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

Statement on Mayor Adams' Plan to Reopen U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office at Rikers Island

(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society issued the following statement on Mayor Eric Adams' plan to reopen the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) office at Rikers Island:

“Allowing ICE access to Rikers Island, where New Yorkers—including noncitizens entitled to the presumption of innocence and their day in court—are detained, is an egregious violation of New York’s commitment as a sanctuary city and undermines constitutional due process protections.

“Furthermore, we are immensely concerned by Mayor Adams’ seeming embrace of the new administration’s draconian immigration policies—policies that City Hall should be rejecting in the strongest possible terms.

“We categorically urge Mayor Adams to reconsider this dangerous course of action and immediately halt any steps that would lead to family separation, suffering, and the further criminalization of non-citizens who contribute so much to the fabric of our city.”

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