ICNY RACIAL JUSTICE UPDATE

From an Interfaith Vigil in Response to the Ongoing Crisis on Rikers Island (7/7/2022)

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to share with you this supplement to our monthly newsletter, which focuses on ICNY’s ongoing racial justice work. Today’s newsletter includes details and media links from our most recent event, an important legislative bulletin item, and a link to a free advocacy webinar being offered to faith leaders and their communities.
As always, we would be grateful if you would please share this resource with your networks, as we are excited to work with you for a more racially-just city.

If you have any questions or would like to become more involved, please contact Mouhamed Kaba, Racial Justice Advocacy Fellow, at Mouhamed@InterfaithCenter.org or 212-870-3519.

Sincerely,

Mouhamed Kaba
Racial Justice Advocacy Fellow

PS: Please consider a gift in support of our advocacy work by clicking here.

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**RECENT VIGIL AND PRESS**

**Interfaith Vigil - Jail Reform**

**Interfaith Vigil in Response to the Ongoing Crisis on Rikers Island**

**Event has passed: Thursday, July 7th - 10:00 - 11:30 AM EST**

This month, we are spotlighting the “**Interfaith Vigil in response to ongoing crisis on Rikers Island**” that took place in City Hall Park on July 7th, 2022 and can be seen in the photograph above. The event was in partnership with Campaign to Close Rikers and diverse faith leaders from Council of African Imams, Next Steps Community Church, Trellis, Buddhist Council of New York, T’ruah, Sadhana, Latino Pastoral Action Center (LPAC), and New York City Presbytery.

Diverse faith leaders prayed and brought attention to the 9 individuals who have already died from preventable causes just this year on Rikers Island. The same day of the Interfaith vigil, Mayor Adams visited Rikers Island and spoke to the youth who have been detained there.

Please see important press coverage this event received from **AM New York, El Diario**, and **Bronx News 12**.

You can find this event on our website by clicking here.
ICNY LEGISLATIVE ACTION BULLETIN
ICNY’s Racial Justice Legislative Action Bulletin for the month of July 2022 outlines some immediate actions we can all take including calling on City Council Members to pass the following legislations which we introduce below.

**Intro 0549-2022** (banning solitary confinement in city jails):
This bill would ban the use of solitary confinement in city jails. This bill would also provide individuals in custody of the Department of Correction due process protections prior to being placed in restrictive housing or continued use of restraints.

A. Introduced by; NYC Public Advocate Jumaane Williams

B. Sponsored by; 29 Council Members

C. Status; Introduced in the Committee of Criminal Justice on June 16th, 2022

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**Intro 0548-2022**
This bill would require the Department of Correction (“DOC”) to assist incarcerated individuals in obtaining school transcripts, driver licenses and social security cards. This bill would also require DOC to assist all incarcerated individuals who were born in New York in obtaining their birth certificates. This bill would also require DOC to report on the issuance of school transcripts, driver licenses, social security cards and birth certificates.

A. Introduced by; NYC Public Advocate Jumaane Williams

B. Sponsored by; 7 Council Members

C. Status; Introduced in the Committee of Criminal Justice on June 16th, 2022

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**Intro 0543-2022**
This bill would require the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), in consultation with the Department of Education and the Administration for Children’s Services, to establish protocols for responding to students experiencing mental health crises. The protocols would include guidelines for immediate response,
procedures for returning to school, training requirements and protecting the safety and well-being of the student body. The protocols and any subsequent updates would be posted on the DOHMH website.

A. Introduced by; NYC Council Member Mercedes Narcisse

B. Sponsored by; 8 Council Members

C. Status; Introduced in the Committee on Public Safety on June 8th, 2022

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**Intro 0547-2022**

Under the bill, it would be a misdemeanor to use a GPS device on another person’s motor vehicle without their consent to track or monitor such vehicle. The bill would not apply to individuals tracking the use of their vehicle by a minor or a law enforcement official working pursuant to a warrant or a lawful exception to the warrant requirement. The misdemeanor would be punishable by a fine of not more than $250, and/or imprisonment for not more than thirty days, with an additional or alternate civil penalty of up to $250 permitted.

A. Introduced by; NYC Public Advocate Jumaane Williams

B. Sponsored by; 5 Council Members

C. Status; Introduced in the Committee on Public Safety on June 16th, 2022

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**Intro 0518-2022**

This bill would require the Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice to coordinate with the New York City Police Department to conduct a study and issue an annual report to the Mayor and City Council Speaker on the trafficking of illegal firearms into New York City. Such report would be required to include information on each firearm seized or surrendered to the Police Department; such at the date and location the firearm was seized, the type of firearm, whether the firearm was connected to a crime, and other information relevant to tracking that trafficking of illegal firearms. Additionally, the study and report would include a review of the ways firearms are
illegally transported into New York City; and recommendations on how municipalities, states and the federal government can better collaborate to prevent the transportation of illegal firearms; and other recommendation on efforts to reduce gun violence.

A. Introduced by; NYC Council Member Shaun Abreu

B. Sponsored by; 21 Council Members

C. Status; Introduced in the Committee on Public Safety on June 16th, 2022

RESOURCES

Free Advocacy Institute Webinars & Tools for Faith Leaders

STEP 1 VISIT: HTTPS://HI.ADVOCACY-INSTITUTE.ORG/TOOLS
STEP 2 LOG-IN USING THE INFO BELOW:
EMAIL: ICNYORGANIZE@GMAIL.COM
PASSWORD: ICNY4755
Step 1: Visit https://hi.advocacy-institute.org/tools/

Step 2: Log-in using this info - Email: ICNYorganize@gmail.com, Password: ICNY4755

The Advocacy Institute provides in depth training, resources and tools for non-profit leaders seeking to do advocacy work at the city and state level. As a member of the Advocacy Institute, the Interfaith Center of New York is making available (free of charge) the webinars and tools of the Advocacy Institute to our faith leaders seeking to do racial justice in our city. To learn more, click here for more information.

“With this faith, we will be able to work together; to pray together; to struggle together; to go to jail together; to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day”

Martin Luther King Jr

The Interfaith Center of New York (ICNY) works to overcome prejudice, violence, and misunderstanding by activating the power of the city's grassroots religious and civic leaders and their communities.

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