



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION
Joseph Ponte, Commissioner

Office of the Commissioner
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January 6, 2015

Amanda Masters
Acting Executive Director
NYC Board of Correction
51 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007

Dear Ms. Masters:

I am writing to request the renewal of all continuing variances. As requested, I indicated the Department's reasons for requesting the renewal of each of these variances.

BOC Minimum Standard 1-02, Classification of Prisoners (Commingling special category adolescent City-sentenced and detainee inmates at RNDC)

This variance enables the Department to house high classification City-sentenced adolescents in cells in RNDC. EMTC, where most male City-sentenced adolescent inmates are housed, has a limited number of cell housing areas; it does not have the cell housing capacity to accommodate all City-sentenced adolescents whose classification requires cell housing. The variance provides the Department with the flexibility to use RNDC, a detainee facility with a large number of cell housing areas, for the housing of City-sentenced adolescent inmates in need of cell housing, based on their classification.

BOC Minimum Standard 1-03, Personal Hygiene (Requiring detainees in punitive segregation to wear uniforms)

This variance assists the Department in controlling violence and in enhancing safety and security in punitive segregation. Specific advantages of this practice include: 1) making it more difficult for punitive segregation inmates to conceal contraband in the recesses of civilian clothing; 2) facilitating officers' searches of punitive segregation inmates; 3) reducing inmate-officer confrontations during clothing searches; 4) assisting staff in readily distinguishing between civilian employees and punitive segregation inmates; 5) improving the hygiene of punitive segregation inmates; and 6) restricting contraband entering punitive segregation areas concealed in civilian clothing.

BOC Minimum Standard 1-03, Personal Hygiene (Suicide Smocks and Suicide Resistant Bedding)

This variance enables the Department to have suicide watch inmates wear specially designed clothing, and use special bedding materials, which reduce the risk of inmate suicide. The clothing and bedding are tear resistant and difficult to manipulate, preventing suicide watch inmates from creating nooses to use to commit suicide. These suicide resistant articles are commonly used for suicide watch inmates in jails and prisons in the United States.

BOC Minimum Standard 1-06, Recreation (Limited recreation for inmates in the Communicable Disease Units at the West Facility)

This variance enables the Department to provide meaningful indoor recreation activities, for inmates unable to participate in outdoor recreation for medical reasons.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph Ponte".

Joseph Ponte
Commissioner