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## **STATEMENT ON DEATH OF RUBU ZHAO**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 18, 2023

The Board of Correction (“BOC”) is saddened to hear of Mr. Rubu Zhao’s passing, which marks the second death in New York City Department of Correction (“DOC”) custody in 2023. Mr. Zhao, 52, died on May 16, 2023, at approximately 11:51 pm at Elmhurst Hospital. Mr. Zhao had been in custody since December 14, 2022, and he was housed in the George R. Vierno Center leading up to his death. BOC expresses condolences to his family, friends, and community during this difficult time.

Moreover, BOC is investigating Mr. Zhao’s death and will convene DOC and Correctional Health Services (“CHS”), together, to examine the circumstances surrounding his death. BOC will report its findings with recommendations to both agencies to prevent future tragedies. BOC remains committed to fulfilling its City Charter and legal mandates to investigate serious injuries, near deaths, and deaths, toward the end of addressing systemic issues that can contribute to such events.