

PRESS
RELEASE



The New York City Department of Correction

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER PONTE ON ADOPTING THE OATH
RECOMMENDATION IN THE CASE INVOLVING CAPTAIN BEHARI AND
FIVE CORRECTION OFFICERS**

“Long overdue meaningful reform is happening now at the Department of Correction and the safety of staff and inmates is my top priority. After a careful review of the facts, I have decided to adopt the OATH recommendation that the Captain and five officers involved in this case be terminated.

“The vast majority of Correction Officers perform their duties with the highest level of integrity and my decision makes clear that there is no room for this type of behavior on Rikers.

“We must have a higher expectation of performance in situations like this, and while acknowledging how difficult the Officers’ job is, we must also accept the need to earn back the faith and trust of the community we serve.”