



## **ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON CORRECTION**

### **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**SUBJECT:** Conditions at the Rikers Island Correctional Facility and Other Facilities of the New York City Department of Correction

**PURPOSE:** To seek information concerning conditions for incarcerated persons, visitors and staff at Rikers Island and other facilities of the New York City Department of Correction

**New York City**  
Friday, October 1, 2021  
10:00 AM  
Public Hearing Room  
250 Broadway, New York, NY 10007

### **ORAL TESTIMONY BY INVITATION ONLY**

This hearing is called to obtain information about current conditions within the New York City Department of Correction and seek suggested strategies for improving conditions for incarcerated persons, visitors (including attorneys), corrections staff and court-system employees. The Committee is interested to learn whether changes in state law are needed, such as laws related to the oversight of correctional facilities and the reporting of illnesses, deaths and unusual and violent incidents.

Recent reports indicate that conditions have deteriorated as the Department has confronted the impact of Covid-19, staffing shortages, and other circumstances. Employee absences and staff vacancies have reportedly resulted in staff members being called, unexpectedly, to work double and, sometimes, triple shifts. In a report released August 24, 2021, the monitor appointed in a federal lawsuit, *Nunez v. City of New York*, expressed “grave concerns” about conditions and “pervasive high levels of disorder and chaos” in the City’s correctional facilities.

The Department of Correction has reported the death of at least 10 residents in custody at Rikers Island since the start of this year. The conditions at police lock-ups and court detention facilities for detained persons, attorneys and staff are also of concern to the Committee.

The Committee wishes to learn more about these conditions, examine underlying causes, and consider possible solutions.

Persons invited to participate in the hearing should complete and return the enclosed reply form as soon as possible. It is important that the reply form be fully completed and returned so that persons may be notified in the event of emergency postponement or cancellation.

Oral testimony will be limited to ten minutes. All testimony will be under oath. In preparing the order of witnesses, the Committee will attempt to accommodate individual requests to speak at particular times in view of special circumstances. These requests should be made on the attached reply form or communicated to Committee staff as early as possible.

Ten copies of any prepared testimony should be submitted at the hearing registration desk. The Committees would appreciate receiving prepared statements in advance.

Attendees and participants at any legislative public hearing should be aware that these proceedings are video recorded. Their likenesses may be included in any video coverage shown on television or the internet.

In order to meet the needs of those with a disability, the Assembly, in accordance with its policy of non-discrimination on the basis of disability, as well as the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), has made its facilities and services available to all individuals with disabilities. For individuals with disabilities, accommodations will be provided, upon reasonable request, to afford such individuals access and admission to Assembly facilities and activities.

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**PUBLIC HEARING REPLY FORM**

**ORAL TESTIMONY BY INVITATION ONLY**

Persons invited to present testimony at the public hearing on Conditions at Rikers Island are requested to complete this reply form as soon as possible and mail, email or fax it to:

Isabel Tripoli  
Analyst  
Assembly Committee on Corrections  
Room 513 - Capitol  
Albany, New York 12248  
Email: tripolii@nyassembly.gov  
Phone: (518) 455-4313  
Fax: (518) 455-7087

- I plan to attend the following public hearing on Conditions at Rikers Island and Other Facilities of the New York City Department of Correction to be conducted by the Assembly Committee on Corrections on October 1, 2021.
- I have been invited to make a public statement at the hearing. My statement will be limited to ten (10) minutes, and I will answer any questions which may arise. I will provide 10 copies of my prepared statement.
- I will address my remarks to the following subjects:

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\_\_\_\_\_

- I do not plan to attend the above hearing.
- I would like to be added to the Committee mailing list for notices and reports.
- I would like to be removed from the Committee mailing list.
- I will require assistance and/or handicapped accessibility information. **Please specify the type of assistance required:**

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\_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_