



Faith Communities for Just Reentry Call Script

Hello, my name is _____. [If you live in the district, identify yourself as a constituent.]

I am calling because I am deeply concerned about the wellbeing of my fellow New Yorkers who are released from Rikers Island without the support they need to survive. Research shows that between 15,000 to 20,000 New Yorkers each year cycle between mass homelessness and mass incarceration because of the failures of our reentry system, the majority of whom are people of color. Many people leaving Rikers do not have access to safe, affordable housing; face constant discrimination; and must navigate numerous government agencies alone if they are to receive critical health and other services. Since COVID-19 began, our neighbors have also been released from Rikers without identification, the medication they need, or coronavirus testing. These inhumane practices must stop.

[Share how this personally impacts you and your family, if you're comfortable doing so.]

Can I count on *[Council Member's Name]* to publicly advocate for a just reentry system in New York City and pressure Mayor de Blasio to act now? To me, Just Reentry means:

1. **Providing safety for people released from incarceration during COVID-19** by providing them with valid identification, an effective healthcare transition that allows people to immediately access the care and medication they are already entitled to, and timely coronavirus testing.
2. **Ensuring that justice-involved individuals have stable homes** by ending permanent exclusions from government-supported housing and discrimination in the private market, fixing the rental assistance voucher system, and leveraging public funds to create new housing to meet their needs.
3. **Developing a coordinated reentry system** that works across government agencies and is held accountable to the well-being and whole dignity of each person.

I'm calling to ask that *[Council Member's Name]* join me in publicly demanding that these changes are made and pressure Mayor de Blasio and members of his administration to reform the reentry system now.

Thank you so much for your time.