

# BEYOND RIKERS

TOWARDS A BOROUGH-BASED JAIL SYSTEM



**NYC**  
Office of the Mayor



# close

“Our criminal justice reforms have resulted in not only the safest big city in the nation, but New York City also has the lowest rate of incarceration. In order to truly end the harms of mass incarceration, we cannot stop now. This is why we have made it the official policy of the City of New York to close the jails on Rikers Island.”

- Mayor Bill de Blasio

# rikers

## A SMALLER, SAFER, FAIRER SYSTEM

In the spring of 2017, the City committed to closing the jails on Rikers Island and creating a network of modern and humane borough-based jails. This smaller jail system, built upon a foundation of dignity and respect, would house a jail population of approximately 5,000, reflecting the reality that both crime and the number of people in jail have continued to fall.

This borough-based system would strengthen connections to families, attorneys, courts, medical and mental health care, and faith and community-based organizations. Being closer to home and transit would enhance the network of support systems for people who are detained, and help prevent future returns to jail.

The new facilities would be designed to foster safety and wellbeing for both those incarcerated and for staff, providing space for quality education, health, and therapeutic programming. Modern facilities would also serve as a catalyst for positive change in the community and the criminal justice system.

We ask you to join us in reimagining these jails as civic assets that would provide a better life for those who are detained and work in them, support smoother transitions back home, and serve as resources for the community.



### **RIKERS ISLAND HOUSES MOST OF THE CITY'S JAIL POPULATION.**

Today, the island has capacity to house 13,400 people.

### **RIKERS ISLAND HAS JAILS, NOT PRISONS.**

Most detainees – about 75% – are pretrial detainees awaiting resolution of their cases. 23% are awaiting sentencing, serving a short sentence of less than 1 year, or being held on a state technical parole violation. 50% of those admitted to DOC custody stay 13 days or less.

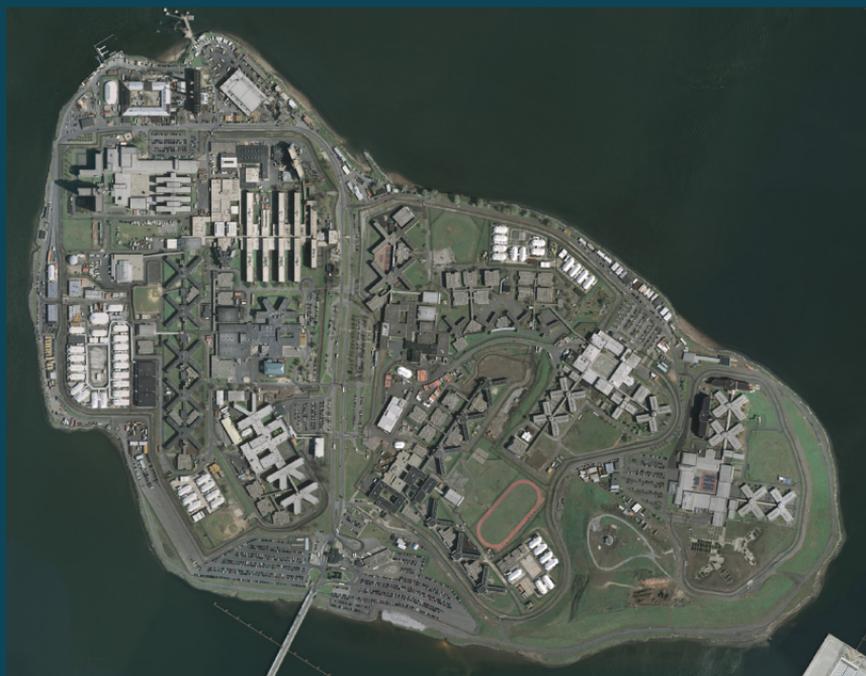
# why

## THE CITY IS COMMITTED TO CREATING A MODERN, HUMANE, AND SAFE JUSTICE SYSTEM:

### 1 FAIRER

A borough-based system strengthens connections to families, communities, and support networks. When people are closer to their loved ones and have more access to attorneys, service providers, and community support they can do better upon leaving and are less likely to return.

*Rikers Island's geographic location makes traveling there difficult for staff, family members, friends, attorneys, service providers, loved ones, and clients.*



RIKERS ISLAND IS CONNECTED TO THE MAINLAND BY A SINGLE BRIDGE

# a borough-based system?

## 2 SAFER

Modern facilities support the safety and wellbeing of staff and those detained, providing space for quality education, health, and therapeutic programming. Better design promotes wellbeing and dignity; housing areas with fewer people, improved interior layouts for officers to better supervise people in detention, and access to natural light and therapeutic spaces result in safer environments for those who stay and work inside the facilities.

*Most facilities on Rikers Island were built more than 40 years ago, and reflect jail design from another era. A safer, fairer system cannot be achieved through renovating outdated and poorly designed facilities on Rikers Island or at the antiquated borough-based jails.*

## 3 MORE EFFICIENT

Being closer to courthouses and community would reduce costs and delays. A borough-based system would reduce transportation costs and officer overtime and improve access to clients for attorneys and service providers. Streamlining routes between jail and courthouses reduces delays in cases getting resolved.

*Connected by a single bridge to the rest of the city, the location of Rikers Island results in limited accessibility to staff and visitors, and causes operational inefficiencies for everyone involved.*



# where

## LOCATIONS WERE SELECTED BASED ON

- 1 Proximity to courthouses to reduce delays in cases and the time people stay in jail.
- 2 Accessibility to public transportation so family members, lawyers, and service providers can easily visit.
- 3 Sufficient size to fit an equitable distribution of the City's jail population across four boroughs, with space to provide a humane, safe, and supportive environment.
- 4 City-owned land that would allow for swift development of the new jail and could accommodate a new facility while enhancing and supporting the existing community.

### THE BRONX

The City would build a modern facility at the existing tow pound at 320 Concord Avenue and, at the completion of the borough plan, the Vernon C. Bain Center jail barge in Hunts Point would be decommissioned.

### MANHATTAN

In Manhattan, the new jail would replace a government building at 80 Centre Street and at the completion of the borough plan the Manhattan Detention Center would be decommissioned.

### BROOKLYN

The City would demolish the existing Brooklyn Detention Center at 275 Atlantic Avenue and replace it with a modern jail.

### QUEENS

The City would demolish the existing Queens Detention Facility at 126-02 82nd Street and replace it with a modern jail.



# would the jails be located?

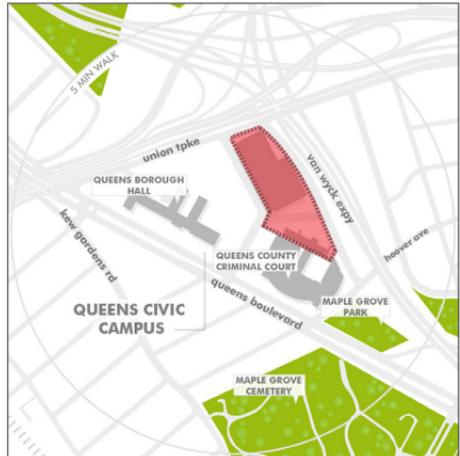
## THE BRONX



## BROOKLYN



## MANHATTAN



## QUEENS

FOR SITE-SPECIFIC BROCHURES OR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT THE WEBSITE:  
[rikers.cityofnewyork.us/borough-basedjails/](http://rikers.cityofnewyork.us/borough-basedjails/)

# a jail

## community concerns

---

### SAFETY

#### Would a new jail make my community less safe?

*Existing jail sites do not see higher rates of crime. In the year the Brooklyn Detention Center reopened in 2012, the area experienced a steeper reduction in crime than any other precinct in Brooklyn North. Since then, the precinct has seen a 20% decrease in crime, compared to 14% citywide.*

---

### PROPERTY VALUES

#### Would a new jail decrease my property values?

*Since the Brooklyn Detention Center reopened in 2012, the average home sale price increased by 14%. The areas around both the Brooklyn and Manhattan facilities have some of the highest property values in the city.*

---

### HOME INSURANCE

#### Would a new jail increase my home insurance rate?

*Proximity to a jail does not factor into most home insurance calculations.*

---

### PARKING

#### Would a new jail cause parking issues in my neighborhood?

*Through the planning process, we would accommodate as much off-street parking as possible within the site to reduce parking strains in the community. All four facilities would include parking for staff.*

# as a good neighbor

Modern facilities would replace the outdated jails of today. These new facilities would be integrated into the look and feel of the neighborhood. Their interiors would be built with state-of-the-art design for a more humane, safer environment that promotes better mental health and medical services. Their exteriors would include retail and other amenities to serve the neighborhood.

## amenities

- Architecture and design that enhances the neighborhood with minimal street-level impact
- Parking, loading, and services on-site and indoors
- Ground-floor spaces open to the public, such as community facility and retail uses
- Safe and flexible layout to maximize recreation space and natural light
- Better health and mental health services
- Comfortable visiting rooms for families and children. Respectful spaces for women and mothers



**PROPOSED GROUND-FLOOR ACTIVITY ON ATLANTIC AVENUE, BROOKLYN**



**VISITING ROOM WITH CHILDREN'S AREA**

# how

## CITY ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW (CEQR)

Development of these new facilities requires a City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR). This review is a legally required city process that identifies and discloses significant adverse impacts on the environment, including noise, air quality, displacement, and traffic. There will be four scoping meetings and public hearings held during the public comment period.



○ Public Meeting /  
Engagement Opportunity

# can you participate?

## UNIFORM LAND USE REVIEW PROCEDURE (ULURP)

After issuance of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), the CEQR process merges with the ULURP process, which provides for public review of the project's land use application. The City is committed to ensuring robust public engagement throughout the formal review process which will include multiple public hearings. In addition, we'll continue to plan and participate in community discussions to make sure New Yorkers have a voice in help shaping the plan.



### What's happened to date?

Smaller, Safer, Fairer, issued in June 2017, laid out the City's plan to reach a jail population small enough to allow us to close the jails on Rikers Island by 2027. Mayor de Blasio also convened the Justice Implementation Task Force, which combines existing efforts across the City, both inside and outside government, into one centralized body that can shape and implement strategies, ensuring the progress of closing the jails on Rikers Island. The Task Force set forth a set of design principles to ensure the new jails serve as a resource in the community. In the spring of 2018, the City led focus groups with previously detained individuals, families, and service providers, among others, to ensure that the new borough-based jail system would meet the needs of all New Yorkers.

For more information please visit: [rikers.cityofnewyork.us/borough-basedjails/](https://rikers.cityofnewyork.us/borough-basedjails/)

Community engagement in this process is critical, as the path forward relies on continued support for this vision. The City is leading a public review process to engage people who are detained, staff, families, service providers, attorneys, advocates, community members, and neighborhood groups to ensure that the voices of New Yorkers from all communities can help shape the plan. Through this process, concerns about design and neighborhood impacts will be heard and taken into account. To receive updates and view information on community engagement please visit:

[rikers.cityofnewyork.us/borough-basedjails/](https://rikers.cityofnewyork.us/borough-basedjails/)

