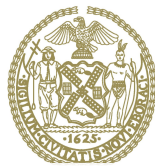


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THE COUNCIL
OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
DANIEL DROMM
COUNCIL MEMBER, 25TH DISTRICT, QUEENS

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March 30, 2017

Martha King, Executive Director
Chair and Members
New York City Board of Correction
1 Centre Street, Room 2213
New York, NY 10007

Re: THU and Variance Requests on Lockdowns

Dear Board Members:

I am writing to express my deep concern about the variances requested by the Department of Correction (DOC) concerning lockdowns. Since lockdowns potentially deprive detainees of their constitutionally guaranteed rights, I ask that the Board very carefully examine the DOC's rationales and insist on the presentation of verifiable facts. Worth close inspection are the DOC's statements about continuing access to medical care and legal visits during lockdowns. Others familiar with the issue have given us information that contradicts the DOC's assertions.

As for housing individuals vulnerable to violence because of their gender identity, I urge you to maintain a safe and separate option. While I understand concerns with Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) compliance, I believe the way forward is to stop housing individuals based on their genitalia and start focusing on where a person thinks they can safely remain. This would not only allow compliance with Board and PREA standards but also serve Mayor de Blasio's citywide efforts to address discrimination and violence against transgender New Yorkers. I ask the Board to scrutinize plans to make changes in the Transgender Housing Unit so that the safety of, and respect for, the detained individuals is paramount.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Dromm".

Daniel Dromm
New York City Council Member, 25th District