

**A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY
LEGISLATOR VINAL**

EC LEG FEB 14 '23 AM 9:04

Re: Support for Local Government Officials to Visit County Jails

WHEREAS, currently there is a bill (S181) “an act to amend the correction law, in relation to who may visit local correctional facilities” before the New York State Senate; and

WHEREAS, the bill will amend State Correction Law to allow the elected members of a county legislative body to visit correctional facilities in their county, as currently only State officials, county judges, district attorneys, and members of the clergy are permitted to visit local correctional facilities; and

WHEREAS, county legislators appropriate funding for county jails and provide oversight for all county operations, including jail management; and

WHEREAS, county legislators are locally-based and more readily available for visits as compared to State officials based in Albany; and

WHEREAS, allowing county legislators to visit county jails can increase trust and engagement between detainees, deputies, and legislators, as well as assist legislatures in their understanding of jail operations; and

WHEREAS, this honorable body has been proactive in improving our jails, including support for a medically assisted treatment program, creating the Corrections Specialist Advisory Board, funding for body worn and blind spot cameras, creating the Detainee to Employee program, and reducing overtime through restoration of adequate staffing levels; and

WHEREAS, the current Erie County Sheriff has shown a commitment to collaboration with this honorable body and the passing of bill S181 would only strengthen the relationship of the Office of the Sheriff and the Legislature.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that this honorable body is in support of the passage of New York State Senate Bill S181 “an act to amend the correction law, in relation to who may visit local correctional facilities”; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this honorable body encourages the Erie County Delegation of the New York State Legislature to support the aforementioned bill; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to Erie County Delegation of the New York State Legislature, State Senator Robert Jackson, the State Senate Majority Leader, the Speaker of the Assembly, the Governor, and the Erie County Sheriff.