

# SMALLER SAFER FAIRER

## ACCOMPLISHED IN THE LAST MONTH:

**1 SMALLER** In May, the average daily jail population fell below 8,500—the lowest population since January 1981. As the population continues to fall dramatically, the average yearly decline has nearly doubled. From May 2016 to May 2017, the jail population fell about 5%; from May 2017 to May 2018, the population fell by 9%.

**2 SAFER** The Department of Correction opened its first ever housing area dedicated to military veterans. The Veterans' Unit will offer those who have served in the U.S. armed forces a series of enrichment programs tailor-made to their history of service, with the ultimate goal of offering a comprehensive and specific reentry plan.

**3 FAIRER** First Lady Chirlane McCray and the Department of Correction launched a pilot that allows mothers who are currently incarcerated at Rikers Island to visit and participate in activities with their children at the Children's Museum of Manhattan.

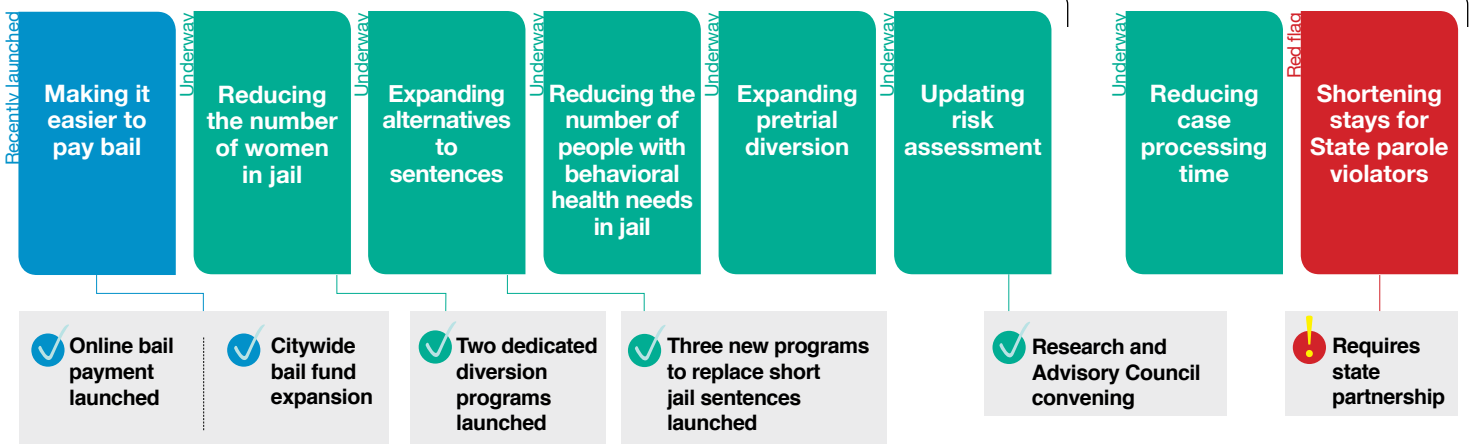
**4 TASK FORCE** This month, the Executive Steering Committee met and discussed ideas for those who cycle in and out of city jails, hospitals and homeless shelters. The Design and Culture Change Working Groups discussed strategies to improve visit experiences and the Population Reduction Working Group focused on the current landscape of alternative to incarceration programs.

## UPDATES ON THE STRATEGIES IN THE CITY'S ROADMAP TO CLOSING RIKERS ISLAND:

### 1 SMALLER SAFELY REDUCING THE SIZE OF THE JAIL POPULATION

Reduce number of people who enter jail

Reduce length of stay



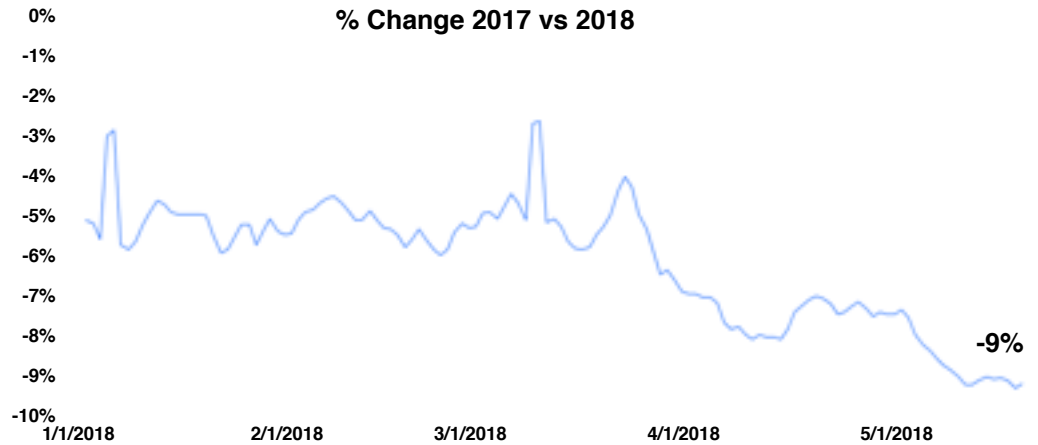
# 1 SMALLER

## SAFELY REDUCING THE SIZE OF THE JAIL POPULATION

### JAIL POPULATION REACHES HISTORIC LOWS

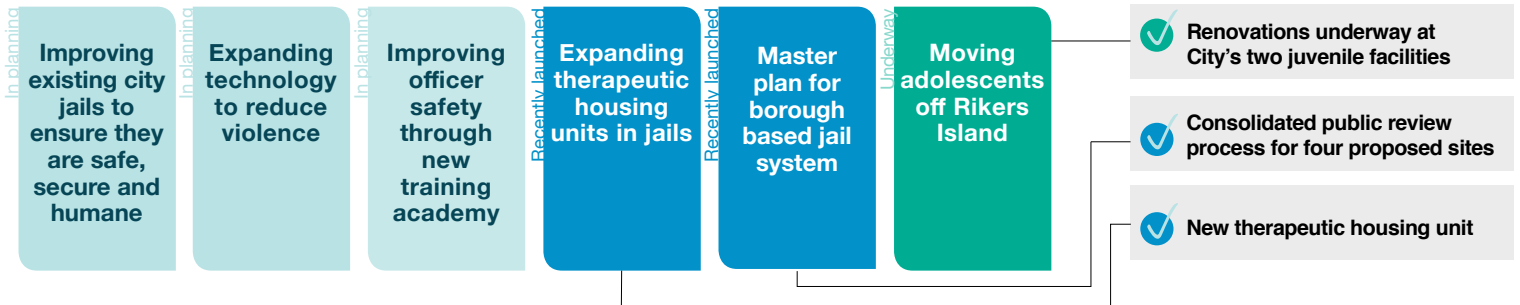
Since the Mayor took office, the jail population has fallen by 22%. This month, the average daily population was 8402, the lowest it has been since January 1981. The yearly rate of decline has nearly doubled in the past two years: from May 2016 to May 2017, the jail population fell about 5%; from May 2017 to May 2018, the population fell by 9%. The rest of the populations, with the exception of state parole violators, are also down. In May, the number of adolescents in city custody dropped below 100 people for the first time in decades.

The jail population has declined at twice the yearly rate in 2018 as it did in 2017.



# 2 SAFER

## CREATING SAFE AND HUMANE ENVIRONMENTS



### NEW VETERANS HOUSING UNIT

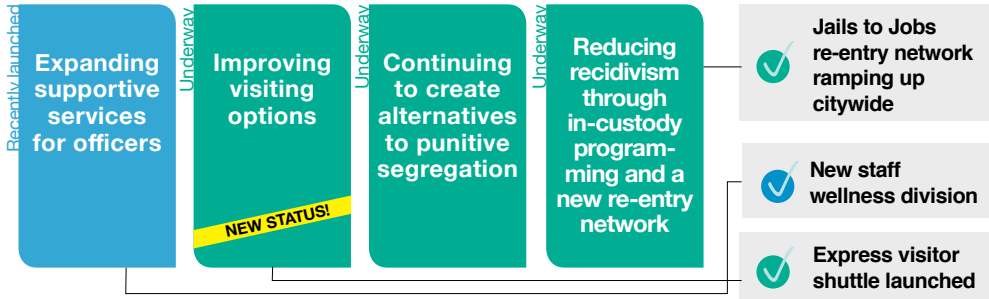
The Department of Correction opened the first ever housing area dedicated to military veterans. The Veterans Unit at the Anna M. Kross Center will offer those who have served in the U.S. armed forces a series of enrichment programs tailor-made to their history of service. Those programs will include work with correction officers and counselors with military experience, as well as coordination with the New York City Department of Veterans Services and other veterans' groups. The ultimate goal is to offer a comprehensive reentry plan designed around their shared experience of serving the United States.

"Veterans share a unique bond that serves as a foundation for what can be a transformational social support network. The New York City Department of Veterans Services applauds the Department of Correction for dedicating this housing area devoted to veterans and tailoring programs and services to their particular strengths and challenges. We look forward to working together on this historic endeavor."

**NYC Department of Veterans Services Commissioner Loree Sutton**

# 3 FAIRER

## CHANGING THE CULTURE AND PURPOSE OF JAILS



### PERSPECTIVES FROM OUR PARTNERS

“By allowing children to connect with their incarcerated mothers in an appropriate environment, the City is taking steps to improve the re-entry process. As we focus on the closure of Rikers Island, these initiatives are critical to supporting mothers and families impacted by the criminal justice system.”

**Council Member Keith Powers, chair of the Criminal Justice Committee**

### FAMILY VISITS AT CHILDREN’S MUSEUM OF MANHATTAN

First Lady Chirlane McCray this month announced a groundbreaking pilot program designed to allow mothers currently incarcerated at Rikers Island to visit and participate in activities with their children at the Children’s Museum of Manhattan (CMOM). The program, part of the \$6 million investment to break the cycle of incarceration for women, brings select mothers, children, and their custodial caregivers to the museum when it is closed to the public. Parents and children will participate in arts activities designed to support bonding and ease the trauma of separation. The custodial caregivers that participate in the pilot program will receive a CMOM membership, which will be renewed free of charge when the incarcerated mothers return home.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The progress towards closing Rikers and building a smaller, safer, and fairer justice system could not have been possible without the partnership of individuals and organizations dedicated to making this change. [Click here for a list of partners.](#)