

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AGING REENTRY TASK FORCE
AND ELDERS RELEASED FROM NEW YORK STATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES**

Whereas it has become clear that there is a crisis in the New York State correctional system, with rising numbers of older people spending long terms behind bars;

Whereas many of these incarcerated elders pose no risk to public safety and are being or will be released on parole;

Whereas the continued incarceration of just one person over the age of 50 who poses no risk to public safety costs the taxpayers of New York State between \$120,000 and \$240,000 per year (as compared with \$60,000 for a younger incarcerated person);

Whereas 46% of these elders, while incarcerated in facilities throughout the state, are members of the New York City community and will return here;

Whereas these released elders are members of the community represented by Community Board 10, with needs similar to those of the community as a whole;

Whereas it is the responsibility and the privilege of Community Board 10 to support our entire community, and for the public safety issues of Manhattan Community Board 10, to support the more elderly and vulnerable among our community;

Whereas these elders, like other people released from incarceration, can thrive and live productive, law-abiding lives if they can get the benefit of appropriate resources and training;

Whereas a large number of organizations, including the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Services (DOCCS), New York City Department of Corrections (DOCS), New York City Department of Probation (DOP), the Public Advocate's Office, the New York Mayor's Office, the New York City Department of Aging (DFTA), and many others, have come together as the Aging Reentry Task Force and have created a model pilot program and resource guide for elders upon release from prison;

Whereas this pilot program makes use of and necessitates awareness and support from key services and resources for the elderly in Manhattan Community Board 10 and other New York City communities;

Whereas Manhattan Community Board 10 intends to provide leadership for all the city's community boards on support for the aging community;

Therefore be it **RESOLVED** that Community Board 10-Manhattan supports the Aging Reentry Task Force model and will hold educational and other meetings to make certain that our community understands the needs of elders released from prison and can help to reintegrate them into our community.

Be it further **RESOLVED** that Manhattan Community Board 10 supports the release of such elders in order that public funds and resources not be wasted by holding behind bars people who do not pose risk to our safety; and that such funds and resources can better be applied to programs that can actually enhance the safety and health of our community and all of New York City.

June 17, 2017

by Henrietta Lyle, Chairperson, Community Board 10-Manhattan
Tamar Martin, Chairperson, Public Safety Committee of Community Board 10-Manhattan