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CONFRONTING RECIDIVISM: THE BOLD WAY DOC HOSTS PANEL & JOB FAIR

Panel Discussion and Job Fair for Formerly Incarcerated Individuals

BRONX, New York - The New York City Department of Correction (DOC) partnered with the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, the New York City Office of Small Business, the New York City Department of Probation, the New York State Department of Labor, the Fortune Society, and Friends of Island Academy to host a panel discussing recidivism followed by a job fair for formerly incarcerated individuals. The event was the second of a three-part series of town halls, "Confronting Recidivism: The Bold Way," where a panel of re-entry experts and city agency administrators discussed combatting recidivism through improved educational and employment prospects for incarcerated individuals upon release.

The panel consisted of **Winette Saunders Jackson**, Deputy Commissioner of Youthful Offender and Young Adult Programming with the New York City Department of Correction; **Leonard Battle**, Director of Criminal Justice Initiatives & the Workforce Development Division with the New York City Department of Small Business Services; **Messiah Ramkissoon**, Director of Re-entry with Friends of Island Academy; **Rob Deleon**, Associate Vice President of Programs with The Fortune Society; and **Kwaku Driskel**, Senior Program Officer for Early Childhood & Youth with the Robin Hood Foundation.

"Combatting recidivism requires all sectors of our communities including faith based organizations, corporate partners, nonprofit organizations, and elected officials to come together," said **Department of Correction Commissioner Cynthia Brann**. "Today's partners provide opportunities and second chances to those who have served their time."

"Helping formerly incarcerated individuals successfully return to their communities is a goal those of us here today share," said **Deputy Commissioner Saunders Jackson**. "And it is my hope that by the end of this town hall series, meaningful and measurable impact will have been made on reducing recidivism rates in New York City."

The Department of Correction is working toward offering up to 5 hours of daily programming through a variety of educational and vocational courses for every individual in custody. Prior to this Administration, detainees received *less than an hour* of programming. This programming not only increases safety by keeping those in the Department's custody meaningfully occupied but it also builds life and work skills that improve employment prospects upon returning to the community.

About the New York City Department of Correction

The New York City Department of Correction (DOC) provides for the care, custody, and control of persons accused of crimes or convicted and sentenced to one year or less of jail time. The Department manages 12 inmate facilities, nine of which are located on Rikers Island. In addition, the Department operates two hospital Prison Wards (Bellevue and Elmhurst hospitals) and court holding facilities in each borough. During Fiscal Year 2017, the Department handled over 58,000 admissions and managed an average daily inmate population of approximately 9,500 individuals. Our dedicated workforce of both uniformed and non-uniformed staff members represent the city's BOLDEST.

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