

THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY

Justice in Every Borough.

January 18, 2023

Contact:

Redmond Haskins
Director of Media Relations
The Legal Aid Society
rhaskins@legal-aid.org
929.441.2384

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

Legal Aid Statement in Response to the NYC Department of Correction Revoking the NYC Board of Correction's Access to Jail Video Footage

(NEW YORK, NY) - **The Legal Aid Society** issued the following statement in response to the New York City Department of Correction (DOC) revoking the New York City Board of Correction's (BOC) access to jail video footage:

"The Legal Aid Society deplors Mayor Adams' recent action obstructing the Board of Correction by denying the oversight body full access to videotape surveillance of the jails.

"The New York City charter establishes the BOC as the watchdog over the jails and assigns BOC the power and duty to review all deaths in custody. Viewing real-time video footage from the jails allows BOC to immediately dispatch field staff to address situations like impending riots, to investigate deaths in custody, and to monitor the conditions in the jails.

"The Mayor's ham-fisted move serves no purpose except to hide the violence, chaos and mismanagement that pervades his jails and endangers our incarcerated clients every day."

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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