

September 28, 2020

**Honorable Governor Andrew M. Cuomo**  
**110 State Street**  
**Albany, NY 12207**

Dear Governor Cuomo,

We, the undersigned candidates for New York County District Attorney, urge you to release aging people from New York State prisons using your executive clemency power.

Since the year 2000, the number of incarcerated older people, aged 50 and older has doubled, and now stands at roughly 9,000 people--more than 20 percent of the state prison population in New York. The vast majority of these incarcerated elders are Black or Latinx people who have spent years and decades in prison transforming their lives, and who pose minimal risk to public safety upon release.

While our state is facing a dire financial crisis, New York taxpayers collectively dole out between \$100,000 and \$240,000 to incarcerate one elder person per year. The price tag of incarcerating all older people in our state's prison system amounts to nearly \$1B year--a particularly high cost for such a low risk population.

In the wake of COVID-19, the need to release incarcerated older people is perhaps greater than ever before. People in prison are generally at dramatically increased risk of contracting the virus, and incarcerated elders are significantly more likely to be killed by it. Compared to several other states, New York has not taken the steps needed to stop the spread of the virus behind bars, and mitigate the specific harm it causes incarcerated older people. For example, California Governor Gavin Newsom has committed to releasing more than 8,000 high-risk incarcerated individuals amidst COVID.

Beyond the urgency of this moment, there is no reason why older people should languish in prison for additional years and decades, and until death. Even many older people convicted of serious crimes of interpersonal violence have transformed their lives and are destined to serve and support communities across our state that they once harmed.

We urge you to exercise your executive clemency powers to free all elder prisoners, including those convicted of more serious crimes, unless there is an overwhelming and individualized reason to keep them incarcerated based on who they are today. We call on

you to take this critical action in the name of public health, community safety, and racial justice.

Signed,

Tahanie Aboushi,



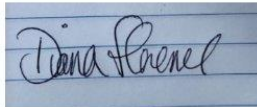
**TAHANIE** FOR **DA**

Alvin Bragg,



**ALVIN BRAGG**  
DEMOCRAT FOR MANHATTAN DA

Diana Florence,



**DIANA**  
FLORENCE  
FOR MANHATTAN DA

Lucy Lang,



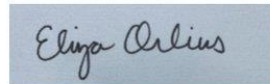
VOTE **LUCY LANG**  
MANHATTAN DA

Janos Marton,



**JANOS MARTON**  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
MANHATTAN

Eliza Orlins,



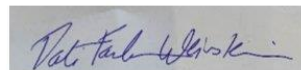
**ELIZA**  
ORLINS  
For Manhattan District Attorney

Daniel Quart,



**DAN QUART**  
FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Tali Farhadian Weinstein,



**TALI FARHADIAN WEINSTEIN**  
FOR MANHATTAN DA