



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10
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Manhattan Community Board 10
Resolution in Support of the Aging Reentry Task Force and
Elders Released from New York State Correctional Facilities

WHEREAS it has become clear that there is a crisis in the New York State correctional system, with rising numbers of older people spending long terms behind bars;

WHEREAS many of these incarcerated elders pose no risk to public safety and are being or will be released on parole;

WHEREAS the rate of recidivism in the New York State for people over 50 is 5.2% and for people over 65 is less than 1% (as compared to 40% for New York State);

WHEREAS from 1995 to 2010 the number of state and federal prisoners aged 55 and over quadrupled, while the prison population as a whole grew by 42%;

WHEREAS the state's total prison population is about 56,000 people; the number of people aged 50 and over is 9,218 – more than 17% of the total;

WHEREAS the continued incarceration of just one person over the age of 50, who poses no risk to public safety, costs the taxpayers of New York State between \$120,000 and \$240,000 per year (as compared with \$60,000 for a younger incarcerated person);

WHEREAS 46% of these elders, while incarcerated in facilities throughout the state, are members of the New York City community and will return here;

WHEREAS these released elders are members of the community represented by community board 10, with needs similar to those of the community as a whole;

WHEREAS it is the responsibility of Community Board 10 to support the elderly and vulnerable members of our community;

WHEREAS elders, like other people released from incarceration, can thrive and live productive, law-abiding lives if they can get the benefit of appropriate resources and training;

WHEREAS a large number of organizations, including the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Service (DOCCS), New York City Department of Corrections (DOCS), New York City Department of Probation (DOP), the Public Advocate's Office, the New York Mayor's Office, New York City Department for the Aging (DFTA), and many others, have come together as the Aging Reentry Task Force and have created a model pilot program and resource guide for elders upon release from prison;

WHEREAS this pilot program makes use and necessitates awareness and support from key services and resources for the elderly in Manhattan Community Board 10 and other New York City communities;

WHEREAS Manhattan Community Board is in support of the Aging Reentry Task Force's purpose: "Our aim is to promote and witness a process and procedure established whereby elderly people incarcerated in New York State, who have already served considerable time behind the walls and are no longer a threat to public safety, are given fair and inclusive release consideration.";

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Manhattan Community Board 10 supports the Aging Reentry Task Force model and will hold education and other meetings to make certain that the community is aware of the needs of elders released from prison and can help to reintegrate them into the community;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Manhattan community Board 10 supports the release of such elders and order that public funds and resources not be wasted by holding behind bars people who do not pose risk to our safety; and that such funds and resources be better applied to programs that enhance the safety and health of our community and all of New York City