Legislation Details (With Text)

File #:	Res 2007-2009	**Version:**	*	**Name:**	Ban the practice of placing prison inmates in solitary confinement and provide supportive services to all inmates leaving solitary confinement from NYS operated prison systems.
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Title: Resolution calling upon the New York State Legislature and the Governor to ban the practice of placing prison inmates in solitary confinement and provide supportive services to all inmates leaving solitary confinement from New York State operated prison systems.

Sponsors:

Indexes:

Attachments:

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
6/10/2009	*	City Council	Introduced by Council	
6/10/2009	*	City Council	Referred to Comm by Council	
12/31/2009	*	City Council	Filed (End of Session)	

Res. No. 2007

Resolution calling upon the New York State Legislature and the Governor to ban the practice of placing prison inmates in solitary confinement and provide supportive services to all inmates leaving solitary confinement from New York State operated prison systems.

By Council Members Dickens, Foster, James, Mealy, Palma, Seabrook and White Jr.

Whereas, Solitary confinement is generally used as a tool to punish inmates who continually violate rules in state run correction facilities; and

Whereas, The criteria for the isolation of prisoners vary by state but typically include not only the commission of violent infractions, but also violation of prison rules or association with gang members; and

Whereas, Solitary confinement generally constitutes segregating an inmate for 23 hours a day, allowing the inmate out only to shower or get outdoor exercise in a small caged space, and disallowing any contact with the outside world; and

Whereas, Studies have shown that solitary confinement can cause severe psychiatric distress to an

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inmate as well as cause long-standing social disorders; and

Whereas, An increasing number of jurists throughout the world have concluded that solitary confinement constitutes cruel and unusual punishment and view solitary confinement as torture; and

Whereas, According to a recent study, about 44,000 state prisoners, or two-thirds of the entire state prison population, are from New York City; and

Whereas, Between 1998-2001, over half of New York State's correctional system suicides occurred in 23 hour lockdown, although inmates in these units comprised less than 10 percent of the general population; and

Whereas, Several states, including Oregon and Colorado, offer progressive programs, such as inmate therapy sessions and anger management classes, to prisoners scheduled to be released to society from solitary confinement; and

Whereas, It is paramount that New York State prisons offer similar services to help inmates who have been held in solitary confinement transition back into society, so that they may contribute to their community; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls upon the New York State Legislature and the Governor to ban the practice of placing prison inmates in solitary confinement and provide supportive services to all inmates leaving solitary confinement from New York State operated prison systems.

WJH
6/4/09
LS# 7387