

## The New York City Department of Correction

### **New York City Department of Correction Graduation Ceremony**

# Latest Academy Graduation Reflects Improvements in Work-Life Balance for City Correction Officers

**MANHATTAN, NY**—The New York City Department of Correction's latest academy graduating class was sworn in today at the <u>Hulu Theater at Madison Square Garden</u>, as 815 recruit officers stood and took the oath of office. This marks the first time since August 2014 that an academy class was smaller than its predecessor, reflecting the city's success at a hiring initiative meant to alleviate staffing shortages, and improve safety and work-life balance for the uniformed officers who perform one of the city's most difficult jobs in the law enforcement community.

Forty percent of the Department's workforce has been hired over the last four years, and the June 2018 class strengthens the Department's unparalleled commitment to diversity within its ranks. The class is 38% African American, 32% Hispanic, 18% Caucasian, 10% Asian, 1% Indian, less than 1% Arabic and less than 1% other ethnicities. The Recruit Candidate Officers come from all walks of life, each with a special journey to the Academy and the desire to serve the public.

"Tomorrow, as you begin the duties you have been prepared to assume, remember that every interaction you have throughout the day reflects your character and spreads your reputation," **Department of Correction Commissioner Cynthia Brann** told the class during the graduation ceremony. "My advice to you is this: know your job and do your job with courage and confidence. Never take action based on emotion. Do not become complacent – remain inquisitive and vigilant. Seek out others who are motivated to excel. And serve with compassion- for none of us are without fault."

**First Deputy Mayor Dean Fuleihan** attended the ceremony and delivered remarks. "I'm so proud of New York City Department of Correction's latest graduating Academy class – you are some of the bravest and brightest men and women this city has to offer," the first deputy mayor said. "We want you to know how much we value you and the mission you're undertaking today. Almost half of the current workforce was newly hired over the last four years. That's because we know you're sharper, more effective and safer when you have a full team sharing the workload. And we will not stop with this class. We will continue recruiting tirelessly and investing in safety

improvements to make sure you have the support you need. Thank you for your service – the whole city stands behind you."

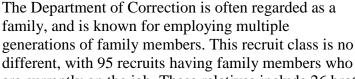
Also in attendance and addressing the audience was special guest <u>City Council Member Keith</u> <u>Powers</u>, Chair of the New York City Council Committee on Criminal Justice. "By joining New York's Boldest, the men and women graduating today will play an essential role in our criminal justice system and help to solve one of the largest challenges in the City," said Council Member Powers. "I congratulate them on their graduation and wish them the best in their new careers."

The class joins a Department that has been rapidly modernizing and reforming under the de Blasio administration. During the six months that the graduates were training, DOC saw the launch of seven initiatives and projects that represent best correctional practices:

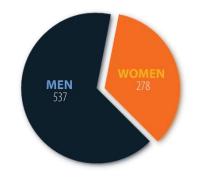
- <u>Increased security measures to improve safety for correction officers:</u> funded with \$5 million by the de Blasio administration, the initiative includes dedicated Emergency Services Unit teams placed at select facilities and cooperation with the NYPD Gang Intelligence Bureau to disrupt gang activity.
- Compliance and Safety Center (CASC): streamlines, enhances, and ensures compliance with standards in safety and security. The CASC is an integrated command post which aids in rapid-response efforts to help keep staff and detainees safe by leveraging the Department's 100% camera coverage for review in real time.
- Free, express visitor buses to Rikers Island: nonstop service to Rikers Island from Brooklyn and Harlem to assist family and friends visiting loved ones in custody.
- First Lady of New York City & DOC visitation program partnership with the Children's Museum of Manhattan: facilitates detainee maternal bonding with their children through activities and shared experiences at the Children's Museum of Manhattan.
- <u>Veterans' Housing Unit</u>: first-ever housing area exclusively for military veterans offers treatment focused on the unique needs of this population and is staffed with officers from a military background.
- New York Public Library launches its 2<sup>nd</sup> library at a DOC facility, the Manhattan Detention Complex: the 654-square-foot space, with approximately 1,400 books, brings new opportunities for knowledge and growth to detainees.
- First Lady's \$6 million investment to break cycle of incarceration for women in NYC: expands programming which supports family connections and resilience, enhances critical behavioral health services and creates a network of re-entry services that help women and their families stabilize and prevent future returns to jail.

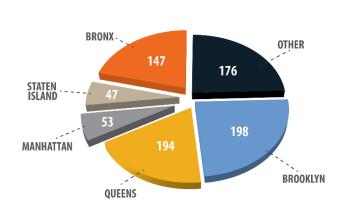
#### **About the Graduating Class**

The graduating class of 537 men and 278 women comes from a wide range of backgrounds. This diverse class possesses the combined educational expertise of 5 master's degrees, 162 bachelor's degrees, and 161 associate's degree. The class has 77 members with a military background.



are currently on the job. These relatives include 26 brothers, 15 sisters, 14 cousins, 14 mothers, 8 fathers, 6 aunts, 3 brothers-in law, 2 husbands, 2 grandmothers, 2 uncles, 2 domestic partners and 1 wife.





The class includes recruit officers from every borough with Brooklyn – at 198 – contributing the largest number, and 194 from Queens, 147 from the Bronx, 53 from Manhattan, and 47 from Staten Island. The class also includes 176 from other areas, which include Nassau County (69), Suffolk County (46) and Westchester (37), among others. The class valedictorian is Officer Passmore. The salutatorian is Officer Treglia.

#### **About the New York City Department of Correction**

The New York City Department of Correction (DOC) provides for the care, custody, and control of persons accused of crimes or convicted and sentenced to one year or less of jail time. The Department manages 12 inmate facilities, nine of which are located on Rikers Island. In addition, the Department operates two hospital Prison Wards (Bellevue and Elmhurst hospitals) and court holding facilities in each borough. During Fiscal Year 2017, the Department handled over 58,000 admissions and managed an average daily inmate population of approximately 9,500 individuals. Our dedicated workforce of both uniformed and non-uniformed staff members represent the city's BOLDEST.

#### A Selection of Recent Media Coverage

- June 19 NYC's First Lady Chirlane McCray and DOC host 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Baby Shower Reuniting Incarcerated Mothers with their Children
- May 24 NYC's First Lady Chirlane McCray visits female inmates at Rikers
- May 19 Rikers Island inmates get a taste of ancient Greece

- May 2 The New York Public Library and New York City Department of Correction Celebrate Grand Opening of New Library at Manhattan Detention Complex
- May 1 First Lady Chirlane McCray, Department of Correction and Children's Museum of Manhattan Launch Pilot Program to Unite Families of Incarcerated Women
- April 25- DOC launches free, express visitor bus service to Rikers Island
- April 12 Department of Correction Opens First Ever Housing Area Exclusively for Military Veterans