



April 7, 2017

Emergency Declaration
Facility-wide Lockdown: Otis Bantum Correctional Center (OBCC)

The New York City Department of Correction is notifying the New York City Board of Correction of an emergency situation and declaration of an emergency variance pursuant to 1-15(b)(3) of the Minimum Standards. An emergency situation prevents our continued compliance with 1-03 Personal Hygiene, 1-05 Lock-in, 1-06 Recreation, 1-07 Religion, and 1-08(f) Access to Courts and Legal Services (regarding access to the law library only), 1-09 Visiting, and 1-10 Telephone Calls of the Board's minimum standards for Otis Bantum Correctional Center (OBCC).

Multiple slashing incidents, a total of three incidents in the last two days and continued facility tension necessitated that the Department take immediate action to address the situation and maintain safety and security of staff and inmates. Due to heightened safety concerns and the steps needed to restore facility equilibrium the only feasible and appropriate action to be taken was a facility lockdown. During the lockdown, a comprehensive facility assessment including an evaluation of whether the appropriate inmate population is currently housed at OBCC, facility-wide searches and intelligence investigations will be advanced. The critical nature of the emergency situation and escalating inmate tension throughout OBCC prevents the Department's continued compliance with the provisions of the minimum standards, stated herein, within the facility within less than twenty-four (24) hours. The Department will be submitting to the Board an emergency variance request as expeditiously as possible.

Thank you.