

Hello,

I am writing in response to the NYC Department of Corrections' recent communication about banning Rikers Island inmates from receiving books from not-for-profit prison book programs. Please reconsider this decision and continue allowing inmates to receive free books.

I volunteer with Books to Prisoners, a non-profit that has been mailing free books to incarcerated people for the past 50 years without ever being suspected of sending in contraband. We take prison regulations very seriously and have half a century of experience in making sure our books comply with those standards.

Every day, we receive letters from incarcerated people who tell us that receiving free books from us has enabled them to change their lives for the better. Indigent prisoners and pre-trial detainees rely on these programs in order to access quality reading materials. Please preserve their access to information, knowledge, and self-improvement by continuing to allow non-profit prison book programs to send books to the inmates of Rikers Island.

Sincerely,
Natalie Schmidt