



October 22, 2019

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**\*\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\*\***

***STATEMENT ON CITY HALL DELAYING CRUCIAL  
VOTE CONCERNING RULES GOVERNING ISOLATED,  
HIGHLY RESTRICTIVE HOUSING AT LOCAL JAILS***

**(NEW YORK, NY) – Mary Lynne Werlwas, Director of the Prisoners’ Rights Project at The Legal Aid Society, issued the following statement in response to the New York City Board of Correction’s refusal to make public proposed rules on regulating isolated and highly restrictive housing units in New York City jails:**

“We are outraged to learn that the Board of Correction caved to City Hall’s pressure to keep under wraps long awaited rules regulating isolated housing at Rikers Island and other local jails. This stalling is a clear effort by Mayor Bill de Blasio’s Administration to dilute rules that would protect New Yorkers. This is more hypocrisy from an Administration that has pledged to ‘end solitary,’ yet authorize the use of other forms egregious and punitive housing with little oversight. We demand that the BOC publish these rules immediately, so that we may see proof of the City’s so-called commitment to reform.”

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*The Legal Aid Society exists for one simple yet powerful reason: to ensure that New Yorkers are not denied their right to equal justice because of poverty. For over 140 years, we have protected, defended, and advocated for those who have struggled in silence for far too long. Every day, in every borough, The Legal Aid Society changes the lives of our clients and helps improve our communities. <https://www.legalaidnyc.org>*