



# FACT SHEET: A CULTURE OF SAFETY — Mayor de Blasio and Commissioner Ponte's Reforms on Rikers Island

## Ended punitive segregation for 16 and 17-year-olds

In December 2014, Commissioner Ponte ended punitive segregation for 16 and 17-year-olds, and pledged to end punitive segregation for 18- to 21-year-olds by the end of 2015.

## Reduced the punitive segregation population by nearly one third

In May 2015, Commissioner Ponte announced that the average daily population of inmates in punitive segregation had dropped by nearly a third in his first year. In concert with the Board of Correction, Ponte limited the maximum time most inmates could spend in punitive segregation to 30 consecutive days and 60 days in six months.

## Committed to full camera coverage

DOC installed full camera coverage in adolescent facilities and installed camera coverage in nine of the housing units dedicated to 18-to-21-year-olds; DOC also pledged to add full camera coverage within all Rikers Island facilities by February 2018.

## Expanded the Internal Investigation Division

DOC increased the ID with more staff and better training to investigate Use of Force issues, instituted weekly UoF video reviews, and provided additional UoF training to staff.

## Began to reform the Use of Force policy

Beginning in October 2014, DOC began reforming the department's Use of Force policy, and training curricula will be revised to reflect these changes.

## Opened Enhanced Supervision Housing

In February 2015, Commissioner Ponte opened the first ESH unit to control violence while reducing the use of punitive segregation through the creation of non-punitive, highly secure housing for highly dangerous inmates.

## Opened PACE Housing

In January 2015, Commissioner Ponte opened a new housing unit for mentally ill inmates, which is designed to encourage adherence to treatment and emphasize the collaboration of DOC staff, mental health clinicians, psychiatric nurses and therapists.

## Open to Federal Monitor Appointment

In May of 2015, Commissioner Ponte publicly expressed his openness to accepting a federal monitor appointment as part of the Commissioner's efforts to reform DOC.

## Launched Body Camera Pilot in ESH

In May of 2015, Commissioner Ponte began testing body cameras in Enhanced Supervision Housing (ESH) units at OBCC on Rikers Island. The purpose of the test program is to determine effectiveness in the reduction of inmate-on-inmate violence and staff assaults in ESH.

## Improved staff recruitment and vetting

Starting in August 2014, Commissioner Ponte instituted much more rigorous background checks for new recruits and toughened Academy entrance requirements. He also put Investigation Division teams in three jails to shorten response times for investigations of questionable uses of force.