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The Honorable Anthony Miranda  
Elected Queensborough President,  
Queens, NY 11422

Dear Anthony Miranda

My name is Roberta Gordon and I'm a student at Nyack College currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in Social Work. I'm currently taking a social welfare policy and services class. This class requires us to send a letter to an elected official. With the upcoming election I wanted to choose someone who spoke about the issues that mean the most to me. I've been living in Rosedale, New York all my life while growing up I realized that Queens needed a lot of help. The purpose of this letter is to thank you for all the plans you have for Queens. Especially the ones you have for the criminal justice system, homelessness and sex workers they are indeed prodigious.

As a black woman I have seen and experienced many injustices in the community. I've had friends who were jailed for crimes related to their economic status. Some were jailed because they had an addiction to marijuana. Every time I heard one of these stories it broke my heart because the individuals who were addicted to this drug were battling mental illness. They used the drug as a way to escape the pain of their harsh reality. You speak about advocating for them by getting government funded rehabs to work with law enforcement to help those who want the help. A lot of them do want the help but they don't know where to go. You also said in your proposal "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".. If we pin-point these problems I believe that the crime rate will decrease. So, I commend you for looking at the bigger picture.

As a working college student, I ride the trains frequently. While riding I come across at least 4 homeless people going to and from home. This breaks my heart what's even worse is I see them being mistreated by the cops. These people have nowhere to go and the one place they find comfort they are being forced to relocate and are given a ticket. This isn't right at all. You speak about stopping the homeless from receiving tickets and that's good, but I also think that the police should provide them with the resources that they need. Like location of shelters, food pantries and relief organizations. This would ensure that they aren't sleeping on the trains and it would allow them to get the things they need in to

You also mention decriminalizing sex work. A lot of people who are in the field of sex work don't want to be there and are victims of trafficking decriminalizing this will help them

have the courage to speak up. I also think that if you are decriminalizing sex work, you should make it mandatory for those who choose to work in this field get tested regularly. This would ensure that they are working cautiously and carefully and would reduce the spread of these diseases to the community

These changes that you plan to make will change the lives of members in the community. Thank you so much for all of the work you put into the community. Thank you, Anthony Miranda, for taking the time out to read my letter.

Sincerely,

Roberta Gordon