



[Drop the Lock Up?](#)

May 14th, 2010

[Drop the Rock](#), the coalition that led the fight to reform the Rockefeller Drug Laws, is leading the charge to [close prisons across the state](#). They say the prison population has dropped by 14,000 inmates in the last ten years and that 5,000 prison beds will remain empty. So the logical conclusion according to Drop the Rock is to close prisons and save the state money.

Prison guards and unions are [not very keen to the idea](#). In fact, they say shutting down prisons [will destroy the upstate economy](#) and jeopardize inmate and public safety.

Drop the Rock will be holding rallies to support prison closures all over the place tomorrow — including upstate in [Hudson](#)— the place of my birth. The rallies start at 11 a.m. and go until 3 p.m.

Legislators will be making appearances: Sen. Bill Perkins will attend the Harlem and East Harlem rallies. Assemblymember Michelle Titus will attend the Jamaica rally. Assemblymember Inez Barron will attend the Brownsville rally. Assemblymember Felix Ortiz will attend the Fulton Mall, Brooklyn rally. Don't expect to see any politicians at the upstate rallies—closing prisons is not a very popular idea up that way.

Here is a list of city locations:

MANHATTAN

Harlem

125th Street and Lexington in front of Pathmark (Captains: Caitlin, Monique)

East Harlem

Court yard at Jefferson Houses, 300 East 115th Street (Captains: Sam, Victor)

Union Square

Southeast corner of the park at 14th Street and Union Square East (Captain, Bilal)

BROOKLYN

Grand Army Plaza

Flatbush Ave and Eastern Parkway at the Farmer's Market (Captains, Mike, Jessica)

Downtown

Fulton Street in front of Macy's between Smith/Jay Streets and Bridge Street (Captain, Sydney)

Red Hook

Coffee Park

(Captain, Linda)

Brownsville

Pennsylvania Ave and New Lots Ave

(Captain, Linda)

BRONX

Yankee Stadium

Exact location TBA.

(Captains, Ayesha, Abe)

Tremont/Fordham

Jerome Ave at East Burnside Ave in front of the McDonalds and Burger King
(Captains, Evaristo, David)

QUEENS
Jamaica

York College, Archer Ave entrance, Archer Ave between 160th Street and Parson Blvd.(Captain, Della)

ALBANY

Intersection of Orange and Lexington Streets

By [David King](#) on May 14, 2010, 4:45 pm

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