



ICNY
Interfaith Center of New York

Dear Mayor Adams,

We bring you greetings in the name of all that is Divine.

We are faith leaders representing New York City's diverse religious landscape. We have come together across lines of religious, cultural, political, and geographical difference, to call for your clear and unwavering commitment to reducing incarceration, closing the Rikers Island jails (including The Boat), and opening replacement Borough-Based facilities by 2027. For many years, the faith community has been at the forefront of the movement to close Rikers.

Our communities have public safety concerns. We also understand that incarceration can never solve problems of homelessness, illness, and addiction. Everything possible should be done to help community members facing these realities in the community, helping avoid incarceration altogether.

We are inviting you to a dialogue with us, to hear about our concerns, and to speak more about your public safety goals for New York. We sincerely hope that we can come to a shared understanding and offer recommendations that reflect the needs and interests of New York's faith communities, particularly those who are directly impacted by crime and incarceration.

As faith leaders, we see first-hand the day-to-day ramifications of the unsafe and ineffective conditions on Rikers Island. We tend to victims of crime, and families torn apart by the long-term detention of a loved one who hasn't been convicted of a crime. We offer support and care to officers and staff harmed within Rikers' walls. Many of us provide support and resources within Black, Brown, and poor communities that have been affected most by the conditions at Rikers. We have provided pastoral care for some of the families of the 19 of individuals who have died while detained on Rikers. As you work to make sure our city remains safe, we encourage you to consider the individual people and families and communities that are being hurt by Rikers, and the cycle of trauma and violence that it fuels.

Rikers Island is a tragic relic of a bygone era when criminal justice and public safety were thought of only in punitive terms ("crime and punishment"). It is also a place of violence and dehumanization for the Corrections Officers who work there. We believe there is a moral imperative to reduce incarceration through investments in our most

vulnerable people and communities, and to provide humane care for our neighbors who are held in any form of detention - a standard that the isolated jails on Rikers could never meet, and which the existing, outdated borough jails do not meet. As faith leaders, we stand for holistic care and accountability over punishment and isolation. We stand for investing in our criminal justice-involved community members instead of throwing them away.

In closing, we'd like to reshare the requests members of the faith community shared with you during your candidacy for Mayor as it relates to criminal justice. We are asking for:

1) Increased investments in mental health resources and addiction treatment outside of the judicial system.

2) Increased investments in alternative-to-incarceration and alternative-to-detention programs.

3) Increased investments in grassroots violence prevention and intervention programs.

4) Ensure cultural transformation and accountability within the Department of Corrections.

As a Borough President and as a candidate, you rightly stated that Rikers must close. We ask you to reaffirm your clear and unwavering commitment to the closure of Rikers and the implementation of the Borough-Based Jails plan. We look forward to meeting with you to hear your perspective as we discuss these matters further.

In Faith and Justice,

Organizational Signers

Rabbi	Margo Hughes-Robinson	T'ruah: the Rabbinic Call for Human Rights	NY Rabbinic Organizer
Rev.	Peggy Clarke	Community Church of New York	Senior Minister
Rev Dr.	Felicia Black Sharon White-Harrigan	Insight Center for Contemplative Studies	
Rev	Linda Sarsour	WCJA	Executive Director
Ms.	James Fairbanks	Until Freedom	Co-founder
Dr.	Michael Carrion	Saving Justice newsletter	Editor
Rev. Dr.		Evangelical Covenant Church	Bishop Director for Racial Justice
Rev.	Dominique Atchison	Interfaith Center of New York	Initiatives
Rev.	Elizabeth Maxwell	Church of the Ascension	Rector
Rev.	Micah Bucey	Judson Memorial Church	Minister

Min.	Deirdre McIntosh	Community Board 9 ; St. Luke Baptist Church	Co-Chair: Youth, Education and Libraries/ Minister
Ms.	Sunita Viswanath	Hindus for Human Rights	Executive Director
Dr.	Adolphus Lacey	Bethany Baptist Church	Senior Pastor
The Rev. Dr.	Mary Foulke	St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Harlem	Rector
Min.	Judy Linton	Healing for the Soul	President
Pandit	Vyaas Sukul	Vishnu Mandir	Spiritual Leader
Apostle	Onleilove Chika Alston, MSW	Prophetic Whirlwind Ministries	Founder
Rev.	Wendy Calderon-Payne	Urban Youth Alliance	Executive Director
The Rev.	Richard Tag	PPP Secular	Founder & CEO
Dr.	Arvinder Singh	American Sikh Forum Inc	Director
Mr.	Lewis Webb	American Friends Service Committee	Director, Healing Justice
The Rev.	Christine Lee	St. Peter's Chelsea	Priest-in-Charge
Rev.	Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft	Middle Church	Consulting Community Minister
Mr.	Neal Medlyn	General Theological Seminary	General Prison Project Coordinator
Ms.	Reda Taleb	Freedom Agenda	
Rev.	Steven Paulikas	All Saints' Episcopal Church	Rector
Rabbi	Rachel Goldenberg	Malkhut Queens	Rabbi/Founder
Rev. Dr,	Patricia Sealy	Mott Haven Reformed Church	Senior Pastor
Imam	Souleimane Konaté	Masjid Aqsa Salam	Imam
Rev. Dr.	Willie Francois III	New York Theological Seminary	Assistant Professor of Liberation Theology
Roshi	Pat Enkyo O'Hara	Village Zendo	Abbot
Bishop	Raymond Rivera	Latino Pastoral Action Center	Founder
Rev. Dr.	LaKeesha Walrond	New York Theological Seminary	President
Senior Pastor	Joseph Hernandez	Fordham Manor Church	Pastor
Rev.	Erica Poellot	Faith in Harm Reduction	Executive Director
Rev.	Diane Lacey	Church of Gethsemane/ Project Connect	Senior Pastor
	Natasha Lifton	Trinity Church Wall Street	
The Rev.	Kaji S. Dousa	Park Avenue Christian Church	Senior Pastor & CEO
Rev.	José Humphreys III	Metro Hope Church	Co-Lead Pastor

Rabbi	Dina Najman	Orthodox Judaism	Senior Rabbi
Rabbi	Lev Meierowitz Nelson	T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights	Director of Leadership and Learning
Roshi	Daiken Nelson	Pamsula Zen Center	Founder & Guiding Teacher
Dr.	Ameena Ali	The Zaid Ibn Harith Islamic Center/ The Federation of International Gender and Human Rights	Founder
Ms.	Weini Zhao	The International Hua-Yan Buddhist Federation	Preacher
Rabbi	Heather Miller	The Multitudes	Founder

Individual Signers

Rabbi Dr.	Barat Ellman	Tirdof: New York Jewish Clergy for Justice	
Br.	Adem Carroll	Justice for All	Program Director
Rev. Dr.	Shakeema North	The Concord Baptist Church of Christ	
Rabbi	Emily Cohen	West End Synagogue	
Rev. Dr.	Sally MacNichol		
Ms.	Sue Spears	Rutgers Presbyterian Church	
Rev.	Jeffrey Courter	First Presbyterian Church of Forest Hills NY	Pastor
The Rev. Canon	John Denaro	St. Ann & the Holy Trinity Church	Rector
Rabbi	Hilly Haber	Central Synagogue	
Rev.	Adriene Thorne	The Riverside Church in the City of NY	Senior Minister
The Rev. Dr.	Chloe Breyer	Interfaith Center of New York	Executive Director
Imam Dr.	Khalid Latif Hussein Rashid	The Islamic Center at NYU	Traveling Preacher
Rev. Dr.	Frederick Weidmann	The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America AND in the United Church of Christ	Pastor
Bishop	Mary Glasspool	Episcopal Church	Bishop Assistant
Rev.	Amalya Volz	Fort Tryon Jewish Center	Rabbinic Intern
	James Lynch Jr	Buddhist Council of New York	
Clergy	Tony Lin	Presbyterian Church (USA)	Ordained Minister of Word and Sacraments

Bishop-Coadjutor Elect	Matthew Heyd	Episcopal Diocese of New York	
Rabbi	Nicole Auerbach	Central Synagogue	
Rabbi	Yonah Berman	YCT, Bronx NY	Dean of Rabbinic Initiatives
Rabbi	Felicia Sol	B'nai Jeshrun	Senior Rabbi Executive Director Hendel Center, Associate Dean, Rabbinical School
Rabbi	Stephanie Ruskay	JTS	
Cantor	Melissa Berman	West End Synagogue	Cantor
Rev. Melissa Stewart, LCSW-R	Melissa Stewart	Romemu and One Spirit Learning Alliance	Interfaith minister, former Dean, licensed social worker
Rabbi	Bracha Jaffe	Yeshivat Maharat	Associate Rabba (female rabbi)
	Ruth Messinger	Former Manhattan Borough President	
Rabbi	Rachel Timoner	Congregation Beth Elohim	Senior Rabbi
Rabbi	Shuli Passow	B'nai Jeshurun	Director of Community Engagement
Rev.	Lauren Jacobs	One Spirit Interfaith Alliance & Seminary	Interfaith Minister & Interfaith Civic Leader
Rev.	James Sheehan	Roman Catholic Archdiocese of NY	
The Rev.	Leandra Lisa Lambert	Grace Church Brooklyn Heights	
Rabbi	Matt Green	Congregation Beth Elohim	
Imam	Gareth Bryant		
Rev.	Lucretia Stewart		
Rev.	Shokuchi Deirdre Carrigan		
Rev.	Elizabeth Friend-Ennis	Interfaith Prison Partnership	
	Dimitrios Katsiklis		