



Tony a Simon

To curtail the visitation at Rikers Island sets the jail system back one hundred years. Which also contradicts the purpose of visitation from family members and friends, Once an individual is locked up for whatever reason they are alone and confused and are in dire need of support from family, friends and significant others. Visitation provide these individuals with the necessary tools too deal with their unfortunate circumstance.

The rule changes enacted in January 2015 limiting the maximum sentence any incarcerated person can receive for solitary confinement to 30 days for a single infraction, and 30 consecutive days overall, with 7 days out before the person may be returned to solitary confinement, were a positive step. In addition, the prohibition on placement in solitary confinement for more than 60 days within a six-month period unless the person continues to engage in “persistent acts of violence” that can’t be addressed by placement in an enhanced supervision housing unit is also a positive step.

The Board of Correction (BOC) should follow-up on these positive steps to further limit solitary confinement in NYC jails. Backing away from these reforms by increasing the sentence for assaulting staff to 60 days and removing the requirement for a 7-day respite period after a person has served 30 consecutive days of solitary confinement is moving in the wrong directly and will be counterproductive in the long-run. We know from numerous studies of the mental health effects of solitary confinement, and from the extensive research and prison visits of Juan Méndez, UN Special Rapporteur on Torture that solitary confinement beyond 15 days amounts to cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment, or torture

The justification the Board of Correction is using to implement this visitation situation is ludicrous knowing that 90% of correctional officers within the NYC jails are from the same city areas as the individuals that are locked up and being a formally incarcerated individual, I known what takes place from personal experience...

Respectfully,

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