



**BOARD OF CORRECTION
CITY OF NEW YORK**

**RESOLUTION REGARDING THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION'S
FAILURE TO ADEQUATELY RESPOND TO BOARD REQUESTS**

OCTOBER 14, 2025 PUBLIC MEETING

WHEREAS, the New York City Board of Correction (“BOC” or “Board”) is mandated by the New York City Charter (“City Charter”) to provide independent oversight of the City’s correctional facilities, to ensure the safety, health, and dignity of all individuals in custody, and to promote transparency and accountability in correctional management;

WHEREAS, City Charter § 626(c)(2) authorizes the Board to inspect all books, records, documents, and papers of the New York City Department of Correction (“DOC” or “Department”), and City Charter § 626(c)(4) authorizes the Board to evaluate the Department’s performance;

WHEREAS, to fulfill its statutory duties, the Board requires timely, complete, and good-faith cooperation from the Department in response to its requests for data, documentation, policies, procedures, implementation plans, and other essential information;

WHEREAS, the Department has, on numerous occasions, failed to respond in a timely manner to the Board’s formal and informal requests, and in some instances has provided responses that were partial, unreasonably delayed, or entirely absent;

WHEREAS, at the Board’s September 9, 2025 meeting, First Deputy Commissioner Francis Torres informed the Board that the Department would submit written reasoning for rejecting recommendations made by the Board’s *Ad Hoc* Committee to Review the Utilization of the NYC Department of Correction’s 6-A Work Release Program,¹ as requested by Vice Chair Skipper;

WHEREAS, the Department submitted a response on October 2, 2025 that did not delineate the reasons for rejecting the Committee’s specific recommendations. Rather, the Department reiterated what it stated at the September public meeting: “the Department does not intend to adopt the Board’s recommendations. Per New York State Correction Law, the design and implementation of the 6-A Work Release Program is solely at the

¹ The Committee’s recommendations are publicly available here:
<https://www.nyc.gov/assets/boc/downloads/pdf/2025.07.08-6A-Work-Release-Review-Committee-Report.pdf>

discretion of the Commissioner. The 6-A Work Release Program is not a conditional release program or population reduction tool, but rather a means of supporting safe, structured rehabilitation and reentry. We remain committed to strengthening the program, incorporating feedback where appropriate, and ensuring it continues to align with best practices”;

WHEREAS, on September 30, 2025, the Board followed up on requests made prior to and during the September public meeting for the Department’s long-term plan for consistently providing daily recreation in the Otis Bantum Correctional Center (“OBCC”). The Board also requested a copy of a standardized “tracking form” and facility-wide memo referenced by the Department, its staffing plan to address access to recreation concerns and specific details about “a tracking plan to come into compliance,” yet the Board has not received any of the specific information and documentation requested;

WHEREAS, on September 19, 2025, the Board requested the Department’s plan to remedy issues regarding access by counsel and legal staff to persons in custody, and in-person visitation in the Rose M. Singer Center Enhanced Supervision Housing (“RESH”), detailed plans and timeline for the revamping and digitization of the counsel visitation process, and documentation related to the 2019 breaches of non-recorded phone lines;

WHEREAS, the Department again failed to address the specifics of the Board’s request, instead relying on general statements of commitment and insufficient information with no timeline or details, or directing Board members to a public New York City Department of Investigation (“DOI”) report instead of providing the particular violations and complaints the Department received regarding improperly recorded privileged phone calls;

WHEREAS, the Board has repeatedly requested detailed plans or additional information on basic operational practices or improvements the Department intends to undertake, and, in return, has consistently received vague assertions of future plans, are referred to external resources that lack fulsome explanations sought by the Board, or are provided a minimum amount of information devoid of significant details that would allow the Board to meaningfully assess the Department’s efforts of improving the operations and conditions of the City’s jails;

WHEREAS, the Department failed to timely provide the Board with vital materials related to deaths that occurred in custody in 2025, with some document production delayed more than three months, seriously impacting the Board’s ability to fulfill its mandate to investigate deaths in custody;

WHEREAS, this continued pattern of non-responsiveness undermines the Board’s ability to exercise effective oversight and ensure compliance with Minimum Standards, delays urgent investigations, obstructs the Board’s statutory duties, and raises serious concerns about transparency, accountability, and institutional integrity;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The Board formally condemns the Department's ongoing failure to fully and promptly respond to the Board's requests for information and documentation regarding basic jail operations and matters that impact all who work and live in the City's jails, which represents a breach of the Department's legal obligations and a fundamental obstruction of independent oversight;
2. The Board demands immediate and sustained corrective action by the Department, including the designation of a high-level liaison to ensure timely and complete responses to all Board inquiries and information requests.
3. The Board demands that the Department immediately provide all specific documentation and detailed plans requested by the Board regarding access to recreation in OBCC and other topics highlighted in the Board's September 19, 2025 letter to the Department, as required by New York City Charter § 626(c)(2);

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be posted conspicuously on the Board website.

At the Board's October 14, 2025 meeting, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Resolution.