



RFK crew needs to rethink its ‘get out of jail free’ cards for violent offenders

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Kerry Kennedy and her Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights outfit still have time to rethink their “bail them all out” initiative — and plainly should.

The city’s police commissioner, mayor and all five DAs warn that the RFK drive risks releasing some very hard cases.

“What about the victims? What about witness intimidation? What about retaliation?”

Commissioner James O’Neill asked on Thursday. “If it’s done without any discussion, there’s no doubt in my mind that it will make New York City less safe.”

“On low-level bail, I’m OK with that. But we have to dig into who is eligible for bail on Rikers Island,” O’Neill added. “We have to be real careful here. . . . We have people getting out that, they’ve been involved in shootings, robberies, domestic violence.”

The same day, Mayor de Blasio also questioned the idea of bailing out those facing robbery, assault and attempted-murder charges, saying, “Their intention is noble, but they should focus on low-level and nonviolent offenders only.”

Teens and women accused of such violence are plainly among the 300 or so that the RFK group means to spring come Oct. 1. Indeed, as The Post reported Saturday, at least eight of the 12 teens being prosecuted by the Manhattan DA’s Office who might be sprung were arrested for committing crimes while out on bail in other cases.

“Many were out on violent crimes already,” our source said.

One 17-year-old was out on bail for robbing a store when arrested for sexual assault. A 16-year-old allegedly committed another robbery and grand larceny in Manhattan while out on bail for grand larceny in Brooklyn.

RFK supporters argue that anyone really dangerous wouldn’t be allowed bail at all. But that’s just not how the system works. Judges deny any chance of bail only in the most extreme cases. For the rest, it’s a deterrent, either keeping them in prison or, with money on the line, keeping them straight and getting them to show up for court.

As the Cato Institute's Walter Olson notes, Maryland judges responded to new limits on cash bail by roughly doubling the number of defendants denied any chance of bail, from 7 percent to 15 percent. Is that what Kerry Kennedy & Co. want?

It ought to at least give them pause in considering whether they're really freeing people whom judges have decided present no real danger.