

# THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY

Justice in Every Borough.

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Contact:

Redmond Haskins  
The Legal Aid Society  
929-441-2384  
[rhaskins@legal-aid.org](mailto:rhaskins@legal-aid.org)

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

## ***Legal Aid Statement on Mayor de Blasio's Emergency Rikers Relief Plan***

**(NEW YORK, NY) – Tina Luongo, Attorney-In-Charge of the Criminal Defense Practice at The Legal Aid Society,** released the following statement in response to Mayor de Blasio's Emergency Rikers Relief Plan:

“It is simply unconscionable and unworkable that significant and immediate steps to decarcerate Rikers Island and other local jails are not a fundamental part of this plan. Fixing this multi-layered crisis will take time - time that people whose lives are in jeopardy from dangerous and uncontrolled conditions do not have. Through Mayor de Blasio's own plan - The Early Release (6A) Program - City Hall could immediately release more than 250 people serving less than a year for low-level crimes, requiring them to serve the remainder of their short sentences on work-release. We call on Mayor de Blasio to utilize this program at once.”

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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 145 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](http://www.legalaidnyc.org)*