

#LessIsMoreNY

Less Mass Supervision = More Safety and Justice

LESS MASS
SUPERVISION
EQUALS
MORE SAFETY
AND JUSTICE

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The Impact of #LessIsMoreNY: Rashaan's Story



BACKGROUND: Rashaan was released from a New York State prison in 2018. He spent roughly four years on parole. Because of the Less Is More NY Act, he was discharged a year early, on June 26, 2022. Rashaan lives in Brooklyn, NY.

RASHAAN BROWN, FOUNDER OF GANGSTERS GIVING BACK: “In 2018, I was released from a New York State prison—and ever since I have spent every single moment giving back to my community. I founded my own organization called Gangsters Giving Back to continue to work with and for our community to address gun violence. I was also the program manager at [G-MACC](#), where we worked in East Flatbush, Brooklyn, and decreased the gun violence by 50 percent.

For the past two years I've worked with the #LessIsMoreNY campaign to get the bill to the finish line and finally give people on parole a chance to live their lives in peace. There were many times when I would be at work as a contact tracer during the COVID-19 pandemic and had to abruptly stop my workday to meet with my parole officer because they felt the need to check in on me. I didn't want to tell my boss at the time that I was on parole because of all the hardships that come with that, but it was stressful having to manage that. **Being on parole took away from my work in the community because of the stress of having to worry about my every move in fear of being violated.**

In my four years of being on parole I had 25 different parole officers. Every single time I felt like I was finally building a rapport with my parole officer and that they were aware of who I was and my work, I would have to restart. I remember the times I would get a call from an unknown number that happened to be the number of my parole officer, but because I didn't know I wouldn't answer it. This was never a great way to start the relationship. One time a new parole officer called me at 5 in the morning for a home visit and then had the audacity to question why I was not answering. They never gave me the respect you give to another human being. It was truly a blessing to get off parole a year early. **I can now finally continue to do my work in the community with no barriers, visit my family without the fear of a curfew violation, and travel the world.**”

For more information about Less Is More or to share your story, please contact:

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