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**BROOKLYN COMMUNITY BAIL FUND CALLS FOR ACTION FROM
LEGISLATORS, DISTRICT ATTORNEYS, JUDGES IN RESPONSE TO
HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN NYC JAILS**

New York, NY — New Yorkers deserve to live in safe communities. All New Yorkers. However, at least 12 people have died while in custody of the city’s Department of Correction—three people this month alone. Right now more than 6,000 people are languishing in jails across New York City—including the notorious Rikers Island jail complex—subject to the same inhumane conditions that resulted in the recent deaths. Many have lost jobs, housing, and custody of their children, and suffer lasting physical and psychological harm that reverberates through individuals, families, and neighborhoods.

“More officers and minor fixes are not a remedy for the abuse and poor conditions faced by the thousands of people who are churned through city jails. Brooklyn Community Bail Fund has witnessed Rikers Island and other jails across the city deteriorate into an acute human rights crisis as we’ve battled the punitive bail and pretrial systems that disproportionately harm New Yorkers who are immigrants, Black, Latinx, and LGBTQIA. The common sense solution is to stop sending people into these jails so that they can be shut down and we can focus our resources on community-led responses to violence,” **says Carl Hamad-Lipscombe, Executive Director of Brooklyn Community Bail Fund.**

Jails have always been—and will continue to be—sites of violence, trauma, and death. Yet, the number of people jailed continues to skyrocket. Every 30 minutes in New York City, someone is jailed, often because they cannot afford their bail. The only way to end the abuse and violence of incarceration is to free people now:

- **The New York Legislature must oppose any changes to bail reform that will result in an increase of the number of people eligible for money bail or pretrial detention**—and uphold this commitment when the legislative session resumes in January. In the meantime, we expect them to speak out in support of decarceration and against fearmongering attempts to justify increased jailing that costs New Yorkers who are immigrants, Black, Latinx, and LGBTQIA their lives.

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- **New York's elected district attorneys must cease requesting bail and remand on all cases at arraignment.** DAs are top law enforcement officers with powerful influence on the criminal legal system and their decisions to keep prosecuting and requesting bail directly fuel the incarceration crisis.
- **New York's judges must use their discretionary power to grant release requests and stop sending people to Rikers.** When the dangers of jailing have never been more clear, the practice of trapping people in jail with unaffordable bail in response to manufactured violent crime narratives from law enforcement and media has never been more reprehensible.

To do anything less than above will demonstrate a lack of commitment to the freedom and safety of New Yorkers. If safe communities are our shared goal and responsibility, we cannot allow bail, pretrial detention, and jailing to continue.

Brooklyn Community Bail Fund works alongside impacted communities to dismantle the oppressive and interconnected criminal legal and immigration systems. With freedom as our guiding principle, we invest in innovative campaigns and programs that aim to win long-term, transformative change, while meeting the urgent needs of community members in the present.

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