



CITIZENS CRIME COMMISSION
OF NEW YORK CITY

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Crime Commission Statement on Judge Lippman's State of the Judiciary

Applauds Youth Court proposal for juvenile justice reform

ALBANY, NY- Today Richard M. Aborn, President of the Citizens Crime Commission of New York City attended the State of the Judiciary where he was acknowledged by the Chief Judge, Jonathan Lippman, for his work to reform the criminal justice system's response to adolescent offenders. The Crime Commission and the New York Center for Juvenile Justice have been coordinating an effort to address and analyze various reform options to better serve adolescents who come in contact with the justice system. Judge Lippman proposed a new specialized Youth Court to address the unique needs of 16 and 17 year olds, currently deemed criminally responsible as adults under New York State law.

"Judge Lippman's announcement today about the creation of a Youth Court is a great leap forward in progressive juvenile justice reform. The Youth Court will bring the rehabilitative responses of the Family Court Act to the criminal justice system, allowing it to address the unique needs of 16 and 17 year olds without putting undue pressure on the Family Court system. The data is undeniable: diversion programs and alternatives to incarceration for non-violent young people are more effective in terms of cost and public safety. The justice system's current response to adolescents does not adequately address their needs and this comes at a great economic and social expense to taxpayers and society at large. I'm proud to work together with Judge Lippman, practitioners, and stakeholders to bring New York's justice system in line with the rest of the country," said Richard Aborn.

The "Youth Court Act" would establish new specialized courts within the jurisdiction of the Superior Court system, Supreme Court in New York City, and County Court in the rest of the state. In so doing, the Youth Court would have the options available in Family Court, which would allow it to more readily seek rehabilitative alternatives to incarceration and diversion programs.

The Citizens Crime Commission of New York City is a non-partisan non-profit organization working to make criminal justice and public safety policies and practices more effective through innovation, research, and education. In the last three decades, the Crime Commission has been a leader on key issues such as: increasing the size of the NYPD, expanding the use of DNA evidence in crime fighting, creating innovations that reduce juvenile crime, developing interventions against gun violence and illegal gun crime, and highlighting the changing nature of the threat of terrorism.

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