

NEW YORK CITY IS LEADING A HISTORIC DECARCERATION PLAN

The plan to **close Rikers Island and build a borough-based jail system** is guided by three basic principles and was shaped by valued input from the community:

- Our jail system can be much smaller with thousands fewer people in jail
- Our jails should be safer with modern, well-designed facilities that promote the dignity of those who visit, work and are incarcerated
- The justice system should be fairer, changing the culture inside the jails, fostering community connections and providing greater access to services

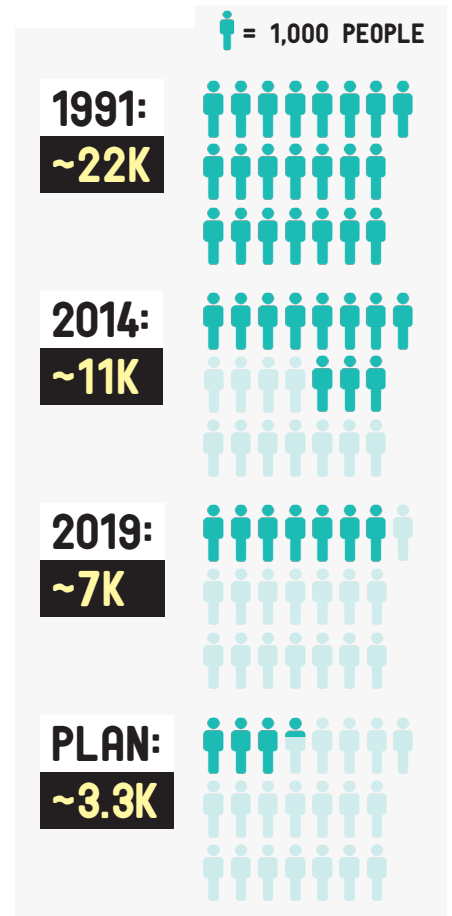
SMALLER

The City's plan to close the jails on Rikers Island will dramatically shrink the jail system in New York City. Through this plan, the City will:

- Reduce the number of people in jail to no more than 3,300—the lowest jail population since 1920 (a century ago)
- Reduce the number of operating jails from 11 to four borough-based facilities
 - Currently the City operates 11 jails—eight on Rikers Island and one in Manhattan, Brooklyn and the Bronx (the Barge)
 - The City already closed one jail on Rikers (GMDC)
- Reduce the total system capacity by nearly three-quarters
- Continue to provide and expand alternative to detention and alternative to incarceration programs. The City has invested hundreds of millions of dollars in these programs since the beginning of the administration.

SAFER AND FAIRER

The jails on Rikers Island and the current borough facilities were designed in a different era and do not meet the City's justice goals.



Current Facilities	Proposed Borough-Based Facilities
Reliance on outdated large housing units —including multi-bed dormitories	Safer housing units , primarily housed in single cells with no more than 32 people, a best practice design known to promote safety.
Lack of programming space in the housing units and facilities at large, limits access to services. People have to be escorted to programming and recreation.	Ample programming space within the housing units, providing individuals with greater access to educational, recreational, and tailored programming.
Facilities on Rikers Island are isolated , reducing contact with loved ones, lawyers and service providers. Rikers' distance from the courts can also lead to unnecessary case delays.	Borough facilities will house people closer to their communities and courts , allowing people to maintain family ties and access legal and community services.
Inadequate visiting space.	Visiting space based on best practices/modern designs with child friendly areas.
Most facilities do not have air conditioning.	All facilities will have modern air conditioning and heating.
Lack of access to natural light.	Access to natural light in the dayrooms and individual housing to ensure as normalized environments as possible in a jail setting
Design does not reflect best practices to ensure safety within the facilities.	Design enables best practices in safety and improves lines of sight.

COMMUNITY INPUT HAS SHAPED THE PLAN

- The movement to close the jails on Rikers Island has been decades in the making. More recently, a coalition of more than 100 organizations formed the Close Rikers campaign to demand the closure of Rikers Island and to build a better and more humane justice system.
 - Since the Mayor announced the City's plan to close Rikers Island in March 2017, the City has convened several community forums to shape the plan, including: the Justice Implementation Taskforce, consisting of more than 75 advocates, experts, formerly-incarcerated individuals and government representatives; focus groups with formerly incarcerated and incarcerated persons; four Neighborhood Advisory Committees; and dozens of meetings with community-based organizations, churches and elected officials.
 - The City will continue to engage with communities through these forums as we work together to transform our justice system.
 - The City will launch a public planning process to inform the future of Rikers Island.
- While this plan is yet to be created, one thing is for certain—all the jails on Rikers Island will close.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why close the jails on Rikers Island?

- Rikers Island was designed in a different era before modern facility designs, which aim to offer a multitude of services and programs, and reduce the likelihood of trauma or violence.
- Rikers Island is far away from communities and family members, and it can be very difficult to visit. Research shows that strong family connections while in custody can improve community reintegration and thereby increase neighborhood safety.

How has the Mayor's Office invested in criminal justice reform?

- Since the start of the Administration, the Mayor's Office has invested an unprecedented hundreds of millions of dollars in reducing crime and lightening the touch of enforcement, and decreasing the number of people who experience jail. Key criminal justice investments include:
 - \$353 million in alternative to incarceration/detention programs. One program, Supervised Release, has prevented more than 14,000 people from entering jail
 - \$332 million in the Mayor's Action Plan for Neighborhood Safety (MAP), which is designed to improve neighborhood connections, social supports and public safety infrastructure in 15 public housing developments (includes capital and expense funding)
 - Over \$100 million in the NYC Crisis Management System – a series of violence intervention and support systems that are operating in 22 communities across the 5 boroughs

**Note: dollar values above represent total cumulative investments starting in FY14 through FY20.*

Would the proposed facility decrease property values?

- Property values near the current Brooklyn and Manhattan facilities have continued to increase after the construction of the respective facilities. A new report issued in May 2019 by the Independent Commission on NYC Criminal Justice found that “there is no observable trend indicating that property values near operating detention facilities are lower than property values in comparable neighborhoods.”

Would the proposed facility increase crime in the community?

- Existing jail sites do not see higher crime rates. In 2012, when the Brooklyn Detention Center reopened, the precinct around the facility experienced a steeper reduction in crime than any other precinct in Brooklyn North. Since then, the precinct has seen a 20% decrease in crime, compared to 14% citywide. Similarly, major crime in the precinct of the existing Manhattan Detention Center declined by 79% since the facility was completed in 1990.
- A new report issued in May 2019 by the Independent Commission on NYC Criminal Justice found that NYC “detention facilities are not associated with higher crime rates.”