

THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY

Justice in Every Borough.

September 27, 2021

Contact:

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

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

After Mayor Finally Tours Rikers Island, Legal Aid Calls on de Blasio to Immediately Decarcerate City Jails

(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society, following Mayor Bill de Blasio's visit to Rikers Island today, called on his Administration to immediately use his powers to release incarcerated New Yorkers who are currently serving a city sentence at a local jail to supervised release (6A), a program established last year to facilitate the release of people from custody to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 among the jail population.

"While this visit is definitely a day late and a dollar short, if Mayor de Blasio has eyes to see, he just witnessed an unprecedented humanitarian crisis affecting thousands of his fellow New Yorkers at a facility under his own purview," said **Tina Luongo, Attorney-In-Charge of the Criminal Defense Practice at The Legal Aid Society**. "We hope that the Mayor will finally move post-haste to release as many New Yorkers as possible, as dictated by the law and his authority. Too many of our clients and others have passed at Rikers Island this year, and all of City Hall should be focused on preventing another avoidable death on this Administration's watch."

###

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