

# #DeflateDOC

New York City Department of Correction by the numbers



**We must cut DOC's inflated budget –  
for the safety of people in their  
custody, and for the good of our  
communities.**

It is past time for elected leaders to exercise their power to hold DOC accountable and limit the harm they are causing by reducing their budget. **The City should waste no more time in initiating a just transition** by eliminating DOC jobs that are both unnecessary and harmful, while creating opportunities for all New Yorkers to have meaningful work that advances the values of equality, fairness, and respect.



## What's in DOC's budget?

### **\$2.6 billion**

Proposed cost of running NYC's jails in Fiscal Year 2022 (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022), including DOC's proposed budget (\$1.18 billion) and linked costs like fringes and pension fund contributions for DOC employees.<sup>1</sup>

### **\$160 million**

Proposed increase in NYC jail costs this year - including the expenses budget, fringe benefits, pensions, and debt service.

### **\$447,000**

Annual cost of keeping one person in DOC custody in Fiscal Year 2020. The cost will likely increase this year.<sup>2</sup>

### **\$13 million**

DOC's expected revenue from commissary sales in the next fiscal year. Despite its massive budget, DOC does not provide incarcerated people with enough food and basic supplies. Struggling families foot the bill to provide for their loved ones.<sup>3</sup>

### **\$280 million**

Federal American Rescue Plan funds budgeted for DOC operations in Fiscal Year 2022. A Federal monitor has documented that overstaffing is driving more violence against incarcerated people.<sup>4</sup>



## DOC has *far* too many staff

The New York City Department of Correction has a budget and staffing levels that are unheard of in the rest of the country.

**700%** Rate by which DOC staffing ratios (1.6 officers for each person in custody) exceed the national average. In 2010, DOC's staffing ratio was 0.67 officers for each person in custody. <sup>5</sup>

**35%** Portion of uniformed staff (3,134 people of 8,950 total) who are on payroll but unavailable to work on an average day. <sup>6</sup>

**409** Uniformed staff positions added since 2010. During the same time, the average daily jail population *decreased* by 7,208 people. <sup>7</sup>

**7,460** Uniformed staff included in the Mayor's Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2022 - 241 more officers than last year. That's if they stick to their budget. In Fiscal Year 2020, DOC employed 2,018 more officers than budgeted.

**58** Number of new non-uniformed positions in DOC's proposed budget. Any programs for people in custody are best provided by outside service providers, who add a measure of external insight to the jails, not DOC staff. <sup>8</sup>

**\$1.17 billion**

Approximate cost of the 4,135 excess officers DOC plans to employ this year, based on jail staffing ratios recommended by the Lippman Commission (0.73 officers to one person in custody). <sup>9</sup>



## More officers = more abuse

With its enormous resources, DOC causes enormous harm. The more staff the department has, the more misconduct they are engaging in. Pending investigations pile up, and the abuse continues.

**183%** Increase in the average rate of officers using force against people custody, since 2016. <sup>10</sup>

**30** Number of Probe Team officers (like a riot squad for the jails) who often respond to a reported “incident” in the jails, when by policy, a Probe Team should consist of four to seven Officers and a Captain. <sup>11</sup>

**\$12.5M** Class action settlement payment in 2019, resulting from a case brought by visitors to Rikers who reported hundreds of illegal and invasive body searches. <sup>12</sup>

**250** Number of glassine envelopes of heroin carried into Rikers by a City investigator posing as a correction officer in 2014. <sup>13</sup> An investigation in 2018 found the same failures. <sup>14</sup>



## **DOC does not hold their staff accountable**

The dysfunction in the jails is not a result of inadequate staff. It is a result of failed and negligent leadership.

**1,445** Pending trials for incidents where an initial DOC investigation found that officers inappropriately used force against incarcerated people. About half of these cases have been pending for more than 2 years, while officers remain on the job.<sup>15</sup>

**1,513** Incidents of use of force by officers for which DOC has not even completed the initial investigation needed to determine if the cases will move to a trial.<sup>16</sup>

**11** Reports, in the last five years, from the Federal monitor assigned to DOC documenting “uniform leadership’s inability to identify and address the Staff misconduct and the backlog of investigations.”<sup>17</sup>

**89,861** Medical appointments missed by incarcerated people in 2018 – the last year the Board of Correction reported on – because DOC neglected to escort them.<sup>18</sup>



## Where could the money go?

NYC can keep thousands of excess correction officers on staff, or we can have

## Community resources & good jobs.<sup>19</sup>

- **800** more units of supportive housing and related services, and
- **500** more violence interrupters, and
- **110,000** universal summer jobs for youth, and
- **1,000** more jobs for people to keep our parks clean and vibrant, and
- **4,050** green jobs in renewable energy, and

## Independent jail oversight.

- The Board of Correction lost 26% of their already-insufficient budget last year and lost 8 staff. **Just \$830,000 would restore their previous funding.** Their independent oversight role is crucial, considering the lack of public access to the jails and DOC's record of corruption. With a further increase in funding, BOC could take on the role of investigating staff misconduct that the DOC has failed to fulfill.



## Sources

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19. Based on: \$32.5M for supportive housing (~\$25K for rent and 20K for services/unit); \$25.5M for violence interrupters (\$1.5M/site, 17 sites, with 30 workers per site); \$292M for summer jobs per Community Service Society of New York report *Universal Summer Jobs for New York City Youth* (Feb 2016); \$62.1M for 1000 Parks workers (salaries plus fringe + pension at 54%) based on current average salaries; \$800M for green jobs based on costs/job in Climate Works for All report *An Equitable Recovery for New York City* (October 2020)