



Stanley Brezenoff, Chair  
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**BOARD OF CORRECTION**  
**CITY OF NEW YORK**  
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Martha W. King  
*Executive Director*

November 2, 2016

Via E-Mail  
Joseph Ponte  
Commissioner  
NYC Department of Correction  
75-20 Astoria Boulevard  
East Elmhurst, NY 11370

**Re: Notice of Violation of Minimum Standards**

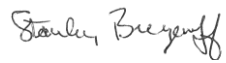
Dear Commissioner Ponte:

This letter serves as notice that the Department of Correction is in violation of several of the Board of Correction's Minimum Standards, including § 1-05 (Lock-in), as the result of the Department's extended 13-day lockdown at the Otis Bantum Correctional Center (OBCC). This lockdown commenced on Friday, October 21, 2016 and continues to date in five housing units at OBCC, in which approximately 60 individuals are currently detained. During this period, all inmates in these units have been locked in and denied access to services mandated by BOC Standard 1-06 (Recreation), 1-07 (Religion), 1-08(f) (Law Library), and 1-09 (Visiting). We are also investigating claims of other violations in these units.

In your October 22, 2016 letter to me, you advised that four major violent incidents occurring in a short time span necessitated a jail-wide lock-down in order to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the situation through searches and intelligence-gathering investigations. We trust that your comprehensive assessment is complete and that reasoning no longer justifies a categorical and extended lockdown. The Board does not question the Department's need to take swift action to ensure the safety of all staff and inmates and to take steps necessary to prevent violence. While there may be additional safety precautions you wish to take, these should be individually tailored and comply with the Minimum Standards.

We request that the Department share its plan for immediately lifting the lock-down and notify us immediately when it is lifted and access to services is restored.

Sincerely,



Stanley Brezenoff

cc: Derrick D. Cephas  
Jennifer Jones Austin  
Gerard Bryant  
Robert L. Cohen  
Bryanne Hamill  
Michael J. Regan  
Stanley Richards  
Steven M. Safyer  
Martha W. King  
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