



New York Civil Liberties Union
125 Broad Street, 19th Floor
New York, NY 10004
(212) 607-3300
www.nyclu.org

April 8, 2021

BY EMAIL

Jennifer Jones Austin, Chair
Members of the Board
NYC Board of Correction
1 Centre Street, Room 2213
New York, NY 10007

Re: Restrictive Housing Rulemaking

Dear Chair Jones Austin and Members of the Board:

We write to request a tour of the units at North Infirmery Command (NIC) and George R. Vierno Center (GRVC), which the Board's proposed rule treats as models for the Restrictive Management and Accountability System (RMAS) units.

The proposed rule expands on recent state legislation that limits the use of long-term solitary confinement by ending solitary confinement in New York City jails, and creates a new structure for the punitive separation of incarcerated people. The public comment period ends on April 16, 2021.

These RMAS units are central to the proposed rule, but the public does not have access to view them in person, and to date the Board has not made photographs or diagrams of the unit public as part of the proposed rule. The physical structure of the RMAS units will play a critical role in the quality and amount of contact that people who are incarcerated there have with other people on the unit. We have concerns about these units and the limitations they place on meaningful human engagement, and we believe that the public should have a clear understanding of the design of the newly proposed units before the public hearings and conclusion of the public comment period.

We appreciate the BOC's intentions to reduce the harms of solitary confinement, and we believe that transparency about the design of the RMAS is key to achieving that goal. We ask that the BOC make photos and floor plans public before the public hearing next week. Please contact me at jtrujillo@nyclu.org or (708) 623-3928 about this possibility, and to arrange for inspection of the RMAS units, so we can fully assess the proposed rule.

Thank you for your time and attention to this.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Trujillo".

Jared M. Trujillo, Esq.
Policy Counsel

