



**ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON CORRECTION
ASSEMBLY SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSITIONAL SERVICES**

NOTICE OF JOINT PUBLIC HEARING

SUBJECT: Devising a Smart Supportive Housing Strategy for Ex-Offenders upon Reentry

PURPOSE: To examine the barriers to housing after incarceration and identify solutions to increase availability of temporary, short-term and permanent housing for ex-offenders

NEW YORK CITY

Monday
June 13th, 2016
10:00 A.M.
250 Broadway
New York, New York

ORAL TESTIMONY BY INVITATION ONLY

Public safety depends on the successful reentry of formerly incarcerated persons. Stable housing, along with education and employment, are significant factors in reducing recidivism and ending the costly cycle of re-offense and re-incarceration.

Unfortunately, there are too few housing resources in New York for persons exiting the criminal justice system. The lack of suitable housing puts well over 26,000 New Yorkers exiting state prisons each year, and a significant number of more than 80,000 inmates exiting local jails, at a high risk of homelessness and recidivism.

Significant numbers of prisoners are being released to the shelter system while others are sent to halfway houses and three-quarter houses. Finally, housing discrimination in affordable and market-rate housing is still a major issue. Because affordable housing is scarce, people with criminal records are often the first to be shut out.

A critical part of the solution is to provide supportive housing, a proven, cost-effective vehicle for stopping the revolving door of homelessness and incarceration. In combination with the expansion of affordable housing units, making integrated supportive services available to ex-offenders in the form of an ample supply of supportive housing overall, with a reasonable number of spots targeted for ex-offenders, will ensure that people with histories of homelessness – facing persistent obstacles such as serious mental illness, substance use disorders, or chronic medical problems – are able to maintain their housing. (Currently, New York does not include ex-offenders as one of its target populations for supportive housing.)

This hearing will examine the specific problems underlying the lack of housing for persons returning home from prison and jails, receive recommendations and identify safe and appropriate solutions including those which require legislative action.

Because of time limitations, the Committees will, unfortunately, not be able to accommodate all parties whose desire it is to present oral testimony. But the committees invite all those who wish to submit written testimony and/or to attend to do so. Your insights and recommendations are highly valued and essential for our deliberations. Written testimony will be given equal weight to testimony presented orally.

Persons invited to present pertinent testimony to the Committees should complete and return the enclosed reply form as soon as possible. It is important that the reply form be fully completed and returned so that persons may be notified in the event of emergency postponement or cancellation.

Oral testimony will be accepted by invitation only and limited to **ten (10)** minutes' duration. In preparing the order of witnesses, the Committees will attempt to accommodate individual requests to speak at particular times in view of special circumstances. These requests should be made on the attached reply form or communicated to the Committees' staff as early as possible.

Ten (10) copies of any prepared testimony should be submitted at the hearing registration desk. The Committees would appreciate advance receipt of prepared statements. In order to further publicize these hearings, please inform interested parties and organizations of the Committees' hearing.

In order to meet the needs of those who may have a disability, the Assembly, in accordance with its policy of non-discrimination on the basis of disability, as well as the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), has made its facilities and services available to all individuals with disabilities. For individuals with disabilities, accommodations will be provided, upon reasonable request, to afford such individuals access and admission to Assembly facilities and activities.

DANIEL J. O'DONNELL
Member of Assembly
Chair
Committee on Correction

LUIS SEPULVEDA
Member of Assembly
Chair
Subcommittee on Transitional Services

PUBLIC HEARING REPLY FORM

Persons invited to and wishing to present testimony at the joint public hearing on Devising a Smart Supportive Housing Strategy for Ex-Offenders upon Reentry are requested to complete this reply form as soon as possible and mail, email or fax it to:

Tana Agostini
Senior Legislative Analyst
Assembly Committee on Corrections
Room 513 - Capitol
Albany, New York 12248
Email: agostinit@assembly.state.ny.us
Phone: (518) 455-4313
Fax: (518) 455-7083

- I plan to attend the joint public hearing on Devising a Smart Supportive Housing Strategy for Ex-Offenders upon Reentry to be conducted by the Assembly Committee on Correction and the Assembly Subcommittee on Transitional Services Monday, June 13, 2016, in New York City.
- I have been invited to testify and would like to make a public statement at the joint hearing. My statement will be limited to ten (10) minutes, and I will answer any questions which may arise. I will provide ten (10) copies of my prepared statement.
- I will address my remarks to the following subjects:

- I do not plan to attend the above hearing.
- I would like to be added to the Committees' mailing lists for notices/reports.
- I would like to be removed from the Committees' mailing lists.
- I will require assistance and/or handicapped accessibility information.

Please specify the type of assistance required:

IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND, YOU MUST BRING A FORM OF PHOTO IDENTIFICATION

NAME:

TITLE:

ORGANIZATION:

ADDRESS:

E-MAIL:

FAX TELEPHONE/TELEPHONE:
