

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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MARK NUNEZ, et al.,	:
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Plaintiffs,	:
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- against -	:
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CITY OF NEW YORK, et al.,	:
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Defendants.	:
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	: 11 Civ. 5845 (LTS)(JCF)
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	:
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	:
	:
Plaintiff-Intervenor,	:
	:
- against -	:
	:
CITY OF NEW YORK and NEW YORK CITY	:
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION,	:
	:
Defendants.	:
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STIPULATION AND ORDER
REGARDING 16- AND 17-YEAR-OLD ADOLESCENT
OFFENDERS AT HORIZON JUVENILE CENTER

This Stipulation and Order (“Stipulation”) is entered by and among the Plaintiff Class, Plaintiff the United States of America (the “United States”), and Defendants the City of New York (the “City”) and the New York City Department of Correction (the “Department” or “DOC”) (the City and the Department are collectively referred to herein as the “Defendants”).

WHEREAS, on October 21, 2015, this Court entered a Consent Judgment (Dkt. No. 249) in this matter requiring the Defendants to take specific actions to remedy a pattern and practice of violence against incarcerated individuals, and to develop and implement new practices, policies, and procedures designed to reduce violence in the jails and ensure the safety and well-being of incarcerated individuals;

WHEREAS, on April 10, 2017, the State of New York passed legislation (known as the “Raise the Age Law”) that raised the age of criminal responsibility to 18 years of age and created a new category of offenders called “Adolescent Offenders,” which are defined as 16- or 17-year-olds who are charged with a felony-level offense, *see* Criminal Procedure Law 1.20 (44);

WHEREAS, the Raise the Age Law was implemented in stages. The new category of offenders applied to any 16-year-old youth charged on or after October 1, 2018, and any 17-year-old youth charged on or after October 1, 2019. All 16- and 17-year-old youth charged before October 1, 2018, and any 17-year-old youth charged between October 1, 2018 and September 30, 2019, were to still be processed as adults (collectively, “Pre-Raise the Age Youth”);

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Raise the Age Law, all 16- and 17-year-old incarcerated youth were required to be housed in a facility not located on Rikers Island as of October 1, 2018;

WHEREAS, starting in October 2018, all Pre-Raise the Age Youth were housed at the Horizon Juvenile Center (“Horizon”), a specialized secure juvenile detention facility located in the Bronx, New York, which was jointly operated by DOC and the New York City Administration for Children’s Services (“ACS”);

WHEREAS, the Monitor appointed under the Consent Judgment has been monitoring and reporting on the extent to which Defendants have complied with applicable provisions of the Consent Judgment with respect to Pre-Raise the Age Youth housed at Horizon;

WHEREAS, Horizon also has been used to house Adolescent Offenders during the last several months;

WHEREAS, as of July 26, 2020, there were no longer any Pre-Raise the Age Youth housed at Horizon, but the facility continues to house Adolescent Offenders;

WHEREAS, ACS has assumed day-to-day operations of Horizon, and DOC does not have any role in the day-to-day management of the facility;

WHEREAS, the City asserts that ACS’ approach to managing Adolescent Offenders at Horizon is premised upon a therapeutic model, whose main focus is engagement of youth in positive pro-social, therapeutic, educational and/or vocational activities; de-escalation of volatile engagements, and trusted communications with youth to support a positive forward-facing behavioral approach;

WHEREAS, the United States, the Plaintiff Class, and the City have a dispute concerning the extent to which certain provisions of the Consent Judgment should apply to Adolescent Offenders housed at Horizon going forward given that DOC is no longer involved in the day-to-day operations of the facility and the facility no longer houses Pre-Raise the Age Youth;

NOW, IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties and/or their respective counsel, and this Court THEREFORE ORDERS, as follows:

1. The City has voluntarily entered into the attached Agreement concerning the operation of Horizon and the management and supervision of Adolescent Offenders housed at that facility. During the term of the Agreement, the Monitor will file with the Court three public reports describing the efforts ACS has undertaken to implement the requirements of the Agreement and assessing the extent to which ACS has complied with these requirements, applying the standard for Compliance set forth in the Agreement. In addition, pursuant to the Agreement, ACS shall continue to consult with the Monitor and his team of experts who will, as necessary, provide technical assistance with respect to the implementation of the Agreement’s requirements and the adoption of best practices in the field of juvenile justice.

2. During the duration of the Agreement, which shall end when the Monitor files his third and final report under the Agreement, the Monitor shall not assess compliance with the Consent Judgment with respect to Adolescent Offenders and the Plaintiff Class and the United States shall not seek judicial action to enforce the Consent Judgment with respect to Adolescent Offenders.
3. In the event that the Monitor finds that the City and ACS are in Compliance with the requirements of the Agreement set forth in Paragraphs 2(a)-(k) during the final reporting period referenced in the Agreement, the Plaintiff Class, the United States, and the City shall file with the Court a stipulation and proposed Order stating that the Consent Judgment shall not apply to Adolescent Offenders going forward. The stipulation and proposed Order shall be filed with the Court within 30 days of the issuance of the final report filed by the Monitor.
4. If the event that Monitor finds that the City and ACS are not in Compliance with any of the requirements of the Agreement set forth in Paragraphs 2(a)-(k) during the final reporting period, the parties and the Monitor shall meet and confer within 30 days of the issuance of the final report to discuss whether the Agreement, or portions of the Agreement, should be extended or modified, or whether other steps should be taken to address areas that are not in Compliance. The parties shall make a good faith effort to reach an agreement. Nothing said by any party or counsel for any party during any and all meetings held pursuant to this Paragraph may be used by any party in subsequent litigation in this or any other lawsuit. If the parties do not reach an agreement within 45 days of the issuance of the final report, the parties may petition the Court for a conference and reserve their right to seek any relief from the Court. Nothing in this Stipulation shall be construed as a waiver of any party's right to take any position with respect to what extent, if any, the Consent Judgment may apply to Adolescent Offenders at the Court conference or thereafter.
5. Nothing in this Stipulation shall be construed to impact the applicability of the Consent Judgment to any Plaintiff Class member who is not an Adolescent Offender.

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