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***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

Legal Aid Statement on Vincent Schiraldi Becoming the next NYC Department of Correction Commissioner

(NEW YORK, NY) – Tina Luongo, Attorney-In-Charge of Criminal Defense Practice at The Legal Aid Society, issued the following statement in response to reporting that Vincent Schiraldi will become the new Commissioner of the New York City Department of Correction:

“We welcome the news that Mayor de Blasio has appointed Vincent Schiraldi to the helm of the Department of Correction. Not only is Mr. Schiraldi a competent manager with experience running a City agency, but he has also been a leading voice on critical issues including comprehensive parole reform and the importance of ending systems of mass incarceration.

As detailed in the latest report from the federal monitor overseeing endemic issues of violence in the City’s jails, DOC is in desperate need of a complete, top-to-down overhaul. We hope that Mr. Schiraldi assembles the team needed to realize these goals. The Legal Aid Society looks forward to working with him on those efforts.”

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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. www.legalaidnyc.org