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THE COUNCIL
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DANIEL DROMM
COUNCIL MEMBER, 25TH DISTRICT, QUEENS

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February 11, 2020

Margaret Egan, Executive Director
Chair and Members
New York City Board of Correction
1 Centre Street, Room 2213
New York, NY 10007

Re: Variance Renewal Requests

Dear Ms. Egan, Interim Chair Sherman, and Members:

I believe the Board should generally discourage repeated variance renewal requests, including the current request around commingling of young adults with adults. Rather than granting such requests multiple times, I ask that the Board initiate the rulemaking process so that the Board and the public can thoroughly examine the issue and have a full opportunity to consider the merits.

I ask that the Board deny the variance renewal requests concerning Separation Status and Enhanced Supervision Housing for young adults. For too long, the Department of Correction has been trying to circumvent scrutiny by rebranding punitive segregation. The categories in question represent only minor deviations from the past and fail to address the fundamental injustices of the Department's restrictive housing policies. If the Board is inclined to grant these requests, I ask that it do so only for a short time period, with the understanding that the forthcoming rules will reform the system and make such requests obsolete.

Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Dromm", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Daniel Dromm
Chair, Committee on Finance