

Basimata Simmons Testimony
NYC Board of Corrections
September 13, 2022

My name is Basimata Simmons and I live in Brooklyn. My daughter Mia is currently at the Rose M. Singer Center and she has been there for over three years.

Mia doesn't deserve to be there. Before she went to Rosie's she had never gotten in trouble. She was working with disabled children and had just passed the firefighter exam. Mia ended up at Rosie's for defending herself when she was attacked on the subway.

I worry for her safety at Rosie's every day. Mia has gotten jumped, and she tells me that girls are getting cut. After Mary Yehudah died, it shook the women. They are not getting medication and are missing medical appointments. There are not enough sanitary napkins. Getting to Rosie's to visit takes an entire day, and it's physically and mentally exhausting for me. Mothers and daughters who are at Rosie's or have their loved ones there are being forgotten in the stories about Rikers, and they deserve safety, dignity and respect.

August 25th was Mia's birthday and I cannot believe another year passed and she is still at Rosie's. She should not be there. A judge had promised to get her into a community program, and there was a spot for her, but it never happened. If she was in a community program she could move ahead with her education and her life until her case is resolved. She just got a four year scholarship to John Jay College and I want to see her thrive with this new opportunity.

Instead, I've seen Mia's spirit broken. She is afraid for her life at Rosie's and there doesn't seem to be justice for her. I ask you to help release women like Mia, who deserve care and support, and to be treated humanely. For those who need a higher level of care and security, Lincoln is a better alternative for women than the city's current plan to move them to Kew Gardens. Please do the right thing to keep my daughter and other women safe.