

Good morning my name is Darlene Jackson, I'm a Project Coordinator at the Women's Community Justice Association that's leading the Beyond Rosie's 2020 campaign, an effort to Close the Rose M. Singer Center on Rikers Island by 2020 and replacing it with a stand-alone centralized facility in Manhattan for less than 100 women that includes the lgbtq community.

I'm here today with our coalition partners, many in the room this morning to support the blueprint to end solitary confinement in NYC jails. The Beyond Rosie's 2020 campaign advocates for the removal of the Department of Corrections to be the main operators of any city jail as data have shown that law enforcement is not the appropriate city agency trained in trauma informed care, gender responsive services, therapeutic crisis intervention and or de escalation. We support the Department of Mental Health & Hygiene being the primary caretakers of NYC jails, with DOC merely providing safety and security. But DOC currently operates our city jails, this board has the responsibility to provide oversight and accountability and ensure the safety for everyone.

In addition, the removal of all people suffering with serious mental illness and pregnant women out of city jails and into specialized ATI programs.

As the city is approaching the implementation process to replace Rikers Island with borough based facilities that entails programming and design, this board has an opportunity now to shift from a torture punitive system that only serves to destroy human beings to a model that is solely based on restorative justice and rehabilitation to restore humanity and reimagine justice, dignity and safety.

Anything other than what's outlined in the blueprint to end solitary confinement in NYC jails is an atrocity. The culture of violence ends by the political will of this board.

I've witnessed this board listen to more than a dozen of testimonies from survivors of solitary confinement, the impact on families, their communities and service providers that work in barbaric conditions all calling for an end of solitary confinement, do what it's right and not what is easy.

Do you have or need a copy of the blueprint to end solitary confinement in NYC jails?

Thank you.