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**NYC makes probation offices more local, accessible**

NEW YORK (AP) — More than 1,300 New York City probationers are now checking in at new neighborhood offices, instead of trekking to offices that have traditionally been in or near courthouses.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg mentioned the statistic Tuesday at the opening of one of the new offices in the South Bronx. It's the fourth so far around the city. The first opened in December.

The 1,300 people using such offices represent about 15 percent of the probationers who must report to officers in person. Another 15,500 people check in at electronic terminals.

The neighborhood offices aim to connect probation clients with educational, job-training and other opportunities in their communities.

Meanwhile, the Probation Department also is refurbishing drab waiting rooms with computers and other resources to make waiting for an appointment time well spent.