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**STATEMENT OF MAYOR DE BLASIO ON REFORMS ANNOUNCED BY
COMMISSIONER PONTE TO REDUCE JAIL VIOLENCE, ENHANCE SECURITY ON
RIKERS ISLAND**

“The safety and security of every person on Rikers Island—from officers to doctors and nurses to inmates—is a top priority for this administration. We cannot continue on a path where violence is commonplace and inmates are treated in a manner that leaves them more broken than when they came in. The reforms announced by Commissioner Ponte today will reduce the Department’s over-reliance on punitive segregation, enhance safety of the physical environment, and give the Department the tools it needs to prevent violence from occurring in the first place. We have a responsibility to ensure that every individual in the City’s custody is treated with respect, and the enhanced safety measures outlined today are yet more reforms from this Commissioner that move the system in the right direction.

“I commend the Board of Correction for moving to consider a change to its Minimum Standards that will allow Commissioner Ponte to implement these badly needed reforms, and urge the Board to move quickly to consider and approve these changes.”

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