

OUR PLAN TO CLOSE RIKERS

Decarcerate. Defend. Divest & Re-Distribute.

DECARCERATE

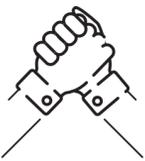
In response to the organizing of formerly incarcerated people, New York City has committed to closing all ten jails on Rikers (including the Boat), reducing citywide jail capacity by 75%, and reducing the number of people in jail to no more than 3,300* by 2027. We will continue to fight for the fastest and furthest possible decarceration through both local and state action including:



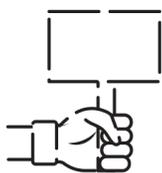
Push District Attorneys, judges, and elected officials to release more people by addressing race and class bias in the use of pre-trial detention



Transform the State's parole supervision system to prevent incarceration due to technical violations, as partners in the #LessIsMoreNY Campaign



Create & expand alternatives to incarceration in order to eliminate City Sentences of 1 year or less



Further reduce law enforcement contact, and the harm it causes, by ending broken windows policing - including decriminalizing sex work and fare-evasion, legalizing marijuana, and dismantling the NYPD gang database

DEFEND

the rights of incarcerated people

Conditions of confinement matter while anyone is still incarcerated, even as we struggle toward abolition. Renovating three borough facilities and replacing one will enable the closure of all ten Rikers Island jails, and improve conditions for anyone still detained. But renovating facilities is not enough to address the culture of violence and impunity in the Department of Correction. We will fight to:

- Pass and implement the NYC Jails Action Coalition & the #HALTsolitary Campaign Blueprint for Ending Solitary Confinement in NYC Jails
- Hold officers accountable for their abuses, and reduce overstaffing that exacerbates violence
- Disband the Department of Correction, to create an agency that does not create further harm when someone is detained

*Total bed-count 3,544 for operational swing-space.

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DIVEST & RE-DISTRIBUTE

Closing all 10 jails on Rikers Island, including the Boat, and shrinking citywide jail capacity will divert at least \$1.8 billion annually from the Department of Correction. In addition to this, we will continue to fight to redirect the \$14 Billion that New York City currently allocates to law enforcement agencies each year (including the NYPD, DOC, and five District Attorneys offices), and invest those funds in resources that create true safety in our communities - like housing, healthcare, education, employment, conflict mediation, and strong public spaces. We must completely reimagine public safety.

In partnership with City Council, advocates secured commitments to investments as part of the plan to close Rikers passed in 2019. These include annual investments in housing, violence interruption, alternatives to incarceration, and mental health services. Below are some highlights from those annual commitments:

- \$6M to increase funding for supportive housing
- \$11.2M for 380 additional beds in Justice Involved Supportive Housing programs, dedicated to serving people who are homeless, coping with serious health needs, and have a history of justice-involvement
- \$6.5M for restorative justice programming, including at minimum one program to operate independently from criminal courts
- \$2.7M to increase violence interruption programs in six sites throughout the City
- \$23M to prevent and respond to mental health crisis, including eight additional Health Engagement and Assessment Teams (HEAT) and six new Mobile Crisis Teams
- \$1.4M to double the size of the NYCHA Family Reunification program to support 200 additional households

Those investments are a small start to address the decades of disinvestment and criminalization that have harmed communities of color. This harm needs to be documented and repaired, which we are working toward as partners in the Rikers Public Memory Project.

Rikers Island itself must also be used to restore the communities it has harmed. Freedom Agenda stands with over 40 organizations to endorse the Renewable Rikers Plan - a vision to transform the 400+ acres of toxic landfill that comprise Rikers Island into a green infrastructure hub; making it possible to shutdown power plants and wastewater treatment facilities that are polluting the same communities that have been most harmed by decades of mass incarceration.

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