



Testimony

Oversight – Mayor’s November Financial Plan.

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for

Committee on Finance

Monday, December 11, 2023 -- 10:00 AM
New York, NY

Thank you, Chair Justin Brannan, for holding this hearing and inviting our testimony. My name is Yonah Zeitz, I'm the director of advocacy at the Katal Center for Equity, Health, and Justice. We're based in Brooklyn, and our members come from across the city and state. Our members include people who have been incarcerated in city jails and state prisons, family members of currently and formerly incarcerated people, working class residents, and more.

Katal opposes Mayor Adams's proposed 5% cuts as outlined in the November Financial Plan. This fifth round of austerity cuts, if approved, would slash the budgets of essential services by \$1.4 billion and cut 2,000 much-needed city jobs. Under Mayor Adams, our city is already losing essential services -- libraries are cutting their hours, people are losing their jobs, education is being slashed, CUNY ASAP is being gutted, childcare seats are being cut, thousands of housing and service agency positions are being eliminated.

While essential services have faced five rounds of major austerity cuts under this Mayor, the New York Police Department and the Department of Correction have been given preferential treatment. Despite their bloated budgets and large wasteful spending in their overtime and uniformed budgets, the NYPD and the DOC continue to be richly funded while our libraries and other essential services face drastic cuts.

NYC is one of the wealthiest cities in the world and it is outrageous for the mayor to make drastic cuts to essential services while the city is holding \$9 billion in reserves.

Our city is facing a leadership crisis, not a budget crisis. There are numerous solutions laid out by government and independent watchdogs to manage the city's fiscal issues without such severe cuts to essential services. But this mayor, beset by a growing number of scandals, ignores those options, and instead seeks to dismantle the infrastructure and programs that help keep New Yorkers safe and healthy.

For an alarming example of this, we don't have to look any farther than the mayor's handling of dumpster fire that is the Riker Island Jail Complex.

As this committee knows, the conditions at New York City's massive jail complex are horrific and life-threatening for human beings – the people incarcerated and those who work there.ⁱ Violence is rampant.ⁱⁱ Racism and other types of bias are deeply entrenched.ⁱⁱⁱ And though Black and Latinx people constitute about half of the city's population, they represent almost 90 percent of jail admissions.^{iv}

Under Mayor Eric Adams, conditions at Rikers have gotten worse. Violence at Rikers is out of control. At least 28 people have died in the city jail system since Adams became mayor in

2022.^v But the actual number of deaths is unknown, because under this administration, the Department of Correction (DOC) has become less transparent and at one point even declared that they would stop reporting deaths to the public.^{vi} Under Mayor Eric Adams, the levels of violence and dysfunction at Rikers are so egregious that in April 2023, federal prosecutors from the Southern District of New York wrote, “Incarcerated people and corrections staff continue to face an imminent risk of harm on a daily basis.”^{vii}

Incarceration at Rikers is extremely costly. In fiscal year 2023, the DOC budget cost city taxpayers \$1.36 billion. According to the City Comptroller, the cost of incarceration at Rikers is \$556,539 a person per year, which is *\$1,525 a day*.^{viii} Why are libraries and educational programs and other essential services being cut when we know alternatives to incarceration work, they are much cheaper, and diversion options are available *right now* to reduce the jail population?

Indeed, evidence and research have long shown that mental health programming is *dramatically* cheaper than incarceration, yet Rikers has become the city’s largest mental health facility. More than 50 percent of people incarcerated there have been diagnosed with a mental health condition, yet they have little or no access to meaningful care while they are locked up.^{ix}

Under Mayor Adams, the jail population is going up when it should be decreasing, costing New York City hundreds of millions of dollars. For more than two decades, the population at Rikers was, generally, on a downward trend along with crime rates in our city—we showed that, reducing incarceration and reducing crime went hand in hand. But since his first day in office, Mayor Adams has worked to reverse that trend. There were about 5,000 people in city jails when Adams became mayor. Today, there are more than 6,000 people in city jails,^x and they’re not done: last December, the DOC Commissioner told the Council that they are planning for the city’s jail population to go beyond 7000.^{xi}

The “jails-first” approach preferred by Mayor Adams is costing taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars while threatening the closure of Rikers Island. In 2017, under pressure from community groups, the City finally committed to closing Rikers Island. In 2019, the city council passed a legislative package to make closure a reality by 2027. Reports by the Independent Commission on NYC Criminal Justice and Incarceration Reform and the Institute for State and Local Governance have found that the closure of Rikers will save city taxpayers \$1.3 billion *annually* – even after accounting for costs of implementing the plan. Yet Mayor Adams has simply ignored the legal and process benchmarks of the 2019 plan. Or worse, the mayor has worked to undermine core tenets of the 2019 plan, particularly with regard to the jail population – instead of working to reduce the jail population, the mayor has focused on sending *more* Black, Brown, and low-income New Yorkers to jail.

The mayor's jails-first approach not only costs New Yorkers more in the immediate term, but also threatens substantial savings in the long term. This is outrageous, irresponsible, and clearly untenable.

We urge members of the NYC Council to reject the mayor's budget modifications that will drastically cut essential services. Instead, we urge this council to focus on three things: **first**, cut the budgets used for caging people – the NYPD and DOC budgets are bloated, wasteful, and must be cut. **Second**, the closure of Rikers is not just a moral and legal imperative, but given the extraordinary savings that can be realized, it is also a *fiscal* imperative. Budget modifications made by the council should maintain a focus on how such choices will advance efforts to shutter the notorious jail complex once and for all.

Third, we must maintain investments in things that produces real public safety: housing, healthcare, education, jobs. The mayor has it exactly backwards – he wants to cut these core services while maintaining the budgets used for caging people. This council must reject that approach.

Finally, with regards to Rikers and the human beings detained there and working there, there is one more thing this council can do now – pass Resolution 669, which calls for a federal receiver. This week, federal judge Laura T. Swain is set to hold an important hearing with regards Rikers. Katal and other community organizations have worked for years to shut down Rikers and hold Adams accountable while demanding action by the city, state, and federal government to save lives. After years of foot-dragging by the courts, this summer, Judge Swain finally opened the door to the possibility of appointing a federal receiver, acknowledging that “people incarcerated at Rikers are at a grave risk of immediate harm” and that “the current state of affairs is tragic and unacceptable.”^{xii} Calls for a federal receiver have grown over this year -- today, more than 50 community, advocacy, and faith-based organizations have joined the call for a federal receiver to take over at Rikers. And as of today, the Legal Aid Society, the U.S Attorney for the SDNY, and NY Attorney General Leticia James have all filed motions in federal court formally calling for the appointment of an independent federal receiver.

While the council continues its work on fighting for a budget that will allow all New Yorkers to thrive, we urge the council to take immediate action to relieve suffering at Rikers by passing Resolution 669. Nearly 20 council members have now co-sponsored resolution 669. Passing Resolution 669 is a concrete step this council can take *right now* to address the crisis at Rikers. Until Rikers is shut down, there must be immediate action to improve conditions and save lives and invest in alternatives to incarceration and other non-carceral solutions that are proven to increase public safety. Thank you.

ⁱ Erica Bryant. “[It’s] a Torture Chamber: Stories from Rikers Island.” Vera Institute of Justice. February 2022. vera.org/its-a-torture-chamber.

ⁱⁱ Jonah E. Bromwich and Jan Ransom. “Rikers Still ‘Unstable and Unsafe’ Under New Jails Chief, Watchdog Says.” *The New York Times*. March 16, 2022. [nytimes.com/2022/03/16/nyregion/rikers-jail-violence-report.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/16/nyregion/rikers-jail-violence-report.html).

ⁱⁱⁱ Black and Latino people are far more likely to be incarcerated at Rikers than white people facing similar charges. Young, LGBTQI, and gender nonconforming people face higher rates of violence. Concerns about young people and about transgender, gender nonconforming, nonbinary, and intersex (TGNCNBI) people on Rikers Island and in other jails and prisons have long warranted attention. To read more about issues for young people in the city’s jails, see “Case: Nunez and United States v. City of New York.” *Nunez and United States v. City of New York* 1:11-Cv-05845 (S.D.N.Y.), Civil Rights Litigation Clearinghouse, July 10, 2023. clearinghouse.net/case/12072. To read more about issues for TGNCNBI people in the city’s jails, see New York City Board of Correction. “Task Force on Issues Faced by TGNCNBI People in Custody.” Updated 2023. www1.nyc.gov/site/boc/jail-regulations/task-force-on-issues-faced-by-tgnabi.page

^{iv} United States Census Bureau. “Quick Facts: New York City, New York.” July 1, 2021. [census.gov/quickfacts/newyorkcitynewyork](https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/newyorkcitynewyork); Bruce Western, Jaclyn Davis, Flavien Ganter, and Natalie Smith. “The Cumulative Risk of Jail Incarceration.” *PNAS* 118, No. 16. (2021). [pnas.org/doi/10.1073/pnas.2023429118](https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2023429118); Reuven Blau. “Racial Gap in City Jails Has Only Gotten Worse, John Jay Study Finds.” *The City*. March 2, 2023. <https://www.thecity.nyc/2023/3/2/23621862/racial-gap-nyc-jails-got-worse>

^v Jan Ransom and Jonah E. Bromwich. “Tracking the Deaths in New York City’s Jail System.” *The New York Times*. February 4, 2023. www.nytimes.com/article/rikers-deaths-jail.html

^{vi} Reuven Blau. “City Jails No Longer Announcing Deaths Behind Bars, Angering Watchdogs.” *The City*. May 31, 2023. <https://www.thecity.nyc/2023/5/31/23744666/correction-jails-not-announcing-deaths-rikers>

^{vii} Steve J. Martin, Kelly Dedel, Anna E. Friedberg, Dennis O. Gonzalez, Patrick Hurley, Alycia M. Karlovich, Emmitt Sparkman, and Christina Bucci Vanderveer. *Status Report on DOC’s Action Plan by the Nunez Independent Monitor*. April 24, 2023. 27. <https://tillidgroup.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/2023-04-24-Status-Report-of-Action-Plan.pdf>

^{viii} New York City Comptroller. “Comptroller Stringer: Cost of Incarceration per Person in New York City Skyrockets to All-Time High.” December 6, 2021. [comptroller.nyc.gov/newsroom/comptroller-stringer-cost-of-incarceration-per-person-in-new-york-city-skyrockets-to-all-time-high-2](https://www.comptroller.nyc.gov/newsroom/comptroller-stringer-cost-of-incarceration-per-person-in-new-york-city-skyrockets-to-all-time-high-2)

^{ix} Jan Ransom and Jonah E. Bromwich. “‘I Just Want to Be Normal’: A Mentally Ill Man’s Death at Rikers.” *The New York Times*. September 27, 2021. [nytimes.com/2021/09/27/nyregion/rikers-island-esias-johnson.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/27/nyregion/rikers-island-esias-johnson.html), citing Anthony Shorris and Mindy Tarlow. *Preliminary Mayor’s Management Report*, February 2016. 62. https://www.nyc.gov/assets/operations/downloads/pdf/pmmr2016/2016_pmmr.pdf

^x For the 2023 data, see Vera Institute for Justice. “JailVizNYC.” November 28, 2023. <https://greaterjusticeny.vera.org/nycjail>.

^{xi} Courtney Gross. “Rikers closure plan not on track, commissioner says”. Spectrum News 1. 2023. Retrieved from <https://ny1.com/nyc/all-boroughs/news/2022/12/14/rikers-closure-plan-not-on-track--commissioner-says>

^{xiii} Reuven Blau. “Judge Says ‘Transformative Change’ Needed, Laying Groundwork for a Possible Rikers Takeover.” *The City*. August 10, 2023. <https://www.thecity.nyc/2023/8/10/23827946/rikers-takeover-judge-receiver>

Tracking Support for an Independent Federal Receiver at Rikers

List compiled by the Katal Center for Equity, Health, and Justice

For years, community groups, advocates, and service providers have worked to reduce the city's jail populations and shut down Rikers. That work continues. Now, as the crisis in city jails worsens and the death toll rises, calls are growing for the federal courts to order an independent receiver to take control of Rikers.

As the Brennan Center for Justice has described:

“When a local or state government proves unable or unwilling to improve a distressed public institution that has long defied federal law, a federal court can take the troubled entity out of the government’s hands and appoint a ‘receiver’ – a nonpartisan expert – to assume direct control, with an eye towards reform.”

A federal receiver is not a panacea but could improve conditions for people incarcerated and employed there until Rikers is shut down once and for all.

The following list includes current and former government and corrections officials and community and advocacy groups who publicly support a federal receiver taking over at Rikers. *This list of stakeholders does not represent a coalition.* But it does reflect a growing consensus across the political spectrum that federal intervention at Rikers is needed to save lives and improve conditions for the people who are detained there or work there.

Officials and Groups in Support of Appointing an Independent Federal Receiver to Take Over at Rikers

Updated December 4, 2023, 2:00p.m. ET.

*This list **does not** reflect any endorsement of or participation in any particular coalition or campaign. Unless otherwise noted, all names and groups are listed alphabetically.*

Federal Prosecutors

- Damian Williams, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York¹

State Attorney Generals

- Letitia James, Attorney General of New York²

New York City Officials

- New York City Comptroller Brad Lander³

- New York City Public Advocate Jumaane D. Williams⁴

New York City Council Members

An asterisk signifies that the council member has cosponsored Resolution 669, which calls for a federal receiver of New York City jails.

- Alexa Avilés, District 38*
- Charles Barron, District 42*
- Erik Bottcher, District 3*
- Tiffany Cabán, District 22*
- Carmen De La Rosa, District 10*
- Amanda Farías, District 18*
- Jennifer Gutiérrez, District 34*
- Shahana K. Hanif, District 39*
- Crystal Hudson, District 35*
- Rita C. Joseph, District 40*
- Shekar Krishnan, District 25*
- Mercedes Narcisse, District 46*
- Sandy Nurse, District 37*
- Chi Ossé, District 36*
- Majority Leader Keith Powers, District 4*
- Lincoln Restler, District 33⁵
- Kristin Richardson Jordan, District 9*
- Pierina Ana Sanchez, District 14⁶
- Nantasha Williams, District 27*
- Julie Won, District 26*

New York State Legislators and Former Legislators

- Senator Jabari Brisport, District 25⁷
- Senator Cordell Cleare, District 30⁸
- Senator Kristen Gonzalez, District 59⁹
- Senator Peter Harckham, District 40¹⁰
- Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal, District 47¹¹
- Senator Robert Jackson, District 31¹²
- Senator Liz Krueger, District 28¹³
- Senator Shelley Mayer, District 37¹⁴
- Senator Jessica Ramos, District 13¹⁵
- Senator Gustavo Rivera, District 33¹⁶
- Senator Julia Salazar, District 57¹⁷
- Senator José Serrano, District 29¹⁸
- Senator Toby Ann Stavisky, District 11¹⁹

- Assemblymember Robert Carroll, District 44²⁰
- Assemblymember Taylor Darling, District 18²¹
- Assemblymember Harvey Epstein, District 74²²
- Assemblymember Emily Gallagher, District 50²³
- Assemblymember Jessica González-Rojas, District 34²⁴
- Assemblymember Kimberly Jean-Pierre, District 11²⁵
- Assemblymember Dana Levenberg, District 95²⁶
- Assemblymember Zohran Mamdani, District 36²⁷
- Assemblymember Marcela Mitaynes, District 51²⁸
- Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal, District 67²⁹
- Assemblymember Amanda Septimo, District 84³⁰
- Assemblymember Tony Simone, District 75³¹
- Assemblymember Phara Souffrant Forrest, District 57³²
- Former New York State Senator Alessandra Biaggi, District 34³³

Former Public Safety & Correctional Officials

- Zachary Carter, former corporation counsel at the New York City Law Department and former U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of New York³⁴
- Elizabeth Glazer, former director of the Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice under Mayor Bill de Blasio, former deputy secretary for public safety under Governor Andrew Cuomo, and founder of Vital City³⁵
- Michael Jacobson, former commissioner of the Department of Correction under Mayor Rudy Giuliani; currently the executive director of the CUNY Institute for State & Local Governance³⁶
- Vincent Schiraldi, former commissioner of the Department of Correction under Mayor de Blasio and former commissioner of Probation under Mayor Mike Bloomberg; currently the secretary of juvenile services in Maryland³⁷
- Sarena Townsend, former deputy commissioner of the Intelligence, Investigation & Trials Division at the New York City Department of Correction under Mayor Bill de Blasio³⁸

Editorial Pages & Journals

- *New York Daily News*³⁹
- *New York Post*⁴⁰
- *Vital City*⁴¹

Advocacy and Community Groups

1. A Little Piece of Light⁴²
2. Amplifying Activists Together⁴³
3. Birth from the Earth⁴⁴
4. Brennan Center for Justice⁴⁵

5. Bronx Climate Justice North⁴⁶
6. Bronx Defenders⁴⁷
7. Brooklyn Defender Services⁴⁸
8. Brotherhood Sister Sol⁴⁹
9. Brooklyn for Peace⁵⁰
10. Bronx Defenders⁵¹
11. Campaign Zero⁵²
12. Center for the Independence of the Disabled, New York (CIDNY)⁵³
13. Citizen Action of New York⁵⁴
14. Citizens Union⁵⁵
15. Community Access⁵⁶
16. Correctional Association of New York⁵⁷
17. Corporation for Supportive Housing⁵⁸
18. Families for Freedom⁵⁹
19. Families and Friends of the Wrongfully Convicted⁶⁰
20. Fled Collective⁶¹
21. Fortune Society⁶²
22. The Gathering for Justice⁶³
23. Housing Works⁶⁴
24. Hour Children⁶⁵
25. Incarcerated Nation Network⁶⁶
26. JustLeadershipUSA⁶⁷
27. Katal Center for Equity, Health, and Justice⁶⁸
28. KAVI- Kings Against Violence Initiative⁶⁹
29. Latino Justice⁷⁰
30. Legal Aid Society⁷¹
31. National Alliance on Mental Illness of New York City, Inc. (NAMI-NYC)⁷²
32. National Action Network NYC Chapter Second Chance Committee⁷³
33. Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem⁷⁴
34. New Hour for Women & Children – Long Island⁷⁵
35. New Pride Agenda⁷⁶
36. North Bronx Racial Justice⁷⁷
37. NYC Brown Berets⁷⁸
38. New York Civil Liberties Union⁷⁹
39. New York City Bar Association⁸⁰
40. New York Communities for Change⁸¹
41. New York County Defender Services⁸²
42. New York Jewish Agenda⁸³
43. NY Renews⁸⁴
44. New York State Defenders Association⁸⁵
45. Nurses for Social Justice⁸⁶
46. Prison Families Alliance⁸⁷
47. Providence House, Inc.⁸⁸
48. Queens Defenders⁸⁹
49. Raging Grannies⁹⁰

50. Strategy for Black Lives⁹¹
51. Unchained⁹²
52. Youth Represent⁹³
53. Vera Institute of Justice⁹⁴

If you or your group supports the call for a federal receiver – or if you have any questions or clarifications – please email Yonah Zeitz, Director of Advocacy at Katal: yonah@katalcenter.org.

¹ United States Attorney’s Office, Southern District of New York. “Statement Of U.S. Attorney Damian Williams on Intention to File for Contempt and Seek a Court-Appointed Receiver to Address Conditions on Rikers Island.” July 17, 2023. <https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/pr/statement-us-attorney-damian-williams-intention-file-contempt-and-seek-court-appointed>

² Graham Rayman “NY Attorney General Letitia James backs federal court takeover of Rikers Island, other NYC jails.” NY Daily News. December 1, 2024. <https://www.nydailynews.com/2023/12/01/ny-attorney-general-letitia-james-backs-federal-court-takeover-of-rikers-island-other-nyc-jails/>

³ Office of the New York City Comptroller. “Comptroller Lander Calls for Federal Receiver at Rikers Island, Citing Rising Violence and Deaths.” October 13, 2022. <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/newsroom/citing-rising-violence-and-deaths-comptroller-lander-calls-for-federal-receiver-at-rikers-island>

⁴ Office of the New York City Public Advocate. “NYC Public Advocate Introduces Bills to Reform City Jails, Resolution Calling for Rikers Receivership.” June 8, 2023. <https://www.pubadvocate.nyc.gov/press/nyc-public-advocate-introduces-bills-reform-city-jails-resolution-calling-rikers-receivership>

⁵ Tandy Lau. “Correcting Corrections: Federal Judge Plans to Hear Out Rikers Receivership Arguments.” *Amsterdam News*. August 16, 2023. <https://amsterdamnews.com/news/2023/08/16/federal-judge-plans-hear-out-rikers-receivership-arguments>

⁶ Lincoln Restler, Shekar Krishnan, Crystal Hudson, Chi Ossé, Mercedes Narcisse, Keith Powers, Carmen De La Rosa, Amanda Fariás, Erik Bottcher, and Pierina Sanchez. Letter to U.S. District Court Chief Judge Laura Taylor Swain. November 16, 2022. <https://twitter.com/LincolnRestler/status/1592894111279087619/photo/1>

⁷ Alessandra Biaggi, Julia Salazar, Jabari Brisport, Brad Hoylman, Jessica Ramos, and Gustavo Rivera. Letter to U.S. District Court Chief Judge Laura Taylor Swain. May 23, 2022. <https://twitter.com/SenatorBiaggi/status/1529230052151410689/photo/1>

⁸ Julia Salazar, Phara Souffrant Forrest, Jabari Brisport, et al. Letter to U.S. District Court Chief Judge Laura Taylor Swain. August 8, 2023.

⁹ Salazar et al., Letter to Judge Swain, 2023.

¹⁰ Salazar et al., Letter to Judge Swain, 2023.

¹¹ Biaggi et al., Letter to Judge Swain, 2022.

¹² Salazar et al., Letter to Judge Swain, 2023.

¹³ Salazar et al., Letter to Judge Swain, 2023.

¹⁴ Salazar et al., Letter to Judge Swain, 2023.

¹⁵ Biaggi et al., Letter to Judge Swain, 2022.

¹⁶ Biaggi et al., Letter to Judge Swain, 2022.

¹⁷ Biaggi et al., Letter to Judge Swain, 2022.

¹⁸ Salazar et al., Letter to Judge Swain, 2023.

¹⁹ Salazar et al., Letter to Judge Swain, 2023.

²⁰ Salazar et al., Letter to Judge Swain, 2023.

²¹ Salazar et al., Letter to Judge Swain, 2023.

²² Salazar et al., Letter to Judge Swain, 2023.

²³ Salazar et al., Letter to Judge Swain, 2023.

²⁴ Salazar et al., Letter to Judge Swain, 2023.

²⁵ Salazar et al., Letter to Judge Swain, 2023.

²⁶ Salazar et al., Letter to Judge Swain, 2023.

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- ³¹ Salazar et al., Letter to Judge Swain, 2023.
- ³² Salazar et al., Letter to Judge Swain, 2023.
- ³³ Biaggi et al., Letter to Judge Swain, 2022.
- ³⁴ *The Crime Report*. “Reformers Call for Federal Takeover of New York’s Rikers Jail.” May 20, 2022. <https://thecrimereport.org/2022/05/20/reformers-call-for-federal-takeover-of-new-yorks-rikers-jail>
- ³⁵ Elizabeth Glazer and Michael Jacobson. “How We Can Rescue Rikers Island Without Waiting.” April 12, 2022. <https://www.nydailynews.com/2022/04/12/how-we-can-rescue-rikers-island-without-waiting>; Elizabeth Glazer. “The Rule of Law Applies on Rikers, Too.” Vital City. June 12, 2023. <https://www.vitalcitynyc.org/articles/rikers-hearing-june-2023>
- ³⁶ Glazer and Jacobson, “How We Can Rescue Rikers Island,” 2022. <https://www.nydailynews.com/2022/04/12/how-we-can-rescue-rikers-island-without-waiting>
- ³⁷ Vincent Schiraldi. “I Spent Over 40 Years Working in Corrections. I Wasn’t Ready for Rikers.” The Marshall Project. October 28, 2022. <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2022/10/28/i-spent-over-40-years-working-in-corrections-i-wasn-t-ready-for-rikers>
- ³⁸ JB Nicholas. “Former Rikers Watchdog: ‘This Whole F---ing Thing Is a Racket.’” Hell Gate. May 3, 2022. <https://hellgatenyc.com/nycs-former-jails-investigator-identifies-top-problem-on-rikers-corruption>
- ³⁹ *New York Daily News* Editorial Board. “Ask and You Shall Receive: City’s Latest Failure Highlights Need for Rikers Receiver.” July 11, 2023. <https://www.nydailynews.com/2023/07/11/ask-and-you-shall-receive-citys-latest-failure-highlights-need-for-rikers-receiver>
- ⁴⁰ *New York Post* Editorial Board. “Federal Takeover of Rikers Isn’t a Bitter Pill – Adams Should Welcome It.” April 21, 2022. <https://nypost.com/2022/04/21/federal-takeover-of-rikers-island-isnt-a-bitter-pill>; “Why Eric Adams Should Hand Rikers Island Over to the Feds.” May 14, 2022. <https://nypost.com/2022/05/14/why-rikers-island-jail-should-be-handed-over-to-the-feds>; “Fed Prosecutor’s Right: It’s Time for a Receiver to Take Over Rikers.” July 19, 2023. <https://nypost.com/2023/07/19/fed-prosecutors-right-its-time-for-a-receiver-to-take-over-rikers>
- ⁴¹ Glazer, “The Rule of Law Applies on Rikers, Too,” 2023.
- ⁴² Katal Center for Equity, Health, and Justice. “As Federal Court Holds Major Hearing to Determine Control of Rikers, Community Groups and Elected Officials Hold Protest to Demand Immediate Action.” Press release. August 10, 2023. <https://katalcenter.org/as-federal-court-holds-major-hearing-to-determine-control-of-rikers-community-groups-and-elected-officials-hold-protest-to-demand-immediate-action>
- ⁴³ Katal Center for Equity, Health, and Justice. “People Impacted by Rikers, with Elected Officials and Community Groups, Rally Outside of the Courthouse in Support of the Federal Takeover and Demand Closure of Rikers Island.” Press release. November 17, 2022. <https://katalcenter.org/press-release-rikers-is-in-crisis-rally-11-17-22>
- ⁴⁴ Birth from the Earth signed onto Katal’s receivership support list. <https://katal.info/receiversupport>
- ⁴⁵ Hernandez D. Stroud. “The Only Way Forward for Rikers Island: A Federal Judge Should Put the Place into Receivership.” December 27, 2021. <https://www.nydailynews.com/2021/12/27/the-only-way-forward-for-rikers-island-a-federal-judge-should-put-the-place-into-receivership>
- ⁴⁶ Bronx Climate Justice North signed onto Katal’s receivership support list. <https://katal.info/receiversupport>
- ⁴⁷ New York County Defender Services, The Bronx Defenders, Brooklyn Defender Services, Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem, and Queens Defenders. “New York City Public Defenders’ Joint Statement on the Crisis on Rikers and the Need for Receivership.” Press release. August 10, 2023. <https://bds.org/assets/images/Joint-Defender-Statement-on-Rikers-Receivership.pdf>
- ⁴⁸ New York County Defender Services et al., “New York City Public Defenders’ Joint Statement,” 2023.
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- ⁵⁰ Brooklyn for Peace signed onto Katal’s receivership support list. <https://katal.info/receiversupport>
- ⁵¹ New York County Defender Services et al., “New York City Public Defenders’ Joint Statement,” 2023.
- ⁵² Campaign Zero. “On Eve of Adams Administration’s Rikers Plan, Activists Demand Department of Justice Intervene to Confront Humanitarian Crisis at Jails.” Press release. May 16, 2022. <https://rikersisland.org/files/rikers-campaign-release.pdf>
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- ⁵⁴ Citizen Action of New York signed onto Katal’s receivership support list. <https://katal.info/receiversupport>
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- ⁵⁶ Community Access signed onto Katal’s receivership support list. <https://katal.info/receiversupport>
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- ⁵⁸ Corporation for Supportive Housing signed onto Katal’s receivership support list. <https://katal.info/receiversupport>
- ⁵⁹ Families for Freedom signed onto Katal’s receivership support list. <https://katal.info/receiversupport>
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- ⁷⁰ Latino Justice signed onto Katal’s receivership support list. <https://katal.info/receiversupport>
- ⁷¹ The Legal Aid Society. “Judge Will Consider Outside Control of Rikers.” August 15, 2023. <https://legalaidnyc.org/news/judge-consider-outside-control-rikers-island>
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- ⁷³ National Action Network NYC Chapter Second Chance Committee signed onto Katal’s receivership support list. <https://katal.info/receiversupport>
- ⁷⁴ New York County Defender Services et al., “New York City Public Defenders’ Joint Statement,” 2023.
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- ⁸⁵ On August 20, 2023 Susan Bryant from the New York State Defenders Association signed a letter on behalf of the organization, supporting federal receivership of Rikers Island. <https://katal.info/receiversupport>
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