

To: New York City Board of Corrections

We the undersigned oppose the Board of Correction's proposed amendments to its Minimum Standards for City jails. We are particularly concerned that the revised standards would increase crowding, increase the number of people subjected to 23 hour cell lock-in, reduce translation services to non-English-speaking inmates and detainees, deny inmates and detainees contact visits with their families and friends within the first 24 hours of their stay, and allow jail staff to listen in on phone calls and read or censor mail without a warrant.

We therefore request that the Board of Correction:

1. Withdraw the proposed amendments to the Minimum Standards for New York City Correctional Facilities. These proposed standards turn the clock back on treatment of inmates and detainees and represent a profound step backwards.
2. Conduct a full and fair process before any further amendments are considered. We are very troubled that the Board has proposed these revised Minimum Standards without asking members of the community for input.

Sincerely,

PFCF