



Envision Freedom Fund

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 22, 2022

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**ENVISION FREEDOM FUND DECRIES LATEST DEATHS AT RIKERS,
CALLS FOR DECARCERATION**

New York, NY— On June 20, Anibal Carrasquillo died while incarcerated on Rikers Island, in the custody of New York City’s Department of Correction (DOC). Before we could finish writing this statement, we learned Albert Drye died in DOC custody on June 21. Twenty-four people have died in DOC custody since the beginning of 2021; eight have died in the past 6 months alone. The horrendous conditions at Rikers Island are nothing less than deadly. If New York City is to address this blatant humanitarian crisis and ensure safety for all its residents, prosecutors and judges must stop sending New Yorkers to Rikers and those currently incarcerated must be immediately released.

“Our deepest condolences go out to the families who are grieving the unnecessary, heartless deaths of their loved ones while in Department of Correction custody at Rikers Island. We are with you,” said **Carl Hamad-Lipscombe, executive director at Envision Freedom Fund**. “To knowingly send human beings to an institution that is averaging more than one death per month is unconscionable. The inhumane conditions at Rikers are endemic to the jail itself and the criminal legal system as a whole. Another committee, another report, or a federal takeover won’t save lives or keep our communities safe—we need releases and we need them now.”

“While New Yorkers are bombarded with misinformation about bail reform, prosecutors continue to request bail and judges continue to abuse their discretion to send more people to jail pretrial,” added **Angel Parker, coordinator of the Court Watch NYC program at Envision Freedom Fund**. “Sending people into deadly jail conditions is a choice that we cannot allow to be made any longer. We need releases and accountability.”

Envision Freedom Fund (formerly 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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