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## **City Launches New Bail Initiatives to Make It Easier for New Yorkers to Pay Bail for Themselves or Loved Ones**

*Steps include kiosks that will allow defendants to post their own bails, facilitators who help people track payment progress, and video monitors to help explain the process*

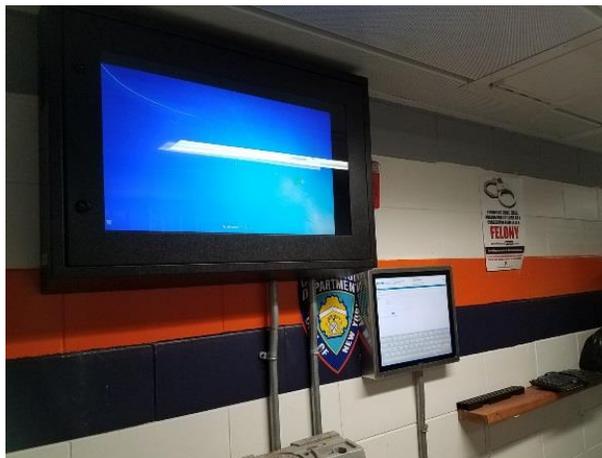
**December 3, 2018** —The process of paying bail is about to become easier thanks to a series of initiatives by the [New York City Department of Correction](http://www.doc.nyc.gov) that will be launched in the coming weeks. The initiatives include a combination of high-tech and human-touch, and are designed to clarify, simplify, and ultimately speed up the bail process. They include:

### **Courthouse Kiosks**

Each of the City's five courthouses will now have computerized kiosks near the post-arraignment areas, where people will be able to access the City's new online bail system and pay their own bail while at the courts.

### **Televised Teachers**

Also in the courthouse post-arraignment areas will be large-screen monitors that will stream multi-language videos that provide instructions on how to pay bail. The video will also be shown in all facility and court intake areas.



*Coming to all NYC courthouses: Online bail kiosks*

### **Bail Facilitators**

Recognizing that technology is no substitute for a human guide, DOC is also staffing courts and facilities with helpers who will explain how to post bail or bond, describe the fees that may be collected by bail bonds companies and help facilitate inmate communication with possible sureties, among other duties.

“We are committed to improving the bail and discharge process and excited to see these new measures at work,” said **Department of Correction Commissioner Cynthia Brann**. “We never stop looking for ways to improve bail at the departmental level.”

“The goal of these measures is to make sure that no one who can pay bail remains in our custody due to confusion, lack of information, or lack of help,” said **DOC Chief of Department Hazel Jennings**. “We want people who are eligible to return to their lives with as little interruption as possible.”

**Elizabeth Glazer, director of the Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice (MOCJ)**, said, “This Administration opposes cash bail. While we wait for state legislative action — the only route to changing the structure of our bail system — the City has taken action that has reduced the number of people in jail by almost 30 percent. These concrete steps include a diversion program that has prevented more than 10,000 people from entering custody while crime has continued to decline; and the implementation of functional tools such as a citywide bail fund, bail and court expeditors, the nation’s most comprehensive online bail system, and ATMs in courthouses, among others. These steps have helped cut the number of people held in jail on low bail by around 60 percent in New York City.”

The new measures come out of DOC’s Bail Working Group, formed earlier this year to improve the bail process. They build on MOCJ and DOC initiatives mentioned above, which also include an alert to notify defense attorneys when a defendant has the potential to be detained solely on \$1 bail, and 24/7 bail windows at all DOC facilities.

Collectively, these initiatives, along with other alternatives to detention, have helped reduce the number of people held on bail of less than \$2,000 by 60 percent since 2013.

### **About the New York City Department of Correction**

[The New York City Department of Correction \(DOC\)](#) provides for the care, custody, and control of persons accused of crimes or convicted and sentenced to one year or less of jail time. The Department manages 11 inmate facilities, 8 of which are located on Rikers Island. In addition, the Department operates two hospital Prison Wards (Bellevue and Elmhurst hospitals) and court holding facilities in each borough. During Fiscal Year 2018, the Department handled over 49,000 admissions and managed an average daily inmate population of approximately 8,900 individuals. Our dedicated workforce of both uniformed and non-uniformed staff members represent the city’s BOLDEST.