

Hello Ms. Masters,

I read with dismay, honestly with *horror*, that the NYC BOC is considering discontinuing the delivery of personal paper mail to prisoners and replace that with scanned versions provided by a for-profit company. In addition to all the errors and ineffectively scanned materials that are bound to happen, thus depriving prisoners of the full writing from loved ones or others, I urge the Board to consider the role of prisons/jails in returning people to community. Of course this is more successful if folks are able to maintain bonds and connections, and talismans of love and friendship are part of what helps us do this. Touching the paper, seeing the variance in ink density, the folded corner, the exact hue of the color of paper - this is all powerful. I bet you have a talisman of love or affection that you treasure, I bet everyone on the BOC does too. Imagine if you were told that you could only retain a scanned version of that?

Please consider that you are charged with corrections, and that also means you are charged with the care of human souls, most of whom will return to community. Help them retain connections to love and friendship, to humanity, via these important talismans in the form of paper mail.

Sally Fouché