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THE COUNCIL  
OF  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
**DANIEL DROMM**  
COUNCIL MEMBER, 25<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT, QUEENS

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CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS  
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July 9, 2019

Martha King, Executive Director  
Chair and Members  
New York City Board of Correction  
1 Centre Street, Room 2213  
New York, NY 10007

Re: Department of Correction (DOC) Limited Variance Request to BOC Minimum Standards § 1-17(d)(2) (Limitations on the use of punitive segregation) (Seven Day Waiver)

Dear Ms. King, Chair Sherman, and Members:

I write to ask that you stop granting any variance request that increases the use of punitive segregation.

The DOC's ill-timed proposal comes in the wake of the tragic death of Layleen Polanco Xtravaganza, a transgender woman who by all accounts should not have been in jail in the first place. Layleen is just one victim; countless other individuals emerge from punitive segregation with severe psychological scars. It is outrageous that the DOC repopulated the solitary cells at the Rose M. Singer Center after initially clearing them. (It is also telling that the facility did not need to rely on punitive segregation for that period.) That the DOC has not withdrawn its variance request evinces a complete lack of understanding, or even awareness, of what a symbol of corruption, mismanagement, and brutality New York City's jails have become across the globe.

Punitive segregation, as extensive evidence has shown, perpetuates violent conditions both inside our jails and in our communities. Rather than granting variances *ad infinitum*, the Board should issue a denial and immediately initiate rulemaking aimed at ending this state-sanctioned torture and implementing alternatives to extreme isolated confinement.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments and for your efforts transforming New York City's criminal justice system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Dromm".

Daniel Dromm  
Chair, Committee on Finance