

**Implementation of New York City Council's Local Law 123  
2019 Mid-Year Report**

**THE BRONX  
FREEDOM FUND**

A PROJECT OF THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY  
**DECARCERATION  
PROJECT**

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# Compliance Report Based on Bronx Freedom Fund Client Data, January-June 2019

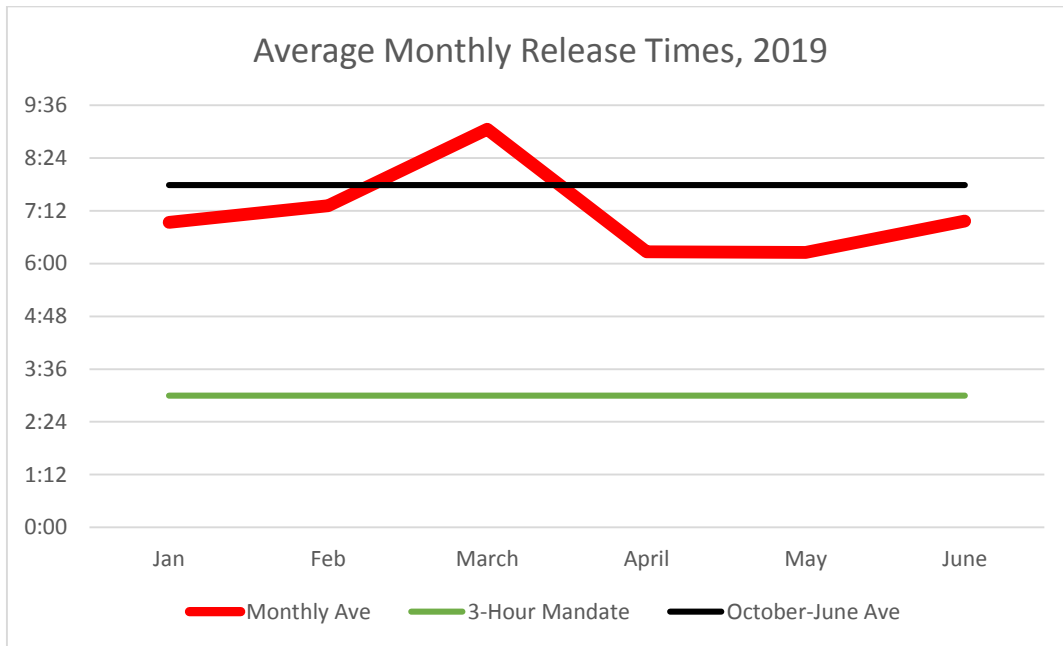
## New York City Local Law 123

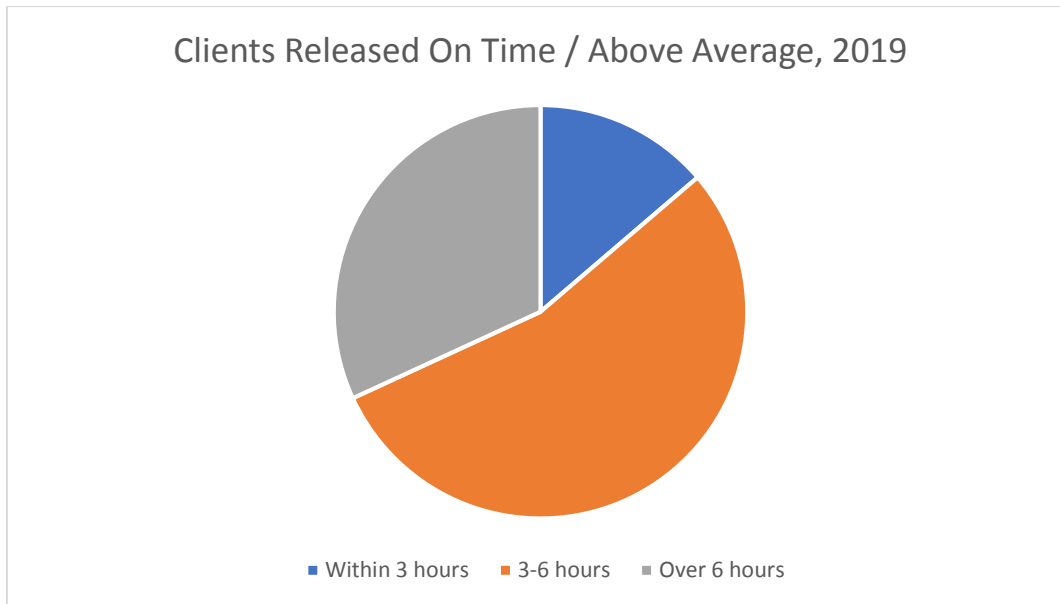
New York City Council Local Law 123 requires the Department of Correction (DOC) to release people from its custody within three hours of their bail being paid. The law was implemented gradually beginning in October 2017, with the current 3-hour rule implemented in October 2018. The Bronx Freedom Fund has systematically tracked release times for all of clients released from DOC custody, and documented widespread noncompliance.

Within each installment of Local Law 123, fewer than a quarter of our clients were released in compliance with the law. In the first half of 2019 (January – June), the Bronx Freedom Fund posted bail for 205 people incarcerated in New York City jails.

So far in 2019, only approximately 12 percent of BFF clients were released within the required 3-hour timeframe. The mean release time after posting bail was 6 hours and 52 minutes with a median of 5 hours and 11 minutes. Only 25 of BFF clients were released within the mandated 3-hour window.

Since the current 3-hour rule was implemented, the BFF freed 305 people whose average release time was nearly 8 hours.





Notable statistics:

- Online Bail
  - 24 clients were released over 10 hours after bail was paid. 10 of those bails were paid using the City’s new online bail system, which supposedly speeds up the process.
  - Of the 52 clients bailed out using the online option, only 6, or 11 percent, were released within the mandated 3 hours.
  
- Rikers Island
  - Among those 25 clients released within the mandated 3 hours, only 5 were being held at Rikers Island (despite Rikers’ presence as the most populated jail). Conversely, 14 of the 24 clients whose release took over 10 hours were held at Rikers.

**Client story**

One of these clients was released at one o’clock in the morning into freezing temperatures, nine hours after he had posted bail the prior afternoon. He had recently obtained stable employment and was living in a shelter; he was unable to check in with either his shelter or his employer. This delayed release of just one night in jail thus resulted in him losing both his job and his shelter bed. While his release was being processed, he spent hours in a crowded intake cell with no access to food or water. “They treat us like dogs,” he said. “Just let us go.”