



Chairperson Gonzalez and Committee Member Mealy are briefed on educational services at Bridges Juvenile Center.

City Council Juvenile Justice Committee Tour Bridges Juvenile Center and Speak with Juvenile Residents

On Wednesday, December 10, 2008, Executive Director Donna Locke provided a tour of Bridges Juvenile Center for members of the New York City Council Juvenile Justice Committee. Bridges, the Department’s intake facility, is located in the Bronx.

The delegation that included Committee Chairperson Sara M. Gonzalez, and Committee Members Darlene Mealy and Maria del Carmen Arroyo, inspected areas of the facility, including medical, resident halls, recreation and classrooms.

The tour provided a close-up perspective of the Bridges operation and enabled Committee members to talk with staff and interact with juvenile residents.

The visit provided Department staff an opportunity to brief Chairperson Gonzalez and her fellow Committee Members on the Agency’s juvenile justice reform efforts, including the Release to Parent Initiative (RTP).

RTP identifies eligible youth upon admission to DJJ and enables them to return home with a parent or guardian until their next court date. The policy initiative is designed to promote returning young people to their homes and communities, while simultaneously reducing detention usage.

In addition to overviews of the Department’s reform efforts, Committee Members were also provided with information on critical indicators, including population trends like length of stay.

Executive Director Donna Locke said, “Meeting with the City Council Juvenile Justice Committee provided an opportunity to discuss important Agency initiatives. Also, the chance for our youth to interact with elected officials and public figures provides valuable insight into the workings of government and helps them realize their own potential for success.”

