

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

VINCENT F. DeMARCO
SHERIFF

December 15, 2014

Board of Correction for the City of New York
51 Chambers Street
Room 923
New York, NY 10007

To Whom It May Concern:

As the Suffolk County Sheriff, I would like to extend my support for the New York City Department of Correction's proposal for Enhanced Supervision Housing.

There is a growing body of evidence that holding inmates in isolation can be counterproductive in corrections. Long-term isolation often exacerbates serious mental health problems, which is frequently the underlying cause for anti-social, disruptive and sometimes violent behavior among inmates. In addition to its punitive use, segregation is all too often used to curtail violence among adolescents in correctional facilities, but this too is counterproductive, and may lead to an increased risk of recidivism after release from jail or prison.

Enhanced Supervision Housing, as proposed by Commissioner Joseph Ponte, has the potential to increase safety in the jail, improve long-term outcomes for incarcerated youth and mentally ill inmates, and allow for safe and secure management of the inmate population. The proposal is grounded in best practices and supported by well-reasoned correctional strategies to safely reduce the use of long-term segregation.

In closing, I fully support the proposed rules change to the Minimum Standards with regards to the Enhanced Supervised Housing and appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments to the Board of Corrections of the City of New York.

Very truly yours,



VINCENT F. DeMARCO
Suffolk County Sheriff