



Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

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Eleazar Bueno, Chairperson
Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

January 29, 2021

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Re: In Support of the # LessIsMore Initiative (Advancing Solutions to the Problem of Re-incarceration for Technical Violations of Parole)

Dear Governor Cuomo:

At the General Meeting on Tuesday, January 26, 2021, Community Board 12, Manhattan, passed the following resolution with a vote of 41 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstentions, and 0, not voting supporting the tenets of the #LessIsMore initiative and its vision to concentrate finite resources on those most in need by further investing in high-quality education, job opportunities, after-school programs, and support people in the reentry process, reduce jail and prison populations and promote safety and justice for families and communities.

Whereas: "Public Safety" includes arrest/incarceration mitigation as well as reentry support/protection for those returning from jail & prison, and who are on parole;

Whereas: New York imprisons more people for non-criminal "technical" violations of parole (e.g., missing an appointment with a parole officer, being late for curfew, or testing positive for alcohol and other drugs) than any state in the country except Illinois. Of people on parole whom New York sent back to prison in 2016, over 6,300 or 65% were re-incarcerated for technical parole violations. Nearly 1/3 of the new admissions to state prisons are due to people reincarcerated for technical violations of parole;

Whereas: There are approximately 35,000 people under active parole supervision in New York State. In the **33rd and 34th precincts** (above 155th St), there are currently **281 people on parole**.

Whereas: A single year of incarceration for one individual cost the state approximately \$60,000. With a significant fraction of parolees no longer incarcerated for technical parole violations, it is anticipated to reduce state and local costs accordingly;

Whereas: #LessIsMore Act will lead to thousands of fewer people incarcerated for technical violations and monetary savings for NYS, which will be reinvested in communities most harmed by mass incarceration;

Whereas: Cost savings from this bill would allow for investment in services and programming that could keep people from ever entering the jail system such as high-quality education, job opportunities, after school programs, green spaces, community beautification projects, etc.

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Whereas: During a pandemic like COVID-19, releasing people from jails and prisons -- including for those incarcerated for technical violations of parole -- is a public health imperative;

Whereas: Less is More: Community Supervision Revocation Reform Act facilitates the positive reintegration into society of people who are subject to community supervision (parole, presumptive release, conditional release, and post-release supervision) and to reduce the number of people held in jail and prison in New York, by:

- **Restricting the use of incarceration for technical violations**
- **Bolstering due process**
- **Providing speedy hearings**
- **Providing earned time credits**

Whereas: Senator Robert Jackson, Assembly Member Carmen De La Rosa, and Assembly Member Al Taylor are in support of #LessIsMore;

Resolved: CB12 Public Safety supports the tenets of the #LessIsMore initiative and its vision to concentrate finite resources on those most in need by further investing in high-quality education, job opportunities, after-school programs, and support people in the reentry process, reduce jail and prison populations and promote safety and justice for families and communities.

Sincerely,



Eleazar Bueno
Chairperson

cc: Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Jumaane Williams, Public Advocate
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, Comptroller
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Congressman
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Congressman
Hon. Jessica Ramos, State Senator
Hon. Carl Heastie, State Assembly Speaker.

Hon. Robert Jackson, State Senator
Hon. Brian Benjamin, State Senator
Hon. Carmen De La Rosa, Assembly Member
Hon. Al Taylor, Assembly Member
Hon. Ydanis Rodriguez, Council Member
Hon. Mark Levine, Council Member
Hon. Keith Powers, Council Member