



For Immediate Release
November 8, 2007

New York City Department of Correction
60 Hudson Street
New York, New York
Martin F. Horn, Commissioner

Contact:
Stephen J. Morello, Deputy Commissioner
212-266-1414 (office)

“Commissioner Horn Welcomes Board of Correction Revision of Security-Related Jail Standards”

"The preeminent right of every inmate in our custody is the right to be safe. The same is true for our staff. We are proud of our safety record and the indisputable fact that New York City jails are safer today than they have ever been. In amending the minimum standards for the City's jails, the Board of Correction today took important and long overdue action in the name of safety for the inmates and our staff in the jails and the public outside them.

“Recording and monitoring inmate telephone calls will help avert situations in which inmates threaten witnesses and plan criminal activity in and outside the jails. Requiring all inmates, whether convicted or detained for trial, to wear institutional clothing will help reduce the availability of contraband drugs and weapons in the jails, reduce the violence that occurs when inmates argue over desirable civilian clothes, and help prevent escape. Promptly restricting inmate mail and packages when public or jail safety is thought to be jeopardized will make all citizens safer. All of these practices are already in place in every other jail in New York State and most major jail systems in the nation and have been proven effective.

“And these new policies will help us to keep our jails safe for the public, our staff and more than 100,000 inmates who come into our custody every year. We will move thoughtfully to implement them in a way that protects inmate rights but also achieves our goal of safety. I applaud Chairperson Hildy Simmons and the membership of the Board of Correction for the methodical, inclusive and temperate approach to revising the standards for the first time since they were implemented 30 years ago.”