

Amanda Masters, Executive Director  
Julio Medina, Acting Chair  
New York City Board of Correction  
1 Centre St., Room 2213  
New York, NY 1007  
*Sent via email*

Re: DOC request for variances regarding mail and packages

Dear Ms. Masters, Acting Chair Medina, and members of the Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the variance request submitted by the Department of Correction regarding the Board Minimum Standards § 1-12(a) and § 1-11(e)(1)(i) regarding packages and mail. As a librarian who has worked in prison and jail settings, I recognize the importance of receiving mail from family, friends, and loved ones to maintaining connections with outside communities, engaging in life-long learning, and preparing for reentry.

Removing physical mail and limiting packages to vendors will create more barriers to connection during incarceration. It will decrease opportunities to learn, grow, stay connected to loved ones, and nurture one's mental health while incarcerated.

I urge the Board to deny the Department's variance request.

Sincerely,  
Sasha Jones  
Librarian  
Brooklyn Public Library