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March 27th, 2020

GOVERNOR ANDREW CUOMO, COMMISSIONER ANTHONY ANNUCCI,
SUPERINTENDENT MCCARTHY, OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS,
INMATE GRIEVANCE RESOLUTION COMMITTEE, CENTRAL NEW YORK
PSYCHIATRIC CENTER, CHIEF MEDICAL DIRECTOR MORLEY

Subject: Help Stop the Spread of the Corona Virus in N.Y. Prisons!
Reason: Phone Calls, Wifi, Video Chat from the Ipad Tablet.

DEAR GOVERNOR ANDREW CUOMO, COMMISSIONER ANTHONY ANNUCCI, SUPERINTENDENT
MCCARTHY, OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS, INMATE GRIEVANCE
RESOLUTION COMMITTEE, CENTRAL NEW YORK PSYCHIATRIC CENTER,
CHIEF MEDICAL DIRECTOR MORLEY,

At the time of this writing I am housed in the Solitary
Confinement unit at Auburn Correctional Facility. I write to all of
you in the hopes that you will (seriously) consider the suggestions
I put forth here in order to Help Stop the Spread of the Corona
Virus in N.Y. Prisons!

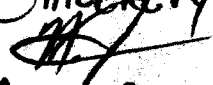
1) First, to prevent prisoners in general population and
solitary confinement from spreading the virus through the repetitive

USE of the same phone by multiple prisoners, I am calling on all of you - on behalf of myself, and all other prisoners in the State of N.Y. - to activate the system that allows prisoners to make phone calls from their very own personal computer tablet. The Tablets, and the service that allows prisoners to make calls, are already available in N.Y. prisons. It just has to be turned on. Likewise, we are asking you to turn on the Wifi system in the State prisons such that multiple prisoners do not have to use the same kiosk to send out emails. They can do so right from their tablet in their cell, and again, the service is already available, it just needs to be turned on. Because of the Corona Virus, all visits, packages, and mail has been suspended indefinitely in N.Y. State and turning on the Wifi and phone system in the Tablets will allow prisoners to communicate with their family, friends, lawyers and advocates until the prison system reopens. In addition, to replace physical visits (for now), we are asking that you turn on the "Video Chat" option in the Tablet that allows prisoners to do Facetime with their loved ones. Lastly, but most importantly, we are asking to specifically allow for these changes to apply to prisoners held in solitary confinement as well, as we have significantly less contact with the outside world than general population. Finally, phone calls, emails and Facetime should be unlimited so long as the prisoner can pay for the service, but for indigent prisoners, 1 half hour phone call, 5 free emails and 2 Video Chat sessions should be made available free of charge.

2) Second, we are asking that you allow prisoners in Solitary Confinement to receive food packages from home or, in the alternative, to purchase \$75.00 in food per month from the prison commissary to avoid having to eat from the prison messhall where the virus could easily end up in the food supply chain. Prisoners in general population are allowed to purchase \$150.00 worth of food per month, whereas prisoners in solitary can only purchase \$5.00 worth of food per month and that's only once you have been in solitary for at least 3 months with no new disciplinary infractions. The unsanitary nature of the prison messhall has now only been increased by the threat of the Corona Virus and allowing solitary prisoners to purchase sealed food products can lessen its potential spread. For indigent prisoners, we are requesting \$20.00 a month in free commissary purchases.

3) Third, we are asking that you convert all solitary confinement units in the State of N.Y. to keeplock units. In 2016, Governor Cuomo and Anthony Annucci started slowly implementing changes to solitary confinement, but the ultimate goal amongst the experts and advocates that study solitary was to either end it completely or to convert it to keeplock, where prisoners would be entitled to all of their personal property, commissary, phone calls, visits, etc... but will still be confined to a cell and kept away from general population because of recent bad behavior. If there was ever a time to implement these changes it should be now! As stated previously, I am currently housed in solitary confinement in Auburn C.F. and the level of stress, anxiety, aggression, depression and suicide attempts are starting to rise ever since our visits,

packages and mail was taken from us. PRISONERS want to talk to their family members and they are willing to go to any extent to achieve that, including refusing to eat and setting their cells on fire. It has been medically proven that stress weakens the immune system and so the more stress we are under in here only makes us more susceptible to catching the virus and not being able to fight it off. Therefore, converting the solitary confinement units to keeplock and giving us our privileges will offset the stress we are under as a result of the loss of visits, mail, packages, etc... In conclusion, we are asking every person and every organization in receipt of this letter to please call, email, text, skype or write to the officials listed on page 1 of this letter and advocate that they implement these changes as soon as realistically possible.

Sincerely,


P.S. Just before mailing this letter, I am informed that Southport Correctional Facility has began to allow prisoners to make calls from their tablets. If this is true, it most certainly should be available Statewide.

CC: PRISONERS Legal Services, The F.O.C.I.S. Movement, Correctional Association of N.Y., N.Y. Civil Liberties Union, Disability Advocates, Commission on Corrections, Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs, Urban Justice Center, Prisoners Rights Organization, Solitary Watch, Center for Disease Control, World Health Organization, Department of Health, F.A.M.M., JPay.