



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION  
Jeff Thamkittikasem, Chief of Staff

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Derrick D. Cephas, Acting Chair & Vice-Chair  
NYC Board of Correction  
1 Centre Street, Room 2213  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mr. Cephas:

Thank you for your inquiry regarding the Department's continued efforts to improve Enhanced Supervision Housing ("ESH"). We would like to focus specifically on the creation of the Multi-Disciplinary Review Team ("the review team") on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and the Department's continued efforts in furthering principles of procedural justice through a fairer and more transparent review process in ESH. The review team made one hundred thirty-seven (137) review recommendations during its first two months (January 9<sup>th</sup> through March 9<sup>th</sup> 2018). Of the 137 recommendations, seventy-three recommended level advancement, or 53% of the total recommendations. For comparison, in the prior month (December 8<sup>th</sup> 2017 through January 8<sup>th</sup> 2018), ESH facility staff recommended 24% for level advancement. The share of reviews recommending level advancement increased dramatically in the first two months of the review team.

Of the 137 review team recommendations, thirty-four (25%) recommended movement from Level 1 to Level 2, thirty-one (23%) recommended movement from Level 2 to Level 3, and eight (6%) recommended movement from Level 3 to General Population. For comparison, of the 54 facility reviews in the month prior to the review team, nine (17%) recommended movement from Level 1 to Level 2, four (7%) recommended movement from Level 2 to Level 3, and zero (0%) recommended movement from Level 3 to General Population.

The Department is very encouraged by these sustained results, even as the review team continues to improve its efficiency and effectiveness. In mid-February, to further these efforts, the review team piloted a plan to replace 45-day reviews with 30-day reviews for all individuals housed in ESH. Based on the success of the pilot, and in an effort to provide an accelerated avenue for rewarding positive pro-social behavior, the Department is now committed to a 30-day review structure. Further, the Department has committed resources to provide comprehensive orientations within three days of an individual's initial placement in ESH, beginning March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018. These orientations will provide full transparency regarding the operation of the unit, the ESH level-progression model, and a direct overview of behavioral expectations required for level-advancement. Further, the orientations will be supplemented with a ten-day check-in for each new ESH placement. The check-ins will provide further accountability regarding the individual's recent behavioral progress and eligibility for level progression.

The Multi-Disciplinary Review Team demonstrates the Department's ongoing and substantial commitment to incorporating tenets of procedural justice and fairness into the ESH review process. Not only are individuals beginning to see a clear correlation between pro-social behavior and level progression, the

review team also provides a legitimate avenue for individuals in ESH to be heard. The accelerated review timeline, three-day orientation, and ten-day check-in further evidence the Department's commitment to improving Enhanced Supervision Housing in all respects.

The Department will continue to monitor the efficacy of the review team, including the impact of these new initiatives. Additionally, we plan to monitor the review team's effect, if any, on ESH violence over time.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Thamkittikasem', written in a cursive style.

Jeff Thamkittikasem  
Chief of Staff

cc: Martha King, Executive Director