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July 8, 2018

Dear Broome County Legislators,

We urge you to vote against the proposal to offer new contracts to the Sodexho and Trinity corporations for food service at the Willow Point Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, the County Office for the Aging, and the Broome County Jail.

We support the termination of the contract with Aramark. However the proposal to turn the feeding of the elderly, disabled, and jail inmates to yet more private corporations will by all evidence simply repeat the dangerous problems encountered with Aramark.

We are especially concerned with the contract for the Broome County jail. As with Aramark, this commits the county not only to providing food at the lowest, most unsupervised cost, but also relies upon cheap and untrained labor by outside contractors and forced labor by innocent (unconvicted) members of our community.

The long experience of other states and counties with Trinity substantiates the real disasters in front of us. As the attached news reports attest, Trinity's food services in correctional facilities have led to starvation and riots, endangering both inmates and correctional staff alike. In Michigan the provision of limited food with maggots and vermin led to riots and rebellions across the state—leading even correctional officers and the Republican Governor to support the termination of the contract with Trinity. Trinity's record in other states is no better.

We recommend Broome county *not* follow these precedents and its own experience with outsourcing food service to the cheapest, unaccountable, and out of state corporate provider. Returning to locally organized food service using local workers, as in the past, assures the most vulnerable in our community a basic, human, standard of care. It will also allow us to considerably lower the expanding costs of enlarged correctional staffing and continuing lawsuits.

Sincerely,

Justice and Unity for the Southern Tier