



# JUSTICE IMPLEMENTATION TASK FORCE

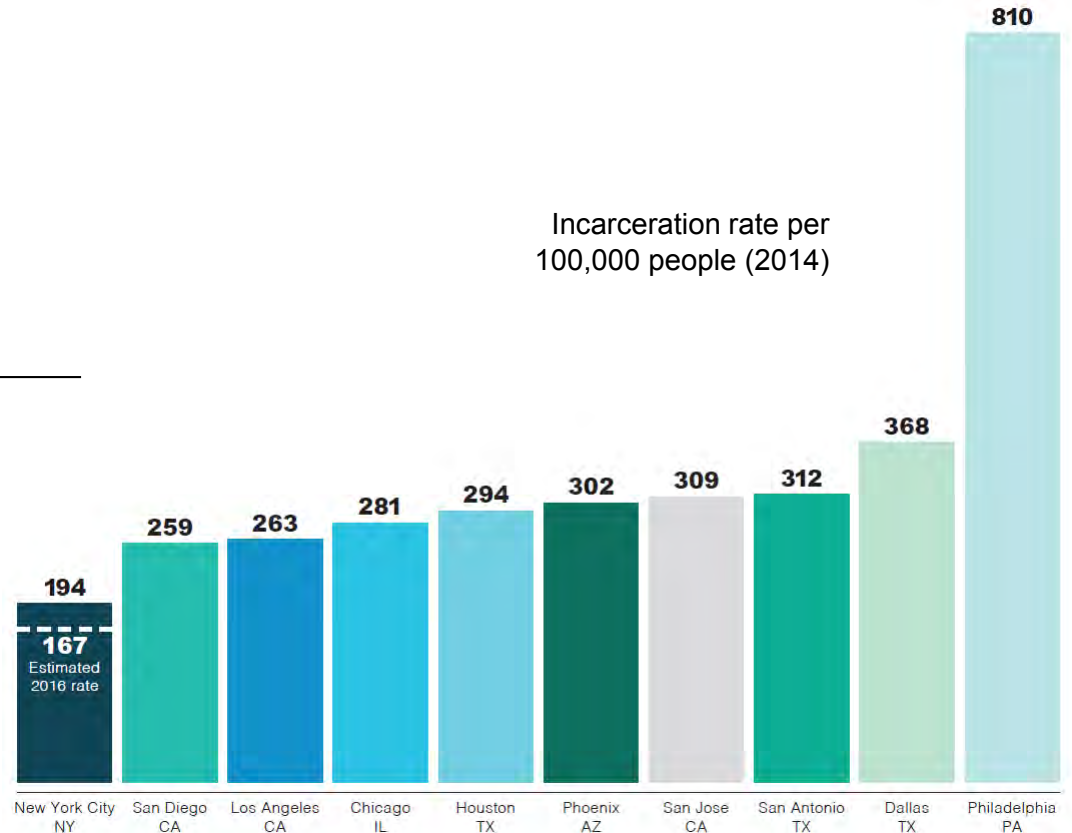
**Executive Committee:**  
Steering New York City toward a  
smaller, safer and fairer justice system

September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017



# New York City has the lowest incarceration rate of all large U.S. cities

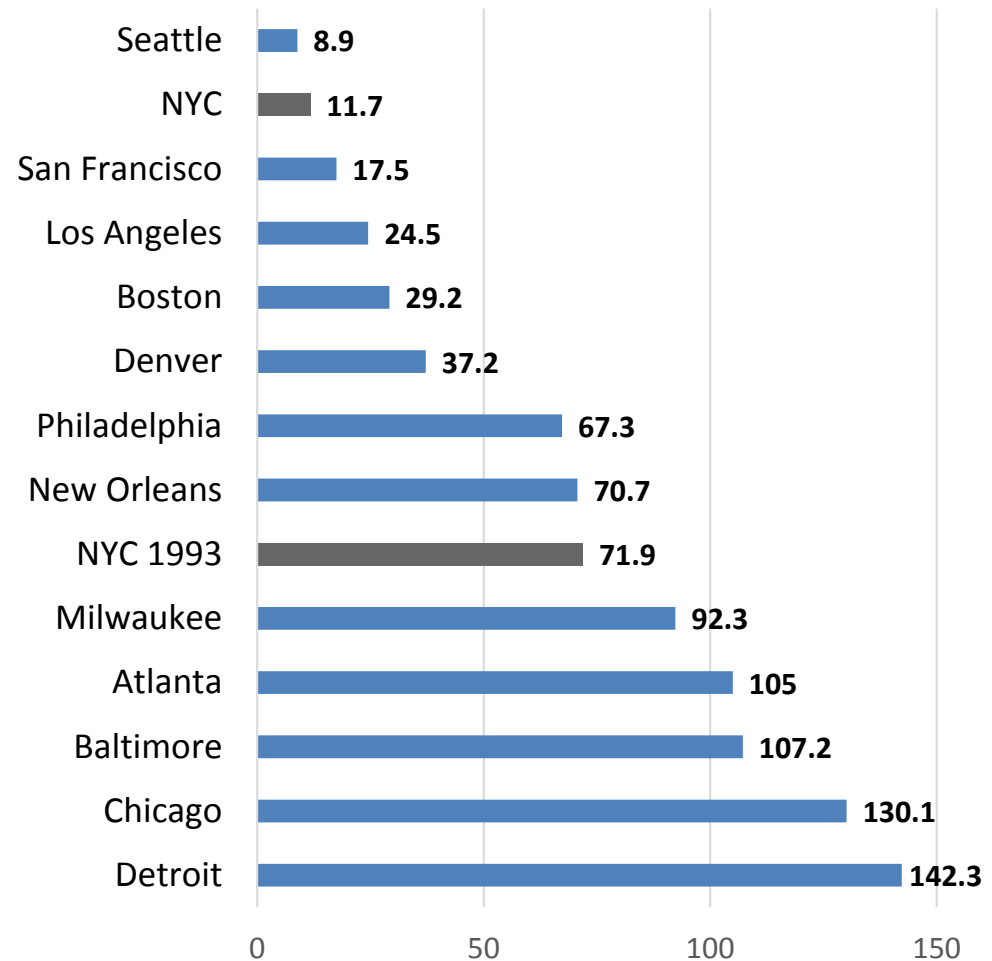
- Down 50% since 1990
- Down 18% since the Mayor took office



# The size of the jail population has fallen alongside dramatic declines in crime

- Major crime down 76% since 1993, down 9% since Mayor took office
- 2016 was the safest year in CompStat history, with homicides down 5%, shootings down 12%, and burglaries down 15% from 2015

Non-fatal shootings (2016)  
(Rate per 100,000 residents)



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# Objective:

The Justice Implementation Task Force combines existing efforts across the city, both inside and outside government, into one centralized body that shapes strategy and ensures effective implementation

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**Executive Steering Committee** is comprised of leadership from key Mayoral agencies and every part of the criminal justice system charged with accelerating progress toward three key goals:

## Smaller

### Goal

**Safely reduce the size of the jail population** by 25% in the next five years

### Baseline

18% decline in last three years  
~\$50 million investment from the city in strategies to reduce jail use

## Fairer

### Goal

**Change the culture and purpose of jail** so staff and incarcerated individuals are treated with dignity and provided with opportunity

### Baseline

City has already invested over \$90 million in support for corrections officers and programming for incarcerated individuals

## Safer

### Goal

Ensure that everyone who works, visits and is incarcerated in city jails is in a **safe, modernized and humane facility** as quickly as possible

### Baseline:

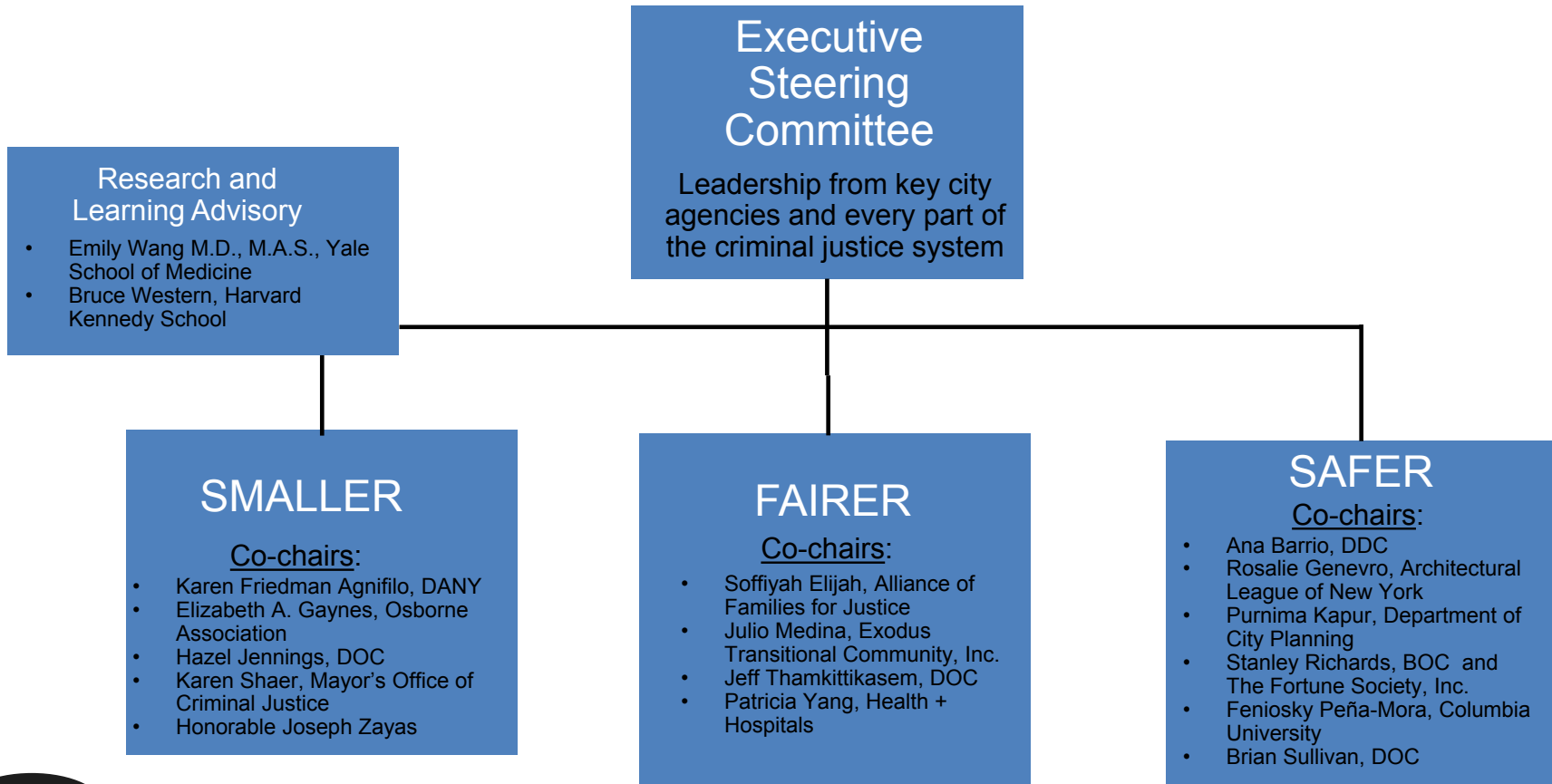
City has already invested \$1.2 billion to improve conditions in city jails

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# Justice Implementation Task Force Structure

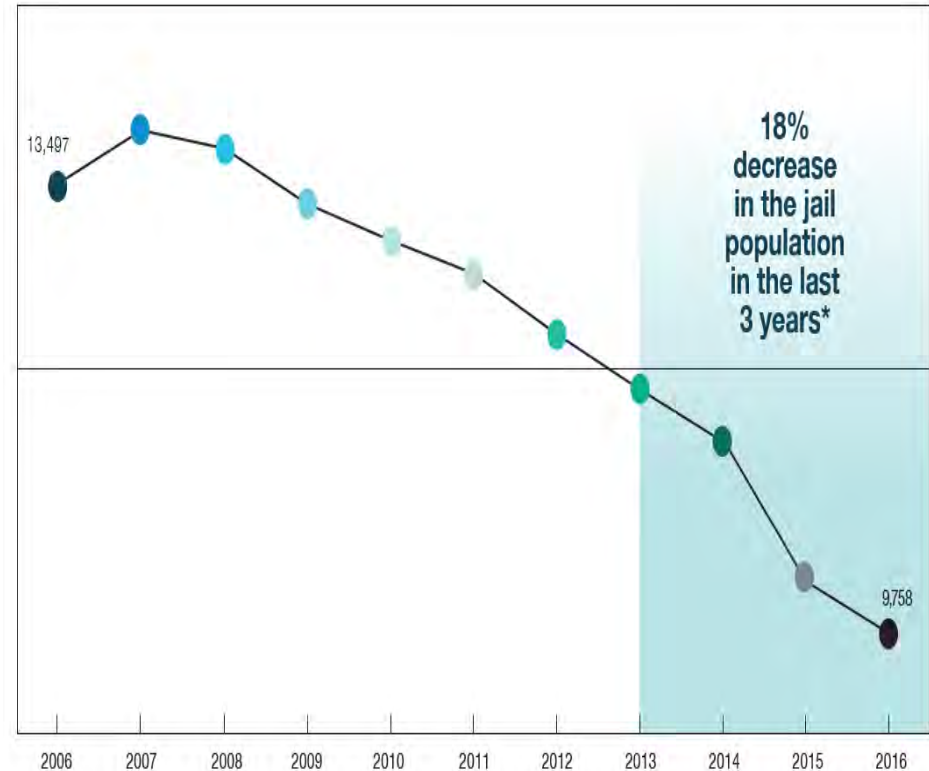
Co-Chairs: Elizabeth Glazer, Zach Carter

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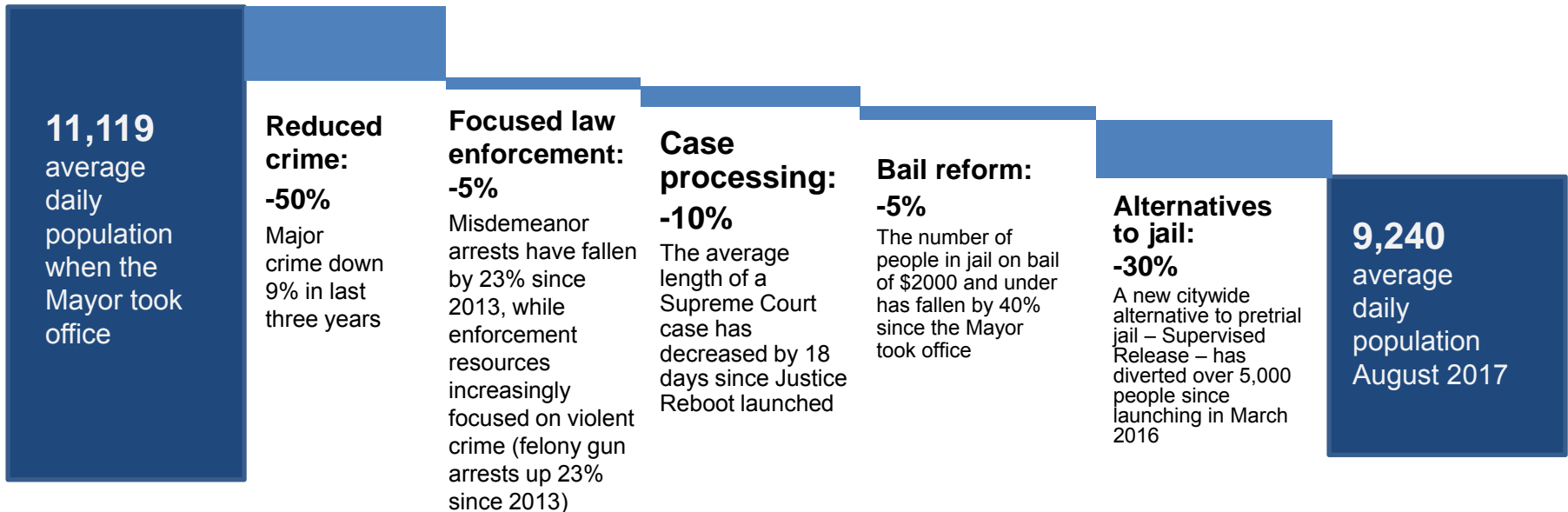


# Recent reductions to the size of the jail population accelerate the trend over the last 20 years

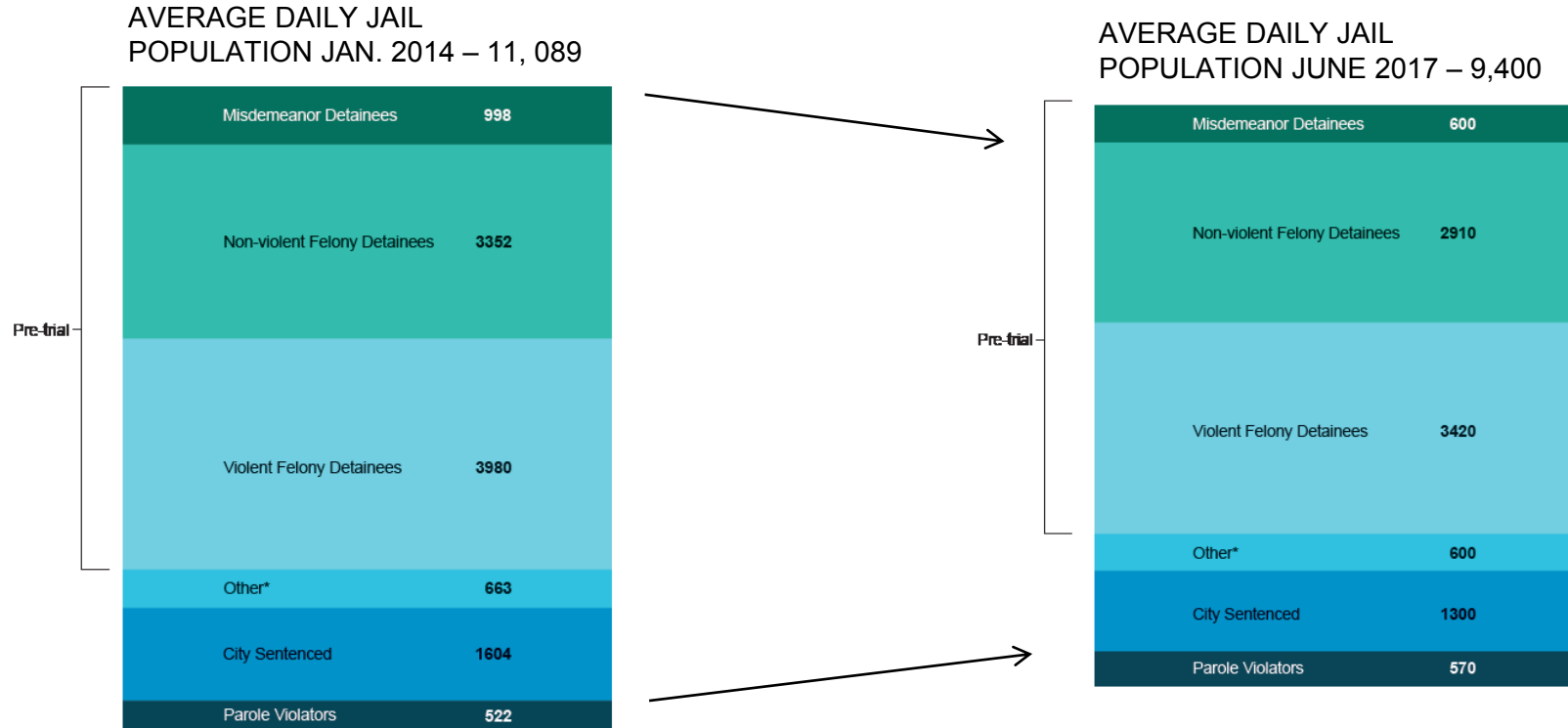
- The jail population has fallen faster in the last three years than in the previous ten
- Last year in which jail population was as low as current: 1981



Recent declines have been driven by intentional efforts to reduce the number of people who enter jail and how long they stay



# A smaller jail population translates to fewer opportunities for safe reductions



- **Obstacles to reducing the population further:**
  - 49% (3,400) of those detained pretrial are facing violent felony charges
  - 10 % (800) have a warrant hold keeping them in custody
  - 23% of felony detainees (16,00) are remanded without bail
  - 35% (2500) of pretrial detainees are medium-high to high risk of returning to jail
  - On an average day in 2017, 4% of the jail population is detained on bail of \$2000 or less



Yet opportunities exist to reduce the jail population safely. The Executive Committee will help ensure the effective implementation of the following strategies over the next five years:

## Reduce number of people who enter jail

- Provide judges with updated risk assessment tools (710 beds)
- Reform the bail system (200 beds)
- Reduce number of women and people with behavioral health needs in jails (50 beds)
- Expand diversion programs (500 beds)
- Replace short jail sentences with community-based programs (300 beds)

## Reduce how long they stay

- Improve justice while reducing length of stay for pretrial detainees (500 beds)
- Improve justice while reducing length of stay for State parole violators (120 beds)

If implemented effectively, these strategies could reduce the average daily jail population by 25% over the next five years. The Steering Committee is also charged with helping to develop additional strategies that address chronic offending and can help reduce violence beyond already historic lows.

# Change the culture and purpose of jail



- Our goal is to build on the progress made to date to transform the culture inside the city's jails into one of safety and respect.
- Improving culture includes providing staff with the support to serve the public at the highest levels of integrity
- And it offers incarcerated individuals the educational, therapeutic, and vocational programming that can permit a more stable future and reduce the likelihood of returning to jail following release

The Executive Committee will help ensure the effective implementation of the following strategies to transform the culture and purpose of jails:

## GOALS:

1. Prevent future returns to jail by providing incarcerated individuals with support to lay a foundation for future stability;
2. Improve visits to reduce isolation and support more effective reintegration;
3. Replace overly punitive population management strategies with evidence-driven approaches that enhance safety and fairness; and
4. Expand professional development opportunities and supportive services for correctional officers.

## STRATEGIES:

- Universal re-entry program that begins with 5 hours of daily programming inside jail and continues with employment, housing and health support after leaving jail
- Foster connections to families and community by improving visits and piloting expedited transportation options to Rikers
- Expand supportive services for officers
- Continue to reduce punitive segregation safely

# Transform facility design



- The physical conditions in jails have a profound effect on safety and on whether jails are places of isolation and despair or of stability and hope
- While we work toward the longer-term goal of closing the Rikers Island jails, we must act now to improve the conditions for the people who work and are incarcerated in the city's existing jails, both on- and off-Island

The Executive Committee will help ensure the effective implementation of the following strategies to provide safe, modern and humane environments for everyone who works, visits or is incarcerated in city jails:

- Ensure that all individuals in city custody are housed in safe, secure and humane facilities by making necessary repairs to the jails
- Complete the movement of all 16- and 17- year-olds from Rikers Island to a newly designed facility
- Triple the number of dedicated housing units designed for the unique needs of individuals with serious mental illness
- Invest in technology that enhances safety (cameras, tracking tool to help those incarcerated get to medical and court appointments on time, and an improved grievance system)
- Improve officer safety through investment in new training academy and modern training curriculum

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## Next steps

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- Steering Committee's designees embed within working groups  
Consistent reports to track progress
- Reconvene every six months to shape ongoing strategy and ensure effective implementation