

January 26, 2022

Contact:

Redmond Haskins
The Legal Aid Society
rhaskins@legal-aid.org
929.441.2384

Lupe Todd-Medina
New York County Defender Services
ltoddmedina@nycds.org
917.202.0116

*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

In Response to the Continued Humanitarian Crisis at Rikers Island, Defenders, Impacted New Yorkers, Elected Officials and Others to Hold Advocacy Day, Press Conference Demanding the Passage of the Treatment Not Jail Act

Legislation Will Dramatically Reduce Jail and Prison Population by Diverting Individuals with Substance Use and Mental Health Disabilities to Treatment

(NEW YORK, NY) – New York Public Defenders, impacted New Yorkers, elected officials and others, in response to the continued humanitarian crisis engulfing Rikers Island, will hold an advocacy day and virtual press conference calling on Albany to pass the Treatment Not Jail Act, legislation to ensure that New Yorkers with substance use, mental health and other challenges have an off-ramp from the criminal legal system to obtain treatment and support in their communities rather than jail.

What: Press conference calling on Albany to enact the Treatment Not Jail Act

Who: The Legal Aid Society, New York County Defender Services, Ontario County Public Defender, Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem, Senator Jessica Ramos, Assembly Member Phara Souffrant Forrest, Assembly Member Kenny Burgos, Senator Pete Harckham, The Redemption Center, National Alliance on Mental Illness, Urban Justice Institute Mental Health Project

When: Thursday, January 27, 2022 at 10:00 AM

Where: <https://tinyurl.com/TNJzoomroom>

###