". Suddenly a veteran is in debt by thousands and thousands of dollars, depending on how long they were receiving any VA benefit while also in a jail or prison. With their monthly disability compensation garnished to pay back that debt, these veterans have nothing to live on. The panic in their voices when they call our intake is real.

Most of these veterans did not know that they could have had their benefits apportioned to their families while they were incarcerated, which would have prevented the so-called "overpayment". Apportionment also would have reduced the financial strain on the family, preventing evictions and other hardships. Again, no one told them. Other veterans, approaching their release, are incorrectly informed they cannot apply for VA benefits while incarcerated, keeping them from setting up a financial safety net that would make reentry just a bit easier.<sup>2</sup> Then there are veterans who may not have interacted with the justice system at all, but discover a warrant was issued for their arrest, perhaps decades ago, likely in another state. When the VA comes upon it through a match in the National Crime Information Center ("NCIC") database, they issue an overpayment for years of benefits. (Imagine living on \$1100 a month, choosing between a MetroCard or laundry for the week, using food pantries at the end of every month because SNAP runs out, and being sent a bill for \$175,000 from the government because in 1982 in Broward County you were pulled over and there was a pipe in the backseat of your car. That is one VAP client's story.) If the veteran can prove they were not fleeing the felony warrant or if they can get a judge in that jurisdiction to not only vacate the warrant but do it *nunc pro tunc*, then they can get the debt waived—otherwise the debt stops accruing as of the vacate date but it doesn't go away. And these are the lucky veterans—the ones who have a discharge status that lets them access VA

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<sup>1</sup> 38 C.F.R. § 3.665(a) ("Any person specific in paragraph (c) of this section who is incarcerated in a Federal, State or local penal institution in excess of 60 days for conviction of a felony will not be paid compensation or dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) in excess of the amount specified in paragraph (d) of this section beginning on the 61st day of incarceration....").

<sup>2</sup> Just last week we conducted a training on discharge status and VA eligibility at the 23rd Street VA Medical Center; a VA employee announced that veterans may not get anything from jail or prison and we had to correct that for the audience. The details of VA eligibility regulations promote extensive misinformation.

benefits and services at all. These are also just the potential problems associated with disability compensation. The other legal challenges are too numerous to keep describing here today.

VAP assists these veterans through outreach, education, and representation. By bridging the divide between criminal and civil legal services, and bringing in veterans law expertise, VAP reduces veterans' collateral consequences, removes barriers to veterans' benefits and programs, prevents debts, and assists families struggling to make ends meet. We are serving veterans in treatment courts, in four units at Rikers and in the parole court's veteran track, plus those who are transitioning back to their communities.

In addition to working with veterans on VA issues and connecting them to programs, our initiative aims to educate and connect justice-system stakeholders to veteran-specific resources that few outside the veteran space are aware of, such as culturally competent health care alternatives to the VA, innovative mental health and trauma programs, peer organizations that provide community, federally funded rapid rehousing assistance, and a slate of veterans' and survivors' benefits. We conduct trainings and know-your rights sessions on discharge status and the eligibility-maze that is the VA.

At the heart of this initiative is collaboration. We are partnering with the experts already in the field, and complementing their work by providing these new resources and tools. Our primary partner to date is the VA's Veterans Justice Outreach initiative. Known as "VJOs", these social workers are involved in all stages of the criminal-justice system, advocating to connect vets to treatment and health services. However, many of the veterans going through the treatment courts or Rikers cannot work with VJOs because of their discharge status. They need advocacy to be connected to the treatment and support that will allow them to rebuild their lives and to *not* be back to Rikers or any courtroom, unless it is as a mentor. VAP plans to connect Rikers' discharge planners to resource information that is veteran-specific but outside the VA. We are also coordinating with partner Community Healthcare Network so that they can come with us and assist veterans at Rikers with discharge planning and mental health treatment when the VA's VJO caseworkers cannot because of a veteran's discharge status. Another collaboration is our work with Legal Aid in the parole court, taking referrals and providing guidance and resources to their forensic social workers.

The connection between mental health and justice-involvement is well documented and for veterans it is particularly undeniable: Over 55 percent of veterans in prison have a *diagnosed* mental illness and a quarter of veterans in prisons and jails have PTSD, which is over twice the rate of other individuals.<sup>3</sup> Unfortunately, PTSD and mental illness are a common thread between civilian criminal-justice involvement and less-than-honorable military discharges, known as "bad paper." Symptoms of PTSD and traumatic brain injury are often treated as misconduct in the

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<sup>3</sup> A 2012 federal study by the Bureau of Justice Statistics showed that 55% of incarcerated veterans had been diagnosed with a mental health disorder compared to 43% of non-veterans; 23% of incarcerated veterans have been diagnosed with PTSD, more than double non-veterans.

military,<sup>4</sup> and this results in a discharge status that cuts veterans off from benefits and health care—and from the VJOs who can assist them in recovery. In other words, we are punishing mental injuries in both systems. It is compounded when men and women with bad paper return to civilian life with no support. Far too many end up in our criminal justice system, as national statistics show.<sup>5</sup> (One social worker at the Brooklyn Veterans Treatment Court estimated last month that over 60 percent of the vets that she sees have less-than-honorable discharges.) VAP is the only legal services provider in the city with a dedicated military discharge upgrade practice. We are taking it to Rikers, to treatment courts, and to programs that work with veterans on reentry. Though the cases take time, we are restoring benefits and services to veterans who earned them. An upgrade is life-changing, psychologically and usually financially as well, given that a discharge upgrade from the Department of Defense opens the door to a life time of benefits and health care. A conservative estimate placed the value for a single Post-9/11 veteran over a life time at **over \$3 million**.<sup>6</sup> The upgrade to Honorable also restores access to the GI Bill, with a housing stipend of \$3,366 a month in New York City,<sup>7</sup> an educational opportunity that can change a family for generations to come.

By joining forces with the VA, the Department of Corrections, Community Healthcare Network, Legal Aid staff, treatment courts, and others, it ensures that resources and federal entitlements are not left unused because they are unknown or out of reach due to legal barriers. It ensures that *all* veterans can get connected to reentry support, including those who may need it most because of the trauma they experienced in service.

VAP's justice-involved veterans program was launched recently with a grant from the New York State Health Foundation. In just a few months we are already overwhelmed by the need and there is so much more to do to prevent these problems upstream, before there is a crisis. We hope that with funding from City Council we can continue partnering with programs already providing incredible services in this space by adding the complement of veterans law to their efforts. Our work will bring federal dollars into the city, connect veterans and families to care, remove barriers to income, and assist with the reentry transition process. With City Council's support we will empower veterans to heal and rebuild their lives.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

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<sup>4</sup> From 2011-2015, of the servicemembers who had a diagnosis of PTSD or TBI that manifested in a misconduct administrative separation, only 4 percent received honorable discharges, compared to about 80 percent of the military overall. See "Actions Needed to Ensure Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury Are Considered in Misconduct Separations," GAO-17-260: Published: May 16, 2017. Publicly Released: May 16, 2017.

<sup>5</sup> Legal Services Center, Harvard University, National Veterans Legal Services Program, & Swords to Ploughshares. (2016, March). *Underserved: How the VA Wrongfully Excludes Veterans with Bad Paper*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard.

<sup>6</sup> This calculation only takes into consideration: service-connected disability compensation for an individual veteran with no dependents (estimated to age 82), GI Bill tuition and housing for 36 months, and 2018 HUD-VASH voucher values projected yearly to age 82. There are many, many other benefits that veterans are eligible to receive, as well.

<sup>7</sup> GI Bill housing stipends are based on an E5 rank with dependents. Rate information available at: <https://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/bahCalc.cfm>.



# VETERAN ADVOCACY PROJECT

## LEGAL SERVICES FOR LOW-INCOME VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Most veterans make a successful transition back to civilian life, but it is not always easy. The VA's records indicate that 20 veterans die by suicide each day. An estimated 20 percent of our troops come home from war with Post-Traumatic Stress and countless veterans struggle with Traumatic Brain Injuries, depression, and substance use problems. When these individuals face legal challenges, such as eviction or an improper termination of benefits, it dramatically increases the risk that they will fall further into illness, become homeless, or die by suicide. The Veteran Advocacy Project (VAP) assists by removing barriers to housing, health care, and income.

We are partnered with VA centers, health clinics, and local veterans' groups to reach veterans where they are. While our attorneys tackle the legal challenges, our advocates ensure that our clients are connected to culturally competent, trauma-informed resources. VAP helps veterans and their families achieve the stability needed to regain their health and rebuild their lives.

### OUR SERVICES:

- **Housing**  
Represent clients in Housing Court & public housing hearings to prevent evictions and homelessness. Help veterans maintain housing subsidies and supportive housing.
- **Health Care**  
Ensure veterans' legal access to health care; apply for military discharge upgrades for characterizations that deny VA services & care. Connect veterans with services and support through our partnerships, including behavioral health treatment and trauma counseling.
- **Income**  
Assist clients in maintaining benefits, such as VA Pensions & Compensation, Public Assistance, and Food Stamps. Represent veterans in VA overpayment disputes and appeal negative Character of Discharge determinations, so they can access VA benefits.
- **Referrals**  
If we cannot assist clients in a particular area, we find someone who can. Veterans are matched with partner organizations and we follow up, so our clients get services—not just another phone number. Our current partners include Jericho Project, Services for the Underserved, VA Vet Centers, Community Healthcare Network, and more.

### WHY IS OUR WORK NECESSARY?

Legal action can remove barriers to treatment, housing, benefits, employment, and more. There is a common misperception that all of veterans' needs are taken care of by the VA for life. The truth is that the VA does not provide legal assistance, and access to VA services can be a complicated and lengthy process—not every veteran will qualify. Community partners and state and local governments must come together to serve those who served us.

*For more information, please contact (646) 602-5620 or [veterans@urbanjustice.org](mailto:veterans@urbanjustice.org).*



# VETERAN ADVOCACY PROJECT

The Veteran Advocacy Project was founded in 2010 and has served thousands of veterans and their family members. Our advocacy removes barriers to housing, health care, and income.

Through a number of initiatives, we ensure clients receive holistic, trauma-informed services. Our latest include:

- Homelessness prevention partnerships, including on-site office hours, with social service agencies **Jericho Project** and **Services for the Underserved**;
- Two medical-legal partnerships (on-site office hours with three **VA Vet Centers** and a network of health centers, **Community Healthcare Network**) provide primary and behavioral health care to our clients and their families;
- Outreach for justice-involved veterans with the **VA's Veterans Justice Outreach** team in treatment courts & at Rikers, improving reentry & connecting families to benefits;
- Outreach to LGBTQ veterans in a new partnership with **SAGEVets**;

In addition to our initiatives, we specialize in veterans law, with an emphasis on fighting for veterans who have experienced trauma and those who have been cut off from VA health care and benefits because of unjust less-than-honorable discharges. We are the only legal services organization in the city with a practice dedicated to military discharge upgrades. Together with our pro bono network, including the New York County Lawyers' Association (NYCLA) and the Veterans' Rights Clinic taught by our director at Brooklyn Law School, we represent hundreds of veterans to restore honor to their records and open the door to the benefits they earned.

A discharge upgrade to Honorable status for a single Post-9/11 veteran opens the door to a conservatively estimated **\$3 million** federal dollars over a lifetime.

*For more information, or to partner with VAP, please contact Coco Culhane, [cculhane@urbanjustice.org](mailto:cculhane@urbanjustice.org).*

**Written Comments of Michael C. Pope, Youth Represent  
New York City Council  
Committee on Criminal Justice, Preliminary Budget Hearing  
March 14, 2019**

Youth Represent is a holistic youth defense and advocacy organization. Our mission is to ensure that young people affected by the criminal justice system are afforded every opportunity to reclaim lives of dignity, self-fulfillment, and engagement in their communities. We provide criminal and civil reentry legal representation to young people age 24 and under who are involved in the criminal justice system or who are experiencing legal problems because of past involvement in the criminal justice system. We also engage in policy advocacy and train the next generation of leaders through our Youth Speakers Institute. Our interdisciplinary approach allows us to understand the full extent of our clients' legal and practical challenges, so we can effectively represent them as they make the journey from courtroom to community. We thank Chair Powers and the entire committee for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Youth Represent has been fortunate to partner with the City through the Friends of Island Academy Youth Reentry Network to provide comprehensive legal services to young people incarcerated at Rikers Island and after release. Through this partnership, we have a weekly presence at Rikers Island where we provide legal consultations to young people aged 16—21 who are housed at RND, EMT and RMC. Since Raise the Age went into effect, we also serve youth at Horizon and Crossroads Juvenile Centers.

Since the beginning of our partnership with Friends of Island Academy we have had individual legal consultations with over 250 young people. We have supported participants with school suspensions, school transfers, family court representation, summons court representation, criminal record reviews, voluntary surrenders, maintaining housing stability, and bail/mitigation support. Our innovative model incorporates youth development principles such as motivational interviewing and meaningful participation into the legal services we provide. During the course of the partnership, we have seen the powerful impact that youth-centered, wraparound legal services has on the lives of young people while incarcerated and long after their release. Our services can help ensure young people reenter our community with the greatest opportunity for success. In our comments today we would like to focus on:

- 1) The critical impact of client-centered legal services for incarcerated youth;
- 2) The vital importance of effective programming on Rikers and at Horizon and Crossroads that addresses the social, psychological, and economic as well as legal issues faced by incarcerated youth, and of the continuity of those programs as Raise the Age is implemented; and
- 3) The need to support our Speaker's Request for continuation of these services.

## **Critical Legal Services for Incarcerated Youth**

Any time in jail can jeopardize housing, employment, education and a vast array of other opportunities, trapping people in a cycle of incarceration and poverty. The stakes are even higher when a young person becomes entangled in the justice system.

The Friends of Island Academy Youth Reentry Network represents a historic investment by New York City in breaking this cycle by providing pre- and post- release support to justice involved youth 16-21 leaving incarceration, following them from incarceration into their communities. Launched in 2016 at Rikers Island, the Network expanded in 2018 to serve 16 and 17 year olds housed at Horizon and Crossroads Juvenile Center pursuant to Raise the Age, while continuing to serve youth at Rikers up to age 21. Over the past two years, these services have transformed the experiences of incarcerated youth, especially at RNDC on Rikers Island. Friends advocates, and the extensive network of organizations they contract with (including arts, credible messenger, horticulture, legal and other programs), provide services that are absolutely essential to youth. Without the full network of programs, Rikers, as well as Horizon and Crossroads, would be less safe for both youth and staff.

**As a subcontractor providing legal services since the Network was launched, we have witnessed firsthand the tremendous impact of effective and comprehensive legal support for incarcerated youth.** Two recent cases highlight the need for our vigorous advocacy on Rikers and demonstrate how such advocacy can positively transform our clients' lives once they return to their communities:

When we met Amber<sup>1</sup> in May of 2018, she was incarcerated at Rikers on felony shoplifting charges and also facing a warrant in Rockland County, but had no access to an attorney there. Our attorney and senior paralegal built an immediate rapport with Amber and learned that she had been injured by a police officer in the course of her Rockland County arrest. We arranged a hospital visit where it was identified, for the first time, that Amber's knee was dislocated and required ongoing medical attention.

In October, Youth Represent connected Amber to the Mass Bail Out Action led by the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Organization (RFK) and secured her release, but she was immediately arrested on the Rockland County warrant. We continued our support, contacting both the local public defender and a civil rights attorney interested in Amber's case. Through persistent advocacy and comprehensive information about Amber's situation, we helped secure her release without bail.

Since Amber has been back in New York City, Youth Represent has played a critical role coordinating between her lawyers in Rockland and New York City

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<sup>1</sup> Client names have all been changed.

while providing essential support to ease Amber's transition home. Prior to her pretrial incarceration, she was attending classes at LaGuardia Community College, sustaining an apartment on her own and working to provide for herself. She expressed her desire to go back to school next semester and find a job as soon as possible. We supported her in re-enrolling in college, connected her to an employment program, and helped her secure a metro card and prepaid cell phone. In November, Amber's Rockland County case was dismissed, but she is still facing felony charges in New York City. We continued to vigorously advocate for Amber and are proud to have achieved a resolution where her New York County felony convictions will be dismissed entirely upon completion of a program. Amber is thriving and we could not be more proud to stand alongside her in this journey.

For a young person like Amber, there is not one single legal case to open and then resolve. Her intertwined legal and reentry needs demonstrate the importance of flexible, continuous services that center a young person's priorities and rely on trust and relationship-building to position them for lasting success.

Brittany reached out to Youth Represent for advice because she was facing arrest for an outstanding warrant in New York City. A Youth Represent staff attorney explained the voluntary surrender process and based on the information, Brittany decided to turn herself into the police with our support. We obtained a letter from Friends of Island Academy and accompanied Brittany to the precinct where we invoked her right to counsel and followed her progress through central booking while keeping her loved ones updated. We contacted the Legal Aid attorney in arraignments and ensured that she was fully briefed on the entire situation and had two letters of support in hand by the time Brittany appeared before the judge.

When Brittany's bail was set at \$2,500, we immediately notified Friends of Island Academy and set up a meeting so that she had additional support on her first day at Rikers. In conjunction with Brittany's public defender, Youth Represent drafted and argued a second bail review on the record to reduce Brittany's bail. Thankfully, bail was decreased to \$1,500. Youth Represent then assisted Brittany's family navigating the bail process, informing the family of the legal limits bail bondsmen are bound to and helping them post bail for Brittany within four days.

Our advocacy provided Brittany the support she needed to address her out-standing warrant and was key to reuniting her with her family after bail was originally set at an amount they could not afford. By relying on youth development tools like focusing on strengths, engaging family, and emphasizing each young person's involvement and decision-making role in their case, Youth Represent helps young people like Brittany move from crisis to stability and from courtroom to community.



## **How Our Programming Network Strengthens Our Impact**

Our legal work is only successful because we exist in the context of other critical services provided by youth-oriented partner organizations, including preventative services, mental health and substance abuse treatment, counseling, criminal and juvenile defense, mitigation, credible messenger mentoring, career development, and reentry services that follow young people from incarceration into the community. These continuous and coordinated services are essential at every point in the system, especially as Raise the Age legislation is implemented.

Ongoing investment in this thick network of positive youth development programs has been particularly crucial to the success of Raise the Age implementation, especially for youth detained at Crossroads and Horizon Juvenile Centers, and for older youth who are still detained at Rikers Island. Success for youth incarcerated at Rikers hinges upon whether program staff are able to engage, advocate, educate and mentor them effectively, as well as provide continuous post-release services and opportunities focused on the grim collateral consequences that can stem from involvement with the justice system.

Holistic efforts spearheaded by youth program providers on Rikers not only align with the Council's vision to promote successful community reentry, but also specifically addresses the particular barriers that prevent justice involved youth from achieving their goals. For this reason, it is essential that the Department maintain continuity of programming—in both providers and funding level—as services for youth arrested at 16 and 17 transition from Rikers to Horizon and Crossroads.

## **Support the Speaker's Request for Continuation of these Services**

Youth Represent requests \$75,000 to continue to provide essential legal services to young people incarcerated at Rikers Island and Horizon and Crossroads Juvenile Centers as part of the Friends of Island Academy Youth Reentry Network. As is hopefully apparent in the stories above, Youth Represent provides first rate legal representation that incorporates youth development principles in order to meet the complex legal needs of incarcerated and recently released youth. However, the contract that funds the Network was in danger of being eliminated entirely in 2019. While some funding was restored, the remaining funds fail to cover the full costs of Youth Represent programming.

With the support of Council, Youth Represent can continue the full work of civil representation in employment, housing, family, and education law as well as bail support. Through this, we support clients to navigate and understand the criminal court process, and collaborate with public defenders to advocate for release from detention. With the loss of funding, youth on Rikers and in detention will lose access to the full breadth of these critical legal services at the moment where, with Raise the Age implementation occurring, these services are in greatest need.

## Conclusion

We hope our comments highlight how indispensable the Youth Reentry Network is for incarcerated youth and the critical importance of continuing all programming for youth housed at Rikers as well as Horizon and Crossroads Juveniles Centers. We also hope you will support the Speaker's Request to continue this essential work moving forward. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly at (646) 759-8082; [mpope@youthrepresent.org](mailto:mpope@youthrepresent.org).



## RITUAL4RETURN

Thank you for the opportunity to testify this morning. My name is Alexander Anderson and I am here to share information about an innovative, arts-based program for formerly incarcerated individuals making the difficult transition from prison and jail back to their communities.

The program is called **Ritual4Return**. It is an intensive 12-week experience in which formerly incarcerated people are led through the process of developing a rite of passage using art and performance, drumming, writing, storytelling, and mindfulness practices like meditation and yoga.

At the end of the 12 weeks, the participants enact a one-time-only threshold crossing in front of an invited audience of witnesses comprised of family and friends, project partners, sometimes parole officers and case managers, and other members of the community. The crossing of the threshold is a powerful moment in which the men and women shed old identities and step fully into the new identities that they have defined and articulated during the program.

Although Ritual4Return is anchored by the healing and transformative power of art, culture, and community, it is inspired by over 50 years of academic literature in criminology and sociology that has suggested the potential for rites of passage to help in the healing of the shame, stigma, and trauma of incarceration.

I can speak firsthand about the power of Ritual4Return because I am a formerly incarcerated individual who spent 15 years in and out of New York State correctional facilities. I am also one of the original participants of the program and I crossed my threshold in 2009. I can attest to the unique and life changing nature of this work. Even though I had been out of prison for almost a decade when I began, the experience took me from feeling like a part of me was always stuck inside prison, to feeling like I was completely out. It helped me heal with my family and gave me a new perspective on my journey. Without Ritual4Return, I truly believe I would have gone back to prison for a 4th time, at 50 years old.

I encourage the members of the council to learn more at our website, [www.ritual4return.org](http://www.ritual4return.org). With proper funding and support, we believe we could be transforming and healing formerly incarcerated individuals across the 5 boroughs, and by extension, their families and our communities.

Thank you very much for your time.

Alex Anderson  
Staff Social Worker, R4R

[www.ritual4return.org](http://www.ritual4return.org)



**New York City Council**

**Committee on Criminal Justice**  
**Keith Powers, Chairperson**

**"City Council Preliminary Budget Hearing"**

**Thursday, March 14, 2019**  
**10:00 A.M.**  
**New York, New York**

**Brittany Williams**  
**Director of Campaigns**  
**Worth Rises**



Good afternoon. My name is Brittany Williams and I am the Director of Campaigns of Worth Rises, formerly the Corrections Accountability Project. We are a non-profit, criminal justice advocacy organization committed to dismantling the prison industrial complex and ending the exploitation of those it touches.

I want to thank Chair Powers and the members of the New York City Council Committee on Criminal Justice for the opportunity to speak to you today as part of your preliminary budget hearings.

I am here today to speak about the role that the arts plays in our mission to decommercialize our criminal legal system. We have been doing important work around eliminating costs associated with incarceration, and we have recently utilized art as a tool to communicate the gravity and urgency of this issue.

We are currently exhibiting an art project titled *Capitalizing on Justice*, which features the works of incarcerated artists from across the nation who have used their talent to express the ways that they and their loved ones have been commodified. Spanning a variety of genres and styles, the works in this exhibition were made using limited resources: state-issued materials, prison contraband, and yard scraps. They were shipped in makeshift envelopes and tattered boxes from as deep in our criminal legal system as Arkansas' death row and come together to make a strong statement against the prison industrial complex.

Incarcerated people know best that profits in the prison industry are directly linked to suffering. Often, however, words fall short in conveying the harms that commercialization inflicts. With *Capitalizing on Justice*, these artists were able to bridge that gap and provide the public with a new understanding of the exploitation they face.

Several of the pieces exhibited in *Capitalizing on Justice* speak directly to the costs that families bear when a loved one is incarcerated. They specifically call out companies like Securus and the high price of phone calls that they charge incarcerated people and their loved ones. Thankfully, New York City just made phone calls free from city jails when it passed Intro 741 last year. But there are several other costs of incarceration that these artists address— like commissary, healthcare, and money deposits— that directly impacted people in New York City still face.

The arts also have an inherent humanizing value that incarcerated people and directly impacted communities deserve to have access to. When you fund arts in directly impacted communities you are investing in the leadership of black, brown and cash-poor people. You investing in the brilliance, restoration, healing and mending of communities who have been generationally scarred by mass incarceration. You are investing in the futures of young people's imagination.

Art has the power to build temporal forms of communities, share experiences and provide space for directly impacted individuals, families, and communities to see and imagine themselves beyond the lived traumas of surviving the carceral state. One of the featured artists in our exhibit, for example, reached out to us after he was notified of his award and said that his participation in this project, "made him feel human again."

I am personally calling upon every city council member to close their eyes, and imagine what does safety feel like? What song is playing, what colors do you see? As we push to close Rikers and to abolish jails and prisons across this country, we need to think creativity about how we harness power and the transformation that lies within artmaking. Art provides us with holistic ways to culturally divest from relying on systems of violence that do not heal us.

As a dance artist myself, I can attest to the power and transformation of the arts. By the time I was 13, I was already locked up and gone to the streets. By the time I was 17, I had been in more than 60 fights, stabbed twice, and missed death more than four times. Dance taught me a lesson that jail and the streets could not: that I was human and worthy of dignity, humanity and more than my battle scars. I hope that more people can experience this same transformation.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to speak today, and I would like to personally extend an invitation to anyone in the room to the Grand Opening of Capitalizing on Justice tonight at NYU Gallatin Galleries, 6pm at 1 Washington Place.

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

*Appearance Card*

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Grace Pina

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: Close Room

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

*Appearance Card*

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/14/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Sereena Townsend - Deputy Commissioner

Address: of Invt. Division

I represent: Dept. of Correction

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

*Appearance Card*

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/14/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Joseph Antonelli - Acting Associate Commissioner

Address: Dept. of Correction

I represent: Dept. of Correction

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

**Appearance Card**

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/14/19

**(PLEASE PRINT)**

Name: Patricia Lyons - Acting Deputy Commissioner

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: Dept. of Correction

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

**Appearance Card**

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/14/19

**(PLEASE PRINT)**

Name: Angel Villalona - (First Deputy Commissioner)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: Department of Correction

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

**Appearance Card**

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/14/19

**(PLEASE PRINT)**

Name: Cynthia Brann - Commissioner

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: Department of Correction

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

*Appearance Card*

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/14/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Hazel Jennings - Chief of Department

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: Dept. of Correction

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

*Appearance Card*

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3-14-19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Coco Cullane

Address: 40 Rector NY NY

I represent: VETERAN ADVOCACY PROJECT (VAP)

Address: 40 Rector NY NY 10006

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

*Appearance Card*

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3-14-19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Michael Pope

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: Youth Represent

Address: DOC/Facility programming/legal services

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**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/14/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Sarita Dartany

Address: 1900 Lexington Ave / 225 Norwood Ave

I represent: Just Leadership USA

Address: ↓

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/14/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Alexander Anderson

Address: Ritual 4 Return

I represent: 1100 Grand Concourse Bronx

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3-14-19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Minister, Dr. Victoria A. Phillips - Ms. V

Address: 40 Rector St 9th floor, NY, N 10006

I represent: Mental Project Mental Health Project, Urban Style

Address: " "



# THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3-14-19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: DAVID Freudenthal

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: Carnegie Hall

Address: Arts/Justice/CIG

# THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: March 14, 2019

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Brittany Williams

Address: 168 Canal St

I represent: Worth Rises

Address: 168 Canal Street

# THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☒ in opposition of docs

Date: 3/14/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Turquoise

Address: 475 Riverside Drive

I represent: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☒ in opposition

Date: 3/14/19 <sup>DOCS budget</sup>

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: JORDAN ROSENTHAL (College and Community Fellowship)

Address: 475 Riverside Drive

I represent: College & Community Fellowship

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: WAYNE MCCRENTICE

Address: 33 BIRCHEN STREET

I represent: DEPT OF PROBATION

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: GRACIE NGUYEN

Address: 33 BIRCHEN STREET

I represent: DEPT OF PROBATION

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms



**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

**Appearance Card**

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**(PLEASE PRINT)**

Name: GINERBICA ADIA

Address: 333 BROADWAY STREET

I represent: DEPT OF REFORMATION

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

**Appearance Card**

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**(PLEASE PRINT)**

Name: ANA BEAMER

Address: 33 BEAUCH STREET

I represent: DEPT OF REFORMATION

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

**Appearance Card**

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: MARCH 14 2017

**(PLEASE PRINT)**

Name: MICHAEL FORTI

Address: 33 BEAUCH STREET

I represent: DEPT OF REFORMATION

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

**Appearance Card**

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**(PLEASE PRINT)**

Name: Chris Heinrich & Shane Correia

Address: 520 8th Ave

I represent: Midtown Community Court

Address: Center for Court Improvement

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**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/14/19

**(PLEASE PRINT)**

Name: MARTHA KING

Address: 149 Skillman Avenue

I represent: NYC Board of Correction

Address: 1 Centre Street

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**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

**Appearance Card**

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/14/19

Name: ROBERT L. COHEN, MD (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 130 Bx 1 Centre Street

I represent: Board of Correction

Address: 1 Centre St. NY NY

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

**Appearance Card**

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3.14.19

Name: Dorlene JACKSON (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 114 Stuyvesant Ave #422 Flr 11 NY

I represent: Women's Community Justice Association

Address: 41 West 43rd Street, 2nd floor

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms