

RIKERS ISLAND IS IN CRISIS

RECEIVERSHIP IS THE ANSWER!

What is receivership?

A judicial process where a **federal judge assigns operational control of the jail to a receiver, an independent third party with special powers**. The receiver will be able to make sweeping changes without getting caught up in political red tape. Once the jail can operate humanely, NYC will regain control of the jails.

Wait, didn't Rikers Island close? Why does it need a receiver?

Three years ago, the **NYC City Council passed legislation to close Rikers by 2027, but for now, it's still operational and just as dysfunctional, torturous, and deadly as ever**. Installing a Receiver is necessary to protect those on Rikers today and ensure the City closes Rikers.

The Federal Bureau of Prisons does not run safe jails. How will they make Rikers better?

Receivership will not give control of Rikers Island to the federal government. The judge will appoint an independent third-party receiver, who has federally mandated power over budget and policy decisions. These powers allow the receiver to make lasting, sweeping changes, overseen not by political forces, like law enforcement unions, but instead by an impartial Federal Judge. Depending on how the receivership is set up, **New York City can have input into the receiver chosen**.

Why do we need receivership? Can't New York City make changes on its own?

Simply put, NYC lacks the legal authority to make basic changes to improve Rikers Island. Without a receiver, there is no mechanism to rapidly terminate staff who act dangerously or illegally, much less those who don't even come to work. Similarly, until NYC has the ability to hire the best and brightest correctional leaders for its senior positions—rather than complying with laws requiring those roles be filled by internal promotion only—there is no hope of real, sustainable culture change.

That aside, **New York City isn't making changes on its own!** Deaths in custody are skyrocketing as is the presence of drugs and other dangerous contraband. DOC has **admitted in court they cannot get people in custody to medical appointments** and the court-appointed federal monitor has confirmed **they still don't know how many staff they need to run the jail**.

Mayor Adams and Commissioner Louis Molina continue to prioritize union leaders and political capital over everyday staff and people in custody. Incarcerated people and staff deserve changes that are in their best interest, free from political influence.

My wife / cousin / friend / constituent works at DOC. Are they going to lose their job?

A receivership is as necessary for people in custody as it is for staff. DOC's facilities are falling apart and staff continue to fear coming to work. Everyone deserves a safe workplace. Staff who perform their jobs humanely and legally have nothing to fear.

I'm sold. What do we do now?

The decision to install a receiver is in Judge Laura Swain's hands, but you can make your voice heard! Go to **www.rikersisland.org to sign your name to our petition** and tell Judge Swain that NYC demands receivership!