

To contact DA Cy Vance:

Call: 212-335-9000

Email: vancec@dany.nyc.gov

Sample Email Script:

Dear District Attorney Vance,

As the Coronavirus spreads widely through New York City and State, it is clear that those incarcerated in New York City jails are in particular danger. They are housed in close proximity to each other and have limited medical care and very few cleaning supplies (if any at all). I implore you to heed the calls of public health professionals, detained individuals and their families, and concerned citizens such as myself to release everyone currently held in DOC custody. Coronavirus is already spreading throughout Rikers Island and it will only get worse if we do not act now. Folks inside the Rikers Island jails are aware of this, which has already led to at least one labor and hunger prison strike.

For the health and safety of those currently incarcerated, as well as the larger New York population, it is imperative that you utilize your unique powers to let incarcerated people go back to their families and communities. This is not only the most ethical course of action, but it is also the most rational: each day folks remain in DOC custody, the worse this pandemic becomes for everyone in New York.

Many individuals and organizations have drawn attention to this crisis, including the mayor's office, your own office, the interim Department of Corrections Chairwoman, and the Chief Medical Officer of Correctional Health Services. Ross MacDonald, the head physician at Rikers Island, has warned us all that "a storm is coming," but as each day passes, it becomes more obvious that this storm is already here. Please do the right thing, and let these people go home, where they can be safe, and keep our city safer from the very real threat of a disease that could easily overwhelm New York's limited medical resources.

I would ask that in conjunction with releasing everyone in DOC custody, you would specifically consider the case of David Campbell. David is a friend to many and a fixture of the New York activist community. He is currently serving a sentence of 18 months in Rikers Island as the result of attending a political protest against far-right hate speech. David has been a model inmate and is currently involved in organizing cleaning crews in his unit to help keep other incarcerated folks safe. Nonetheless, I am worried for his safety, know that he is not a threat to others, and that there are many New Yorkers [such as myself] who would provide the resources necessary to ensure that he has a smooth transition home.

Now more than ever, we have to help and support each other, and releasing those in DOC custody is a crucial step in doing that. I hope that you can make the ethical decision to do the right thing.

Thank you.

[Name]

[We would suggest supplying your address and contact info if you have a NYC address and/or feel comfortable doing so, but you don't have to.]

Sample Phone Script:

My name is _____ and I'm calling with an urgent message for DA Vance. As the Coronavirus spreads widely through New York City and State, it is clear that those incarcerated in New York City jails are in particular danger. They are housed in close proximity to each other and have limited medical care and very few cleaning supplies (if any at all). Coronavirus is already spreading throughout Rikers Island and this will only get worse if we do not act now and let all incarcerated individuals go home. Each day folks remain in DOC custody, the worse this pandemic becomes for the health and safety of not only those in Rikers Island, but everyone in New York. Folks inside the Rikers Island jails are aware of this, which has already led to at least one labor and hunger prison strike.

I would ask that in conjunction with releasing everyone in DOC custody, you would specifically consider the case of David Campbell. David is a friend to many and a fixture of the New York activist community. He is currently serving a sentence of 18 months in Rikers Island as the result of attending a political protest against far-right hate speech. David has been a model inmate and is currently involved in organizing cleaning crews in his unit to help keep other incarcerated folks safe. Nonetheless, I am worried for his safety, know that he is not a threat to others, and that there are many New Yorkers [such as myself] who would provide the resources necessary to ensure that he has a smooth transition home.

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Thank you.

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