

## NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION Joseph Ponte, Commissioner

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January 8, 2016

Stanley Brezenoff, Chair NYC Board of Correction 51 Chambers Street, Room 923 New York, NY 10007

Re: <u>Limited Variance Request to BOC Minimum Standards Regarding Implementation of the</u>

Young Adult Plan: Section 1-02

Dear Mr. Brezenoff:

Pursuant to §1-15(b)(1)(i) of the New York City Board of Correction's ("Board") minimum standards, the New York City Department of Correction ("Department") requests a six (6) month limited variance from BOC minimum standard §1-02(c) which requires inmates ages 18 through 21 be housed separate and apart from inmates over the age of 21. This six (6) month period would commence on January 12, 2016, the date upon which the previously submitted and approved December 16, 2015 limited variance is set to expire.

Since the December 16, 2015 Board meeting, the Department has submitted an updated Young Adult plan to the Board and is diligently working to address the issues detailed in our limited variance letter dated December 15, 2015. The scope of the issues, that arose at the end of the year, requiring resolution prior to the complete implementation of the Young Adult plan necessitates that the Department be afforded additional time beyond the one month limited variance granted by the Board, as detailed in our updated Young Adult plan.

The Department has made a good faith effort to fully comply with the minimum standards by the date specified in the original limited variance request but based on the circumstances as detailed in our December 15<sup>th</sup> request, is unable to achieve full compliance by January 12, 2016. The Department appreciates the Board's consideration of the requested six (6) month limited variance. We look forward to continuing to work together to ensure the successful adoption of the Young Adult Strategy plan.

Sincerely,

Joseph Ponte

cc: Martha King, Executive Director