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

Documents Reveal that DOC Staff Altered Data Tracking Violations of Federal Court Order Limiting Stays in Intake

(NEW YORK, NY) – The Legal Aid Society condemned the New York City Department of Correction (DOC) for [appearing to tamper with data](#) about lengthy stays in the intake areas of the Eric M. Taylor Center (EMTC) on Rikers Island.

Through a Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) request, Legal Aid obtained documents that revealed that in a sample of days in June 2022, DOC appeared to alter admissions data in the tracking system used to demonstrate compliance with a September 2021 federal court order in *Nunez v. City of New York*. That order required DOC to limit stays in DOC’s intake to 24 hours.

The Court ordered this time limit in response to multiple reports of horrific conditions at EMTC, where incarcerated persons were found languishing in cramped holding cells for days, with no beds or showers or access to appropriate food and medication.

According to the documents, New York City Board of Correction (BOC) staff discovered the tampering when examining the new admission system.

Document 1: <https://tinyurl.com/4hpa7fcd>.

Document 2: <https://tinyurl.com/492xhpcm>.

Subsequently, BOC contacted EMTC’s acting Warden and raised the following:

Board staff are continuing to closely monitor the conditions in the Main Intake at EMTC. As part of our monitoring work, we have been reviewing the DOC’s Intake Dashboard. Over the past few days, we have documented 17 incidents where a person in custody in the EMTC intake had their “In Custody at Court” start time (the time reported on their Securing Order) changed on the DOC’s Intake Dashboard. These changes often occurred as a newly admitted person in custody approached their 24 hour clock expiration, or sometimes following the expiration. Some people in custody had their custody start time changed multiple times over the course of several hours.

The correspondence also included a screenshot demonstrating that an incarcerated New Yorker had his start time in custody moved ahead three hours several minutes after his 24-hour clock expired.

“We are deeply concerned by this revelation, which appears to show DOC employees tampering with data that is used to monitor compliance with a court order,” said **Kayla Simpson, staff attorney with the Prisoners’ Rights Project at The Legal Aid Society and plaintiffs’ counsel in *Nunez v. City of New York***. “This seriously diminishes the credibility of the City’s public assertions that they have solved their long-standing problem of holding people for days in these uninhabitable areas, and the public deserves answers.”

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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 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