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MAYOR ANNOUNCES PLAN TO REDUCE VIOLENCE AT RIKERS

On his second visit to Rikers on March 12, Mayor Bill de Blasio, joined by Commissioner Joe Ponte, announced a 14-point plan to aggressively combat violence and promote a culture of safety on Rikers Island. Before the announcement, the Mayor toured the newly opened Enhanced Supervision Housing (ESH) unit at OBCC.

At the heart of the plan are five major initiatives designed to reduce inmate-on-inmate violence:

- Keeping weapons, drugs and contraband out of Rikers, including visitor reforms;
- Creating an integrated classification and housing strategy to more safely house inmates;
- Providing comprehensive security camera coverage;
- Designing effective inmate education opportunities and services to reduce idle time;
- Developing crisis intervention teams to respond more quickly to inmate-on-inmate violence.

“We will aggressively tackle inmate-on-inmate violence by stopping the flow of weapons and drugs into our jails and stanching the flow of information that enables gang members to commit violent acts across facilities,” said Commissioner Ponte. *“These steps will help us stop violence before it enters our gates.”*

Mayor de Blasio added, *“We are acting decisively to reduce violence.”*

