

# Brooklyn <sup>(BDS)</sup> Defenders

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**\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\***

## ***Brooklyn Defender Services Statement on Kevin Bryan, the 14th Person to Die in NYC Jails in 2022***

**(BROOKLYN, NY) – Brooklyn Defender Services** released the following statement following [reports](#) of the death of our client, Kevin Bryan, who was the 14th person to die in New York City jails this year:

“We are absolutely devastated by the death of Kevin Bryan who died on Wednesday after seven days of incarceration in a Rikers Island jail. We grieve with his family, friends, and all who are affected by his death.

It is an utter outrage that 14 people have lost their lives in NYC jails this year alone. Mr. Bryan’s death is another horrifying result of NYC Department of Correction’s complete failure to protect the health and safety of people incarcerated in its jails.

Mr. Bryan’s death was yet another preventable loss of a person held pre-trial on bail. He was reported to have been isolated within a locked correction officers’ bathroom, before being found there. This death came two days after the Board of Correction released its report on 2021 suicides and drug-related deaths, showing chronic dysfunction, inhumanity, and indifference within DOC at the root of deaths in NYC jails. More than half of the people incarcerated at Rikers suffer from mental illness.

This type of inhumane treatment has been tolerated by the DOC for years now, leading to the death of dozens of people like Mr. Bryan. Sixteen people died in NYC jails in 2021, and now 2022 is grimly outpacing last year’s total, with still three and a half months left in the year. This should not and cannot be the norm. We will not accept the death of yet another person in NYC jails. Every elected official, every judge, every prosecutor must do everything in their power to avoid incarcerating people on bail they cannot afford, leaving them to the mercy of a callous jail staff and a Department who fails to comply with the laws and rules designed to prevent the loss of human life that is now almost accepted as inevitable. It is not and it must stop now.

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*Brooklyn Defender Services is a public defense office whose mission is to provide outstanding representation and advocacy free of cost to people facing loss of freedom, family separation and other serious legal harms by the government. We believe in a client-centered approach and work, in and out of court, to uphold the rights, freedom and dignity of people threatened by unjust, racist and harmful legal systems.*