

Stanley Brezenoff, Chair
NYC Board of Correction
51 Chambers Street, Room 923
New York, NY 10007

August 19, 2016

Re: Submission of Additional Testimony from a trans woman in the THU in Response to the Proposed Rules for Implementing the Prison Rape Elimination Act

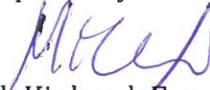
Dear Chair Brezenoff and the NYC Board of Correction:

First, I would like to take this time to thank you all for listening to the voices and submissions of the many transgender and gender non-conforming people who shared their personal experiences with the New York City jail system on July 26, 2016 at the public hearing. Thank you as well for expanding the time for public comments so that more directly impacted individuals could respond to the Proposed Rules.

On July 28, 2016 SRLP received the enclosed comments. Unfortunately, when we received them the author did not tell us if we had permission to submit these comments anonymously or with her name attached. Since then, we were able to speak with her and she gave us permission only to submit these comments anonymously. As with our other collected comments, we have endeavored to write up a summary of her comments in addition to submitting them in her own handwriting.

Enclosed, please find an additional testimony from a transgender woman who is in her early 30s and identifies as African American and Hispanic. At the time she submitted this testimony she had experienced Protective Custody, disciplinary segregation, and the Transgender Housing Unit.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Transcription of Testimony To The Best of Our Ability with intentional edits only for spelling by AJ Castronovo (SRLP summer intern) and Mik Kinkead (staff attorney)

Transgender inmates always get taken advantage of. The other inmates either become extra friendly to get sexual or get friendly extort for phone calls or commissary. If not they will pressure the transgenders into sex or other things – if not rape. And 95% of the C.O.'s ignore it because they don't want to be involved to do the paperwork.

Me personally, I've been sexually assaulted by a inmate and a C.O. two different times on Rikers Island. But the most disrespectful thing is that if you're new to your transition and don't look as if you have breasts, etc., they don't take a person for being transgender. They also don't have the C.O. females search us like they're supposed to - even when they have **a lot** of extra staff to do so. This forces us to be humiliated and harassed by the male C.O.s.

I believe that specific C.O.s should be trained to work with us and females **only**. Just so all of us are more comfortable. But, I also believe that there are a few male C.O.s that are great. There just few too many – not enough. So it's hard to understand who's fit to work with us. I also believe that the THU housing needs to continue to stay open.

Do you have any stories you want to share about the treatment of transgender people in NYS prisons? What should the facility have done differently?

YES. TRANSGENDER INMATES ALWAYS GET TAKEN ADVANTAGE of. THE OTHER INMATES EITHER BECOME EXTRA FRIENDLY TO GET SEXUAL - OR FRIENDLY EXTORT FOR PHONE CALLS OR COMMISSARY. IF NOT THEY WILL PRESSURE THE TRANSGENDER INTO SEX OR OTHER THINGS. & NOT RAPE. AND 95% OF THE CO'S IGNORE IT BECAUSE THEY DON'T WANT TO BE INVOLVED TO DO PAPERWORK ME PERSONALLY - I'VE BEEN SEXUALLY ASSAULTED BY A INMATE. AND A CO.

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Do you have any stories you want to share about experiences with COs, civilian staff, or other incarcerated people where you felt that you experienced sexual violence, harassment, or discrimination? What should the facility have done differently?

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