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\*\*\* Joint Statement\*\*\*

*New York, NY* - Today, a broad cross-section of criminal justice advocates and legal service providers issued the following joint statement condemning [comments made by Mayor de Blasio](#) on bail and parole reform during a media availability with the NYPD on Thursday, January 3rd.

“We are appalled by New York City Mayor de Blasio’s explicit efforts to derail essential reforms to New York’s bail and parole release systems and to reverse progress made toward the decarceration of New York’s jails and prisons. Together, we represent New Yorkers across the state who demand an end to mass incarceration, including comprehensive overhaul of the bail system and reforms to ensure that all people in state prisons have a fair and meaningful chance at parole release.

The Mayor’s comments pander to racist and oppressive policies that have fueled the mass incarceration crisis and fly in the face of critical advocacy being led and supported by formerly incarcerated people and their families, legal experts, grassroots organizations and many others. It’s particularly shocking that the Mayor would push for a ‘tightening up’ of the parole system, given that New York City’s violent crime rates have never been lower than they are today. Instead, the Mayor should ‘tighten up’ the ineffective ‘accountability systems’ that allow police and corrections officers to perpetrate acts of violence and other abuses and remain on the job.

Further, we know that adding supposed predictions of future dangerousness in pre-trial release determinations, whether by judges or pseudo-scientific algorithms, will only reinforce the structural race- and wealth-based disparities that already plague the state’s criminal legal system and invite judges to rely on stereotypes of Black and Latinx people. To end ‘the New Jim Crow’ in New York, we need bold and unflinching leadership. We need progressive reforms that do not leave anybody behind. We fully expect that policymakers in Albany, who ran on platforms of true justice reform, will not listen to the Mayor’s pitch for regressive policies. In 2019, advocates, defenders, and directly impacted people will fight for - *and win* - the urgent change New Yorkers need and deserve.”

Signed,

Brooklyn Community Bail Fund  
Brooklyn Defender Services

The Bronx Defenders  
Citizen Action of New York  
JustLeadershipUSA  
LatinoJustice  
The Legal Aid Society  
Metro Justice  
New York Communities for Change  
Parole Preparation Project  
The Release Aging People in Prison (RAPP) Campaign  
VOCAL-NY