



MAYOR BLOOMBERG ANNOUNCES NEW INITIATIVE FOR MENTALLY ILL DEFENDANTS

New York City plans to build on its record of reducing crime by bolstering support for people with mental illness who become involved with the criminal courts. Under a plan announced in December, judges will use information on defendants' mental health care needs, risk of flight and risk of re-offense to determine those who can be diverted to mental health services in the community and those who need enhanced services while incarcerated. The initiative is expected to lower crime further and help reduce the number of people who are incarcerated.

"With City agencies, the courts and community-based providers working together to keep low- to moderate-risk defendants with mental health needs out of jail whenever possible but supported by services and supervision, and high-risk defendants who go to jail getting the services they need, New York City is leading the way nationally towards safer and smarter correctional systems," said Commissioner Schiro.

