

ANTHONY NY MIRANDA

FOR QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT 2020



CRIMINAL JUSTICE: DECRIMINALIZATION OUR COMMUNITIES

Ending Mass Incarceration

- *Restorative justice is an [effective practice](#) that focuses on repairing the damage done by crime and rehabilitation of the accused through reconciliation with the harmed community and the victims of their crime.*
- Mass incarceration begins with local jails. Queens residents can be jailed for crimes related to poverty, mental illness, addiction, and because they can't post bail. Even a few days in jail can bring turmoil to families' lives.
- Instead of imprisoning people for many nonviolent or minor crimes, we will look to prevent individuals from committing crimes again by working with them, mediators, the victim(s), and the community to bring reconciliation between them through apologies, community service, monetary compensation, education, and other means.
- The offender should then be given access the government support, addiction treatment, counselors and mental health professionals to keep them from ending up back in the system and help them be productive members of society.

- For those convicted and serving time in prison for crimes, restorative justice can help them from going back to prison by supporting a successful entry. We must work to provide supports after they are released.
- This must include connections to support organizations, access to free public college, and affordable housing. We must also work to end the stigmatization of former convicts in the labor market and incentivize employers to hire former convicts.
- ***We will work to prevent crime in Queens by looking at the root of its causes. Its time for us to bring effective criminal justice to Queens and the rest of New York.***

Making Justice Equal

- ***Our criminal justice system needs to be restructured to stop criminalizing the poor, people of color, people with disabilities, the LGBTQIA+ community, and other marginalized groups.***
- ***We will work to decriminalize poverty.***
 - We will work to stop or remove [hostile architecture](#) designed to keep the homeless away from public spaces.
 - We will also work to stop ticketing for sleeping on trains and fare evasion, as part of our efforts to make housing a right and expand eligibility for NYC's Fair Fares program, and in the long term, make MTA rides to be fare-less and free.
 - We applaud the efforts [to end cash bail in New York](#), and with it, we will advocate implementing restorative justice practices to keep poorer residents out of jail and end mass incarceration practices.
- ***We need to better train and equip the NYPD to stop targeting minority groups and their neighborhoods.***
 - We will work to end broken window policing practices, [which has been shown to be ineffective](#). Instead, we must promote community and government investment to promote small business and homeownership, community parks and playgrounds, neighborhood cleanups, and creative spaces for graffiti and urban art.
 - We will work to require all officers to have proper de-escalation training and body cameras to prevent police brutality.
 - We will advocate to train NYPD officers to be aware of and combat their racial biases.
 - Any officer found misusing their power or using unnecessary force or violence should be terminated and face proper criminal or civil charges.
 - We will push for the NYPD and their precincts to recruit hires from their surrounding neighborhoods. With this initiative, we hope to make the NYPD as [racially and ethnically diverse as our neighborhoods and borough](#).

- ***We need to end the War on Drugs and decriminalize addiction.***
 - Addiction should be treated as an illness, not a crime. Many people that have fallen victim to addiction due to [opioid overprescription](#), [economic despair](#), [mental illness](#), hopelessness, and depression.
 - We will advocate for government-funded rehabilitation programs to work with law enforcement and help those who are nonviolent and want help by diverting them to social service programs and intensive case management.
 - We would be following the lead of [other cities](#), where drug users in similar programs were 58 percent less likely to be rearrested, twice as likely to have housing, and 46 percent more likely to be employed or getting job training. At the same time, the cost of these programs is cheaper than jail, courts, and costs associated with homelessness.

- ***We must work towards legalizing marijuana.***
 - (<https://citylimits.org/2009/07/20/hooked-four-decades-of-drug-war-in-new-york-city-marijuana/>)

- ***We must decriminalize sex work***
 - Many of the men, women, and children involved in this line of work are victims of sex trafficking and have been forced into it
 - Because sex work is illegal, its difficult for them to ask for help out of the work and getting away from their abusers and assailants
 - Talk about models in Europe where sex work is decriminalized, but buying sex services are illegal

- ***We need equitable emergency service to all Queens neighborhoods***
 - Emergency response, especially police response, in minority and working-class neighborhoods are slower and nonexistent.