



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Gustavo Rivera

## Senator Rivera's Statement on the Brutal Killing of Robert L. Brooks at Marcy Correctional Facility

GUSTAVO RIVERA December 28, 2024

"I am deeply saddened and outraged by the tragic death of Robert L. Brooks, who passed away following a brutal assault by correctional officers at Marcy Correctional Facility. My heartfelt condolences go out to Mr. Brooks' family during this unimaginably difficult time. This incident starkly reminds us that, within a system designed to uphold justice and rehabilitation, it is imperative for all correctional officers to ensure the safety and dignity of every individual in custody."

"I commend Governor Hochul for her decisive action in directing the immediate termination of the staff members involved in the heinous act. Her swift response underscores a commitment to accountability and justice within our state's correctional facilities. Furthermore, I support the ongoing investigation led by Attorney General Letitia James, who has pledged to provide transparency and pursue justice for Mr. Books and his family."

"This tragedy highlights systemic issues that must be addressed to prevent such incidents from occurring in the future. To foster a culture that prioritizes the safety of both our officers and incarcerated individuals, we must mandate that all correctional officers wear body cameras while on duty. Implementing this measure will enhance transparency and accountability, serving as a deterrent to misconduct and providing critical evidence when

incidents occur."

"As a State Senator, I am committed to working with my colleagues, the Governor's office, and advocacy groups to ensure our correctional facilities are places of rehabilitation and safety, not violence and abuse. Let us honor the memory of Robert L. Brooks by dedicating ourselves to creating a more just and humane correctional system for all New Yorkers."