



Wednesday, June 10, 2026

**STATEMENT OF MICHAEL GERBER
NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY**

**250 BROADWAY, 8th FLOOR, HEARING ROOM 3
JUNE 10, 2026**

Good morning Chair Feliz and members of the Council. My name is Michael Gerber and I am the Deputy Commissioner of Legal Matters for the NYPD. I am joined here today by Chief of Transportation Lola Obe. On behalf of Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch, we thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding the seven bills being heard today.

Council Member Encarnación's pre-considered bill would require the Department to describe the considerations that go into our use of frozen zones during protests outside certain educational facilities. I testified before the Committee to Combat Hate on February 25 of this year regarding the Department's use of frozen zones. As I said at that hearing, the ability to enter and leave schools safely, without harm or interference, is non-negotiable. We also must allow protesters to exercise their First Amendment rights. The NYPD uses its discretion, consistent with the law, to accomplish both of these objectives. If there is a protest outside a school, we set up frozen zones as necessary to ensure that those approaching or leaving the building are not obstructed, while still ensuring that protesters' rights are protected. In these situations, the determinations that need to be made by the NYPD are extremely context specific and based on the particular facts on the ground. This bill would require the NYPD to memorialize these considerations. To be clear, this will not alter our practices in any way. We will describe how we already analyze and approach these types of situations. We have no objection to doing so.

Council Member Feliz's pre-considered bill would mandate that the NYPD report on confirmed firearms discharges. We have no objection to the principle underlying the proposed legislation. However, before we start any such reporting we must have clear systems in place to ensure that this is done rigorously and comprehensively, and that will take time. As drafted, the bill would take effect after 120 days; we would ask for a year before it takes effect. The bill would require reporting on a weekly basis; given the work that goes into confirming firearms discharges, and the need to then aggregate and validate the data, we feel strongly that the reporting should be quarterly. Finally, while we have no objection to reporting on the date, time, and location of confirmed firearms discharges, the requirement that we describe each such incident would impose significant additional burdens on the Department and would be inconsistent with how we report on a wide range of criminal conduct. We look forward to working collaboratively with the Council to address these concerns.

Intro. 489 would direct the NYPD to create an online database so that vehicle owners can obtain information about towed vehicles. Such an online, searchable database is already maintained by the City, and it includes information about vehicles towed by the NYPD for parking violations as well as vehicles towed by the Sheriff and New York City Marshals. It does not include information about



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vehicles towed by private tow operators. We fully understand the need to have private tow information easily accessible to vehicle owners, and we welcome the chance to work with the Council to think about the ways in which that can be best accomplished through a legislative introduction. However, adding a separate and likely duplicative database for vehicles towed is not something we can support, and so we are opposed to the bill as drafted.

Intro. 551 would impose a civil penalty on a person who sells or distributes fraudulent license plates. We have no objection to this bill.

Intro. 552 would require the NYPD to operate tow pound facilities with towing capacity sufficient to meet the Department's enforcement needs. The NYPD shares that goal. As the Council is aware, the state forced us to close our Manhattan tow pound in January 2021. Since that time, we have been unable to find a substitute location in Manhattan. This bill would also impose certain reporting requirements on the NYPD regarding our towing capacity, vehicles subject to towing, and vehicles towed. We have no objection to reporting on these matters. At the same time, we have a number of concerns about the wording and scope of the reporting obligations as drafted and also believe that a sunset clause should be added to ensure that the Department's reporting obligations reflect the Council's ongoing needs. We look forward to working with the Council to address these concerns.

Intro. 843 would require the city to establish a school emergency alert system. The NYPD has no objection to this bill. We respectfully submit that this is a matter for the New York City Emergency Management Department, in conjunction with the Department of Education.

Intro. 913 would raise the maximum age at which an individual can apply to be a police officer from under 35 to under 43, reflecting a change that was made to state law in 2025. The NYPD supports this legislation and is thankful for the Council's partnership in putting this measure forward. It will broaden the pool of potential applicants and allow individuals with additional life experience to bring that experience to the NYPD, for the benefit of all New Yorkers.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today, and we look forward to answering any questions that you may have.



**JUMAANE D.
WILLIAMS**

**STATEMENT OF PUBLIC ADVOCATE JUMAANE D. WILLIAMS
TO THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY
JUNE 10, 2026**

Good morning,

My name is Jumaane D. Williams, and I am the Public Advocate for the City of New York. I would like to thank Chairs Feliz and the members of the Committee on Public Safety for holding this important hearing.

In April, Mayor Mamdani vetoed Intro 175, passed by this City Council, which would have required the NYPD to develop a plan regarding security perimeters for protests at or near educational facilities. It defined “educational facilities” broadly, including any and all buildings where educational programming takes place. Realizing they did not have the supermajority needed to override this veto after fierce and sustained advocacy against this attack on the freedom of speech, the Council declined to call another vote. However, a new, slightly tweaked version, Preconsidered Intro 2052, was introduced and is being heard today.

Let me be clear: the spirit of this bill is to curtail free speech at or near our educational institutions. The First Amendment grants students, teachers, staff, parents, and the general public the right to protest at or near schools. Students and school communities have the right to protest ICE targeting families as they walk their children to school. They have the right to rally for more funding, or against book bans or policing infrastructure in their schools. They have the right to speak out to ensure their trans students and families are supported and affirmed in every space from sports to curricula to recognizing Pride month. Directing the NYPD—which already has protocols for policing protests, sometimes very problematic ones—to devote even more scrutiny to these expressions of free speech is political posturing at the expense of our safety and our rights.

We already know what happens when we increase police in or near schools: the disproportionate arrests of Black and Brown students. In 2022, almost 90 percent of students arrested in NYC public schools were Black or Latino.¹ Seemingly innocuous behavior, such as using the wrong emojis on social media, can result in a child being added to the NYPD’s criminal group database, heightening their risk for harassment and arrest.² Police contact is especially dangerous right now, with ICE lurking near school campuses, for the 62 percent of NYC children who live in a

¹ <https://www.nyclu.org/data/criminalization-nyc-students-12-years-data-police-schools>

² <https://www.naacpldf.org/case-issue/nypd-gang-database-policing-tactics/>

household with at least one foreign-born family member.³ People—including minor children—are already being doxxed at alarming rates just for attending certain types of protests, or for speaking up in public meetings against the ongoing genocide in Gaza or for the right to access gender-affirming care. I agree that students, staff, and their families should never feel unsafe going to or from school, but feeling offended is not the same thing as being unsafe, and expanding police presence at protests because you disagree with their message is reckless and dangerous.

As past protests have made abundantly clear, the NYPD does not need an additional invitation to respond to protests, sometimes violently. They already have plans and protocols in place to police gatherings and protests, and requiring them to further monitor every exercise of first amendment protest rights within a certain distance of a school is a waste of time and resources. Blocking entrances and exits of buildings, as well as pedestrian passages, is already prohibited, and there have been no widespread reports of students, staff, or parents who feel unsafe entering or exiting a school because of protests. I am frankly surprised that the NYPD supported Intro 175 and its counterpart Intro 1 (passed by this body in April), considering how concerned they were about having “more paperwork” when we passed the How Many Stops Act.

If we are serious about safety and combating hate in our schools, we should be investing and expanding existing programs that do just that. In the New Visions High School District, which serves 37,000 students, students have the opportunity to participate in a yearling Combat Hate Fellowship. In partnership with the Auschwitz Jewish Center Foundation, fellows tour different cultural and historical sites, such as the Center for Jewish History, the Islamic Cultural Center, and the National Museum of African-American History and Culture, and hear from speakers who have been impacted by hate and prejudice.⁴ Students have described it as a transformative experience, but each cohort is small. Additionally, advocates have long pushed for expanded funding for restorative justice in schools. We know that investing in programs like these does more to combat hate than policing alone; when a crime is in progress or has been committed, police often have an appropriate role to play. A protest is not a crime, and attempting to silence all forms of dissent around schools will only stifle education and growth.

At a time when protests across the country are increasingly met with hostile and even violent responses from law enforcement, increasing surveillance of peaceful assemblies is anathema to what this body—and this city—stands for: a place where all people, regardless of race, religion, and immigration status can express their support or dissent openly and freely. Impacted communities have made clear that they do not support this bill, regardless of the marginally narrowed language. There is a clear difference between peaceful protest and harassment or intimidation, and the aim of this bill is to conflate the two. I urge the City Council to listen to the overwhelming opposition to this attack on free speech and not advance this bill.

Thank you.

³ https://www.nyc.gov/assets/immigrants/downloads/pdf/MOIA-Annual-Report-2023_Final.pdf

⁴

<https://www.chalkbeat.org/newyork/2026/06/09/nyc-student-combat-hate-fellowships-fight-racism-antisemitism-and-bullying/>



Testimony of UJA-Federation of New York

**Committee to Combat Hate
Chair, Yusef Salaam**

**Submitted by: Hillary Stuchin
February 25, 2026**

On behalf of UJA-Federation of New York and our network of nonprofit partners across New York City, thank you, Speaker Menin, Chair Salaam, and members of the Committee to Combat Hate for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill package, specifically Int. 0001-2026 and Int. 0175-2026. Thank you to the City Council for considering this legislation.

Established more than 100 years ago, UJA-Federation of New York is one of the nation's largest local philanthropies. Central to UJA's mission is caring for those in need - identifying and meeting the needs of New Yorkers of all backgrounds and Jews everywhere. UJA supports an expansive network of nearly 100 nonprofit organizations, many of which operate older adult centers, Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs), home-delivered meal programs, case management services, and other aging supports that allow older New Yorkers to remain safely in their homes and communities.

These bills affirm fundamental principles of our democracy: the freedom to practice one's faith, gather, and learn without threat or fear. For so many New Yorkers of all faiths, our temples, churches, mosques, synagogues and other sacred spaces are not simply community buildings - they are sanctuaries. They are where we pray, celebrate life's milestones, mourn, and teach our children our traditions.

For many Jewish New Yorkers, our synagogues and schools are central to our identity and continuity. Yet today, many feel a real and growing sense of vulnerability. In recent months, families have walked their children through shouting crowds to reach school; worshippers have had to look over their shoulders on their way to Shabbat services. When fear greets us at our doors, something sacred is diminished.

Int. 0001-2026 and Int. 0175-2026 take practical and measured approaches to address these concerns. Each directs the NYPD to develop and implement protocols for establishing buffer zones around houses of worship and religious schools when credible safety threats are identified. They focus specifically on preventing injury, easing intimidation, and limiting interference,

while preserving emergency access and allowing police to exercise discretion based on real conditions. The legislation requires clear criteria for when buffer zones may be established, with periodic review and reporting to the City Council to ensure accountability and transparency. Further, they direct the NYPD to provide guidance and communication to affected communities about the purpose and scope of buffer zones, including how long they will be in effect and the process for community feedback. Both bills ensure that the rights to lawful protest and assembly are preserved outside the designated buffer zones, balancing public safety with constitutional freedoms.

UJA supports both bills; however, **we ask that the Council add language to Int. 0175-2026 to ensure that the bill is inclusive of any institution of education regulated or licensed by the New York City Department of Education or the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.** Without this clarification, community centers contracted with the city to provide early childhood education programs, like UPK and 3-K, are not clearly covered by the bill.

Peaceful protest is a cherished right in this city. Intimidation and obstacles are not. These bills do not seek to silence lawful expression; they draw a clear line when conduct places individuals in reasonable fear of harm or restricts their movement. History has taught the Jewish people what happens when threats at our doors are ignored. Safety is not a luxury - it is a foundation of religious freedom.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in support of this important bill package. UJA urges the Council to pass these bills, affirming that in New York City, every community has the right to gather, worship, learn, and live their faith openly and without fear.

Please reach out to stuchinh@ujafedny.org with any questions.



Testimony of Judy Baum, Government Affairs Co-Chair

The Jewish Community Relations Council of New York

New York City Council Committee on Public Safety

June 10th, 2026

Good afternoon, thank you Chair Feliz and Honorable Members of the Committee on Public Safety. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

My name is Judy Baum, and I am the Co-Chair of the Government Affairs Committee for the Jewish Community Relations Council. JCRC-NY is the pre-eminent convening group of New York's Jewish community. We build relationships to advance the values, interests, and security of the Jewish community and to create a more interconnected New York for all.

We speak in solidarity as members and leaders of New York's Jewish community to urge support for the preconsidered intro concerning "A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to a plan regarding security perimeters adjacent to educational facilities."

This legislation is important for the safety of all New Yorkers.

We believe that educational facilities for children should not be places where movement to or from is restricted by protests. Students, faculty, and staff should not be intimidated or physically obstructed from their educational facilities. Classrooms and campuses must remain safe spaces for learning, free from intimidation, so that our children can exercise their fundamental right to peacefully express themselves without fear.

This proposed legislation hits the right marks. It correctly requires the NYPD to devise a plan to protect students and others, while simultaneously preserving the right to lawful protest and free speech.

We respectfully urge this Committee and the City Council to support this legislation and affirm our collective commitment to the safety, dignity, and religious freedom of all New Yorkers.

Thank you to Council Members Elsie Encarnacion, Eric Dinowitz and Speaker Julie Menin for your continued leadership on this important issue.

Thank you, Chair Feliz, and to the members of the Committee for your consideration of this critical issue.

BROOKLYN SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

COGITO ERGO SUM - I THINK THEREFORE I AM



June 9th, 2026

The Honorable Speaker Menin
New York City Council

Dear Speaker Menin,

As the Principal of the Brooklyn School of Excellence, I write in strong support of bill no. T2026-2052, which establishes buffer zones around New York City schools.

The safety and well-being of students must always be our highest priority. Every child deserves to travel to and from school and enter their classroom free from harassment, intimidation, threats, or disruption. Parents should be able to bring their children to school with confidence that their educational environment will remain safe and secure.

This legislation is especially important at a time when New York has experienced a troubling rise in antisemitic incidents and anti-Jewish hate. According to the Anti-Defamation League, antisemitic assaults in New York increased by 52 percent in 2024 and have risen by more than 500 percent over the past five years. These alarming trends have heightened concerns among many Jewish families and underscore the importance of ensuring that students can safely access their schools without fear of harassment or intimidation.

The proposal is also consistent with the principles embodied in the NYC Public Schools Student Bill of Rights and New York State's Dignity for All Students Act, both of which affirm

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BROOKLYN SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

COGITO ERGO SUM - I THINK THEREFORE I AM



every student's right to learn in a safe and supportive environment free from discrimination, intimidation, harassment, and bullying.

This legislation is a long time coming, and I applaud Speaker Menin for her vision and foresight in advancing a measure designed to protect students, families, and school communities, including Jewish New Yorkers who have been directly impacted by rising antisemitic incidents.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to the people of New York City.

Sincerely,

Nicky Varisov (Yakhyaeva)
Principal of Brooklyn School of Excellence
Director of NY Smart Start

**23 BRIGHTON 11TH STREET,
BROOKLYN, NY 11235** 

347-988-9944 



**New York City Council
Committee to Combat Hate
June 10, 2026**

Testimony of Scott Richman
ADL New York/New Jersey Regional Director

Chair Feliz and members of the Committee on Public Safety, my name is Scott Richman, and I am proud to serve as the Regional Director for ADL's New York and New Jersey region.

I am pleased to be here today to testify in support of legislation sponsored by New York City Council Member Elsie Encarnacion, which would require the New York City Police Commissioner to develop and implement a plan that would allow for the establishment of security perimeters at most K-12 educational facilities across the city in appropriate cases, thus creating safe access zones to help protect individuals seeking to enter and exit from experiencing physical harm or targeted harassment and obstruction. This bill is a critical piece of Speaker Menin's five-point action plan to combat antisemitism and strengthen community safety, which ADL proudly supports.

Unfortunately, New York faces an unprecedented crisis of antisemitism that demands immediate action on multiple fronts. ADL carefully tracks and responds to antisemitic incidents across the country. According to our 2025 Audit of Antisemitic Incidents, New York State recorded 1,160 antisemitic incidents, the highest number of reported incidents in any state across the country last year, representing 18% of all antisemitic incidents nationwide. Most alarmingly, 74% of all documented incidents in New York State took place in the five boroughs of New York City, a new record.

My team and I respond to antisemitic acts every day and understand this work first-hand. Our data shows that K-12 schools have unfortunately become hotspots for antisemitic incidents. By our count, in 2025 in New York City, we documented 91 such incidents, and that is just what was reported to us.

Councilperson Encarnacion's legislation carefully balances the rights to peacefully protest and engage in free speech with the need to protect public safety. Today, we join the chorus in supporting this commonsense legislation to ensure safe access to K-12 educational facilities across New York City and all of Speaker Menin's five-point plan.

We urge the Committee to give Introduction [T2026-2052](#) a favorable report.

Testimony of Brandon Pinsker
Acting Director, AJC New York, American Jewish Committee (AJC)

Wednesday, June 10, 2026

RE: In Support of Intro. 175 / Security Perimeters Adjacent to Educational Facilities

Chair Feliz and members of the Committee:

On behalf of the American Jewish Committee (AJC), I write in strong support of Intro. 175, which would require the NYPD to establish a plan regarding security perimeters adjacent to educational facilities when necessary to address risks of physical obstruction, intimidation, interference, and injury while preserving constitutional rights to free speech and peaceful assembly.

For more than a century, AJC has worked to advance democratic values and pluralism, protect the Jewish community, and advocate for the rights and security of all people in the United States. Throughout our history, we have partnered with and stood alongside other minority communities in efforts to combat discrimination, defend civil rights, and strengthen the institutions that sustain a pluralistic society. We believe deeply in the First Amendment and in the right of individuals to express disagreement, advocate for causes, and engage in peaceful protest. Those rights are fundamental to our democracy.

They are also fully compatible with ensuring that students, educators, and families can safely enter and exit schools without intimidation, obstruction, or fear.

Over the past several years, and particularly since October 7, 2023, Jewish communities across New York City have experienced a dramatic rise in antisemitic incidents and increasingly hostile demonstrations in public spaces. AJC's *2025 State of Antisemitism in America Report* found that 78 percent of American Jews feel less safe as Jews in the United States following the October 7 attacks.

While much public attention has focused on colleges and universities, K-12 schools and early childhood educational facilities have also faced incidents involving harassment, intimidation, and disruption. Regardless of one's views on any political issue, children should never be forced to navigate hostile demonstrations simply to access their classrooms, and parents should never have to question whether a school entrance will remain accessible and secure. At the same time, educational institutions have become flashpoints for tensions surrounding conflicts and public debate about the Middle East. While this legislation does not seek to regulate what is taught or discussed inside classrooms, it is important to ensure that students, educators, and school staff are protected from intimidation, harassment, and disruption that can arise outside educational facilities, even when demonstrations themselves are constitutionally protected.

Importantly, Intro. 175 does not create a blanket prohibition on protest. Nor does it establish permanent exclusion zones around educational facilities. Instead, it requires the development of a thoughtful, transparent framework to guide the use of security perimeters in circumstances where there is a credible risk of obstruction, intimidation, interference, or physical harm, while expressly preserving the rights to free speech, assembly, and protest.

That balance is precisely why this legislation is reasonable. It recognizes that protecting access to educational facilities and safeguarding constitutional freedoms are complementary goals, not competing ones.

Every day, government balances competing rights and interests in public spaces. In the digital age, demonstrations and coordinated actions can be organized and mobilized with extraordinary speed, allowing large groups to gather outside institutions on short notice. While Intro. 175 does not mandate any particular response, it provides public safety officials with a clear framework for evaluating risks and responding in a consistent, transparent, and appropriate manner when circumstances warrant. The principle underlying this legislation is no different. The right to protest does not include the right to prevent others from safely accessing an educational institution. The right to demonstrate does not include the right to intimidate children, parents, or educators. And the right to express one's views does not require unrestricted access to every entrance and exit of a school facility.

Educational institutions occupy a unique place in our civic life. They are environments where young people learn, develop, and engage with the broader world. The city has a compelling interest in ensuring that those environments remain safe, accessible, and conducive to learning. Protecting access to schools is not a partisan issue, nor should it be a controversial one.

We also appreciate that the legislation focuses on planning, transparency, and clear standards. By requiring the NYPD to establish and publicly communicate criteria for the use of security perimeters, the bill promotes consistency, accountability, and predictability while reducing the likelihood of arbitrary enforcement.

At a moment when tensions remain high and many communities feel vulnerable, New York City has an obligation to protect both constitutional freedoms and public safety. Intro. 175 reflects that obligation. It recognizes that protest and access can coexist, that free expression and

security are not mutually exclusive, and that educational facilities deserve reasonable protections against obstruction, intimidation, and interference.

For these reasons, AJC respectfully urges the Council to pass Intro. 175.

Thank you for your consideration.



**Testimony of the Alliance for Quality Education
at the NYC Council Hearing: Committee on Public Safety
Wednesday June 10th 2026**

Good afternoon, thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Kaiser, and I am the community organizer for the Alliance for Quality Education (AQE). AQE organizes parents pushing for quality public education for all children, regardless of zip code. I am also a parent and former NYC DOE teacher, and I am here to oppose Councilmember Encarnacion's preconsidered bill regarding security perimeters around educational facilities.

On February 25th, hundreds of New Yorkers submitted testimony against Intro 175. At that hearing, Council leadership chose to selectively allow members of the public into City Hall. The hearing was stacked, creating an illusion of support, while many had to wait outside in freezing temperatures for over an hour and then stay late into the evening for their chance to testify against it.

Since then, organized public outcry led the Mayor to veto Intro 175 and pushed Council members to refuse to overturn the veto.

Little has changed since we testified against Intro 175 in February, except that it is now abundantly clear that New Yorkers oppose this proposal. Council leadership has responded by going to great lengths to discourage and circumvent public input. It is highly inappropriate that this hearing was held on the same day as the only opportunity for New Yorkers to share input on the entire executive budget.

There is no legislation needed to protect schools from protests. Families should be free to organize protests and gatherings without the threat of having the NYPD surveil New Yorkers involved, in attendance, and or simply walking nearby. Under Mayoral Control, children and families have limited venues to voice concerns about their education. This proposal would further limit their ability to speak out. In a time of rising authoritarianism, the last thing we need is to restrict or pass bills that intimidate New Yorkers from exercising their First Amendment rights. We should be encouraging peaceful protest, wherever it happens.

The NYPD already has the authority to declare buffer zones, and it has been argued that these bills are an effort toward further transparency around those NYPD actions. If the goal is increased transparency, the bills should be amended to focus only on reporting requirements and public communication. Our [public letter](#), signed by over 50 organizations calls for

amendments to convert the bill into a true transparency measure that “(a) requires the NYPD to publish its policies and practices for responding to educational facilities and (b) specifies that such responses should comply with the 2020 Summer Protest Settlement Agreement and the First Amendment protections on speech, assembly, and protest.”

We can take steps to make schools safer for everyone by mandating anti-bias and anti-racist training for educators, increasing mental health supports in schools, and teaching the truth about oppression and protest so that students learn how to stand up against hate and injustice. The knee-jerk reaction to limit expression and increase police involvement in the name of safety will do nothing to address the root causes of hate in our society, and it will increase the risk of violence at the hands of police and others. We know what will happen if these bills pass. Black, brown, and immigrant communities, who are historically targeted and surveilled, will have their voices suppressed and their bodies battered, all in the name of, “the law”.

The coalition that has come together to advocate with one voice against these proposals speaks for itself. Faith organizations, labor groups, and civil rights experts, have joined with student and family organizations in opposition to increased policing outside of schools.

Thank you.

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL

191 Joralemon Street, 2nd Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11201

**Testimony of Joseph Rosenberg, Executive Director
Catholic Community Relations Council
New York City Council Committee on Public Safety**

**Security Perimeters Adjacent to Educational Facilities
June 10, 2026**

Good morning, Chair Feliz, and members of the Committee on Public Safety. I am Joseph Rosenberg, Director of the Catholic Community Relations Council representing the Archdiocese of New York and the Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens.

We thank the Committee for holding this hearing on legislation sponsored by Councilmember Encarnacion. It is an important and timely measure, especially following the latest NYPD data indicating that hate crimes are up by 74% in May 2026 compared to May 2025.

At a time when these crimes against so many religious groups are on the rise in New York City, we must all stand together, united against such abhorrent acts. Such solidarity includes supporting this bill requiring NYPD to create security plans to help ensure the safety of students, teachers, and faculty in both public and nonpublic schools. Students, teachers, and faculty must not be placed in a situation of being harassed, intimidated or physically obstructed by demonstrators. Parents, as well, need to be assured that New York City elementary, middle, and high schools will be a safe haven for their children, and remain a place for learning, not a place for fear.

The legislation requires the NYPD to submit plans to the Mayor and City Council and to post them on the agency's website. These plans must include:

- a. the criteria for when security perimeters should be used and for what duration, at entrances and exits of schools,
- b. the steps taken to ensure that the perimeter does not infringe on the right to free speech and assembly,
- c. communication with the administrators of public and nonpublic schools to understand their needs and concerns, and finally,
- d. a departmental point of contact for the general public.

This initiative achieves an important and delicate balance. The constitutional right of free speech and assembly are protected while at the same time, this legislation helps to safeguard schools against growing and increasingly violent threats.

Like all other faith-based organizations, we are fortunate in having the NYPD as a strong partner. They have been responsive and proactive in confronting the challenges facing our schools and our schoolchildren. This bill will strengthen their ability to do so.

We thank Speaker Menin and the City Council for recognizing the growing threats against schools throughout our City, and for introducing, and hopefully soon passing this important initiative.

Thank you.



**The New York City Council
Honorable Chair Oswald Feliz
June 10th, 2026**

**Hearing on the Committee on Public Safety
Stop All Buffer Zone Bills
Testimony of the Dignity in Schools Campaign - NY**

Good afternoon, and thank you Chair Feliz, and members of the New York City Council Committee on Public Safety. My name is Andrea Ortiz, and I am the Director of the Dignity in Schools Campaign–New York (DSC-NY), a coalition of 29 organizations working to create safe and supportive learning environments in NYC Public Schools. We organize with students, parents, educators, and advocates to expand restorative justice, increase mental health access, and strengthen protections for immigrant communities, while working to eliminate police, surveillance, and punitive discipline in schools.

We are here today to voice our strong opposition to the proposed bill on security perimeters around educational facilities. The Speaker and the Council cannot point to a single incident of students being harassed outside of schools or threatened by protestors. We are deeply concerned that the Council would expand police presence during protests, restrict freedom of speech, and further criminalize young people and their communities. The bill being debated today in the name of safety would increase police presence and surveillance at a time of heightened fascism and political repression and exacerbate immigrant school access issues.

Additional police presence is problematic because NYPD school cops are able to contribute names to a secret list of people it deems gang members with little or no evidence. In a time when Trump and other political leaders are prioritizing youth criminalization, deportations and detentions of “gang members” with no justifiable evidence we cannot let more NYPD officers contribute to the ongoing surveillance and criminalization of our young people.

Additionally, the 2024 protest settlement with the NYPD made clear that the NYPD's procedures can pose a risk to the rights of protesters. We don't need new plans or more policing outside of schools, and we don't need "security perimeters" as a response to protest when protest is not a security threat. What we do need is transparency, supportive staff, and healing centered, community safety initiatives.

Public schools should be places where young people feel safe, supported, and able to learn. Yet we continue to see investments and policies that prioritize policing, punitive discipline, and



surveillance over care and prevention—despite overwhelming evidence that these approaches harm student wellbeing and create barriers to learning, particularly for Black, Brown, immigrant, transgender and gender non-conforming students, and students with disabilities. Research shows that Black students made up less than 20% of overall enrollment but received 45% of superintendent suspensions and 52% of School Police Interventions.

We urge the City Council to take the following actions:

- Amend this bill to require the NYPD to publish and report on their current policies and procedures for responding to protests around schools.
- Amend the bill to enshrine protections consistent with the 2024 protest settlement and with First Amendment rights under the federal and state constitutions.
- Freeze hiring for school police, eliminate vacancies, and reinvest approximately \$90 million in savings into restorative justice, mental health supports, and immigrant protections.
- Protect restorative justice and mental health access by baselining \$6 million for restorative justice funding and \$5 million for the Mental Health Continuum serving 50 high-need schools that are expiring in July.
- Protect immigrant students and families by baselining \$4 million for outreach and communication and Passing Intro 798 to eliminate the NYPD Gang Database.

We can advance systems that criminalize young people and restrict their rights, or we can prioritize and invest in the supports that actually make schools safe: transparency, trusting relationships, mental health care, restorative justice, and immigrant support.

Real school safety is not built through policing and surveillance. It is built through care, trust, and investment. We urge the Council to stand with students and families by amending the bill into a true transparency measure to require the NYPD publish its existing policies and procedures to better protect young people and protesters in New York City.

Thank you.

Submitted by:

Andrea Ortiz
Director
Dignity in Schools Campaign - NY

NDS

HARLEM

TESTIMONY OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD DEFENDER SERVICE

before the

Committee on Public Safety

IN RELATION TO

Preconsidered Bill Regarding NYPD Plan for Security Perimeters at Schools

by

Elizabeth Bender

Senior Policy Counsel, Criminal Defense Practice

June 10, 2026

Dear Chair Feliz:

I am Elizabeth Bender, Senior Policy Counsel with the Criminal Defense Practice at the Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem (NDS). NDS is a community-based public defender office that provides high-quality legal services to residents of Northern Manhattan. Each year, our attorneys represent nearly 8,000 clients in New York County's criminal, housing, and family court systems, and in federal immigration courts. Our social workers, advocates, and investigators support clients by providing referrals to services, connections to benefits, and support throughout their legal cases.

NDS opposes the preconsidered bill requiring the NYPD to create a plan for security perimeters at schools, just as we opposed its predecessor, Intro.175B. The only difference between the two bills is that the current bill narrows the scope of covered educational institutions to include only K-12 schools. Its terms still call for an increased police presence at our City's schools. At a time when New York City parents are afraid to bring their children to school for fear they will be kidnapped by ICE,¹ this Council should be legislating more protections for students and their families—not finding ways to subject them to increased police surveillance. Yet that is exactly what this bill calls for.

First, this bill does not address an established need. There is no record of incidents at K-12 schools to justify a plan for increased NYPD surveillance of protest activity around them. For this reason alone, we oppose the bill.

Moreover, this bill requires the NYPD to put forward a new plan for creating security perimeters before requiring the NYPD to report on its current practices around school protests. This presupposes that security perimeters are the appropriate, safe, and constitutional response to protests at schools. **Before mandating a new plan for security perimeters, the Council should require transparency about what the NYPD is already doing.** The bill should be amended to a) require the NYPD to publish its policies and

¹*ICE on the prowl? New York teachers allege federal agents lurking at schools looking to nab parents dropping off their children*, amNY, June 4, 2026, <https://www.amny.com/news/ice-prowls-new-york-schools-teachers/>.

practices for responding to education facilities, and b) specify that such responses must comply with the 2020 Summer Protest Settlement Agreement and the First Amendment’s protections on speech, assembly, and protest. The bill should eliminate references to “security perimeters” and its requirement that the NYPD create any new plan for deployment to our City’s schools. The Council should **not** advance any bill language that requires the NYPD to create a plan specific to the establishment of security perimeters adjacent to educational facilities.

We oppose this bill so strongly because we know the negative impact it will have on our clients and their families. We represent people in Upper Manhattan who have cases in criminal, family, housing, and immigration courts. Far too many of our clients experience the everyday realities of our City’s racially discriminatory policing and family regulation policies.² Deploying more police to schools will subject people who are already disproportionately targeted to even greater risk of arrest and surveillance, and may lead to more young people being added to the NYPD’s Gang Database. To be clear, our young clients are already subjected to unacceptably aggressive law enforcement at school. We have received reports of school safety agents calling armed NYPD officers to respond to behavioral issues in children as young as six years old. Research shows that the presence of law enforcement in schools does not enhance safety. Rather, it fosters fear and criminalization, and disproportionately impacts Black, brown, transgender and queer students, and students with disabilities.³

This bill also threatens to erode the essential community-building function of our City’s schools. Schools, especially public K-12 schools, should be places where students and their families can safely gather, including gathering to exercise First Amendment protest rights. This bill would have a chilling effect

² Over a 20-year period ending in 2024, 90 percent of people stopped by the NYPD were people of color. NYCLU, A Closer Look at Stop-and-Frisk in NYC, May 27, 2025, <https://www.nyclu.org/data/closer-look-stop-and-frisk-nyc>. Black and Latino children are 6.5 and 5.7 times more likely to have an ACS case than white children, and Black children are “extraordinarily vulnerable” to ACS investigations. Racial Disparities 2019, NYC Family Policing Project, <https://familypolicynyc.org/data-brief/racial-disparities-2019/>.

³ See Tyler Whittenberg & Maria Fernandez, Advancement Project, Ending Student Criminalization and the School-to-Prison Pipeline, New York University. 2024, <https://steinhardt.nyu.edu/metrocenter/ejroc/ending-student-criminalization-and-school-prison-pipeline>.

not just on student activism, but on family involvement in schools, which could negatively impact students' learning.⁴

Further, at a moment when the Trump administration is already deploying a cruel and inhumane deportation agenda, and just this week threatened to flood New York with “more ICE agents than you’ve ever seen”⁵, increasing law enforcement presence around schools will only fuel fear among immigrant New Yorkers. Making schools sites of increased law enforcement activity and surveillance would undermine this Council’s work to make New York a sanctuary city and exacerbate suspicion that engaging with City agencies and services may expose people to immigration enforcement.⁶

Everyone wants schools to be safe. But this bill does not create safety. **We oppose it. We urge this Council to pass a true transparency bill in its place.**

⁴ The Annie E. Casey Foundation, The Role of Parental Involvement in Students’ Academic Achievement, Dec. 14, 2022 (updated July 27, 2025), <https://www.aecf.org/blog/parental-involvement-is-key-to-student-success-research-shows>.

⁵ Vivian Ho, *Trump’s border czar threatens to send ‘more ICE agents than you’ve ever seen’ to New York City*, The Guardian, June 8, 2026, <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/jun/08/ice-agents-new-york-city-tom-homan>.

⁶ Since January 2025, various City agencies reported increased interaction with federal immigration authorities, including a DOC investigator violating City law by helping ICE arrest a detainee as he left Rikers Island, an NYPD officer unlawfully sharing information with Homeland Security, and increased immigration enforcement at City shelters. Office of the Mayor of New York City, Executive Order 13 Audit, Report of Audit Findings and Recommendations, May 22, 2026, <https://www.nyc.gov/content/dam/nycgov/mayors-office/downloads/pdf/press-releases/2026/EO-13-Report-of-Audit-Findings-and-Recommendations.pdf>.

**Testimony to the New York City Council
Committee on Public Safety**

Preliminary Budget Hearing

June 10, 2026

Tarini Garimella, Policy Associate
Osborne Center for Justice Across Generations



My name is Tarini Garimella, and I am the Policy Associate for the Osborne Center for Justice Across Generations at the Osborne Association. As many of you know, Osborne is one of the oldest and largest criminal justice service organizations in the state. Our services reach over 18,000 individuals each year, assisting them and their families in navigating arrest, courts, incarceration on Rikers and in state prisons, and reentry. Through advocacy, direct service, and policy reform, Osborne works to create opportunities for people to heal, grow, and thrive. We are grateful for the Council's ongoing support and look forward to continued collaboration.

In March, I submitted testimony focusing on the largely invisible issue of how children are affected by a parent's arrest; what is currently being done to minimize trauma to children before, during, and after a parent's arrest; how critical it is for NYPD to implement Administrative Code §14-181 (the result of a 2019 City Council law) and develop an ongoing, sustainable plan to train personnel; and the importance of NYPD and community-based organizations continuing to build their capacity to safeguard and support children of arrested parents in New York City. My testimony here includes a few updates since that time, including that we have received a letter from the NYC DOC Commissioner supporting our request for funding to expand this work to DOC, creating a continuum of care and consideration for children as their parents interact with NYC's law enforcement and corrections systems.

We applaud the City Council for passing a law in 2019 (Administrative Code §14-181) that requires NYPD to adopt guidelines for safeguarding children present during an arrest¹, train officers, and provide families with information about services in the community to help children process the arrest of a parent. This law required a community-based partner to work with NYPD to implement the law and Osborne was chosen for this role. We have been collaborating with NYPD to safeguard children since the law's passage, and greatly expanded the scope of the work when we received City Council funding starting in 2021 to do so.

In two weeks, we will train an NYPD recruit class of over one thousand Officers, bringing the

¹ This law focuses on non-child-related arrests (such as shoplifting, traffic stops, and more). Arrests that are related to child abuse are governed by other laws and protocols.

total number we have trained to more than 10,000. Thanks to City Council funding, more than 10,000 Officers will soon have received training on child development, children's trauma responses, tools for interacting with children across different ages, and to take intentional steps toward safeguarding children no matter the scenario. But we have much more to accomplish, as I detailed in my March testimony which is attached again here, along with letters of support to continue this work from NYPD Commissioner Tisch, and to expand this work from DOC Commissioner Richards.

In addition to our Safeguarding Children request, Osborne has also submitted eight (8) additional discretionary funding requests, which are attached to my testimony. And, as a longstanding member of the NY Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI)/Reentry Coalition, we also ask the Administration for the restoration and expansion of funding for ATIs and reentry services at MOCJ, a \$35.1 million increase. From the NYC Council, the coalition is requesting an additional \$2.4 million in the **Alternatives to Incarceration and Reentry Programs** initiative across our 12 organizations.

I want to close by sharing that the Criminal Justice Agency has been an invaluable collaborative partner in this work, providing the only data currently available in NYC on how many children in NYC are affected by a caregiver's arrest. They are poised to conduct even more detailed analysis and provide precinct and borough level data which could inform Councilmembers of how this issue is affecting their constituents. We look forward to working with them and with the City Council to shine a light on this issue to further support children and families and provide the tools and training those in uniform deserve.

Thank you.

March 2026 Testimony for the Preliminary Budget Hearing on Public Safety

My name is Tarini Garimella, and I am the Policy Associate for the Osborne Center for Justice Across Generations at the Osborne Association. As many of you know, Osborne is one of the oldest and largest criminal justice service organizations in the state. Our services reach over 18,000 individuals each year, assisting them and their families in navigating arrest, courts, incarceration on Rikers and in state prisons, and reentry. Through advocacy, direct service, and policy reform, Osborne works to create opportunities for people to heal, grow, and thrive. We are grateful for the Council's ongoing support and look forward to continued collaboration.

While I will detail what we have accomplished in NYC, the City Council funding we receive has had a statewide impact as well: in large part as a result of our work, the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) passed an accreditation standard in June 2023 requiring all accredited NYS police departments to have a written protocol and provide training to ensure children are safeguarded and trauma is minimized. Then in December 2024, Governor Hochul signed the Child-Sensitive Arrest bill [into law](#), which went into effect in June of 2025. **This law establishes New York as the first state to ensure Officers have the guidance and training to take steps to minimize trauma to children when a parent is arrested.**

Children are deeply affected by a parent's arrest, yet this event often goes overlooked and, until recently, it was rare to find a law enforcement agency that provides training to officers on child development and interacting with children. The training we currently facilitate for NYPD recruits and newly promoted Sergeants was developed over years of working with children, families, young people, and law enforcement. It incorporates research on child development, brain science, and trauma; body-worn camera footage of parents and/or caregivers being arrested in front of their children; and young people telling us what they need to be considered, validated, and seen. Some of the responses to the training from recruits and Sergeants (as revealed in the training evaluations we distribute) include:

- “Being a mother of young children, I could put myself in the situation and hope that

- someone would take the time to help my children and myself at our lowest moment.”
- “This is a good training and very important as these situations will happen unexpectedly.”
 - “This is a very special tool to have going into our careers because the children will have a negative or positive impact about the NYPD and our job is to make sure it can be positive all the time.”

In the upcoming fiscal year, we hope to continue to work with the NYPD Training Bureau to develop a sustainable plan for training all uniformed members of service (UMOS) on the new safeguarding protocols. Due to changes in leadership and staffing, substantive planning to sustainably integrate this into Academy training has not yet occurred.

I will now provide some background to underscore the importance of this work and why it is a multi-year effort.

The Impact and Scope of Parental Arrest on Children

From our programs at Osborne, we know that children and young people often carry the experience of witnessing the arrest of a parent for years or even a lifetime. They share that they felt invisible and vulnerable at the time, or felt seen but ignored. As a result, many tell us they are hesitant to reach out to the police when they need assistance, and fear law enforcement after what they have been through. Witnessing an arrest and being stripped from a parent is a traumatic experience. Research tells us that trauma negatively affects the brain and that having an incarcerated parent (almost always preceded by a parent’s arrest) is the fourth most common Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE)², which increases the likelihood of children developing long-term negative health and mental health outcomes.³

We also know that protective factors can lessen the harmful effects of these experiences, and that police officers and community partners can be protective factors for children. Efforts to safeguard children at the time of arrest have the potential to build new and strengthen existing

² National Survey of Children’s Health, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau.
<https://mchb.hrsa.gov/data/national-surveys>

³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Adverse Childhood Experiences, www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/aces/riskprotectivefactors.html

community-police partnerships while signaling to families that the police and their community will do everything possible to minimize trauma for a child whose parent is arrested. Thus, it is critical to ensure this local law is effectively implemented, and for NYPD and community partners to receive the necessary training to safeguard children.

There is no data available on how many children are present when a parent or caregiver is arrested in NYC. We provided the NYPD with data collection recommendations, including updating their “aided card” to collect this data, but were told that the best way to add a check box to the aided card would be through legislation requiring it. Having this data will enable us to better understand where and when this is happening, monitor trends (increases or decreases), and inform funding allocations to ensure community-based support is available for children post-arrest.

To date, the only source for this data (that we are aware of) is from the New York City Criminal Justice Agency (CJA). At our request in 2019, CJA agreed to include supplementary questions (not included in its bail assessment) in interviews of people in New York City awaiting arraignment.⁴ The first round of CJA data from 2019 estimated that **60,347** children in New York City experience the arrest of a parent or caregiver annually. During 2023 and 2024, CJA collected data on the numbers of parents, not numbers of children, and reported that 41,329 people told CJA’s pretrial associates that they provided full-time care to children under 18 years of age, and 64,863 people reported that they provided financial support to children. Given that many parents have more than one child, the numbers of children remain significant.

The CJA data from 2023-24 also reveals that Brooklyn has the highest number of people (30,910) reporting that they provide financial support to children, with 21,418 stating that they are primary caregivers of children. Documenting how many children are present at a parent’s or caregiver’s arrest was not included in the 2019 law, and we urge the Council to introduce a bill requiring NYPD to do so.

⁴ This data reveals that 4,286 (4.3%) of the 98,675 respondents awaiting arraignment provided full-time care to children, and 31,203 (31.6%) respondents provided financial support to one or more children.

To expand on our success collaborating with NYPD and to better support the children who visit Rikers, our funding request this year has increased in order to support expanding our Safeguarding Children work to DOC to provide training to Officers interacting with children, and to examine ways the department can support children's positive visiting experiences.

Accomplishments

Given the estimated scope of the issue, the size of NYPD, and frequent departmental and organizational changes, our work to safeguard children is a multi-year, multi-faceted effort requiring immense coordination, time, and adaptability. I'd like to highlight some of our accomplishments, the work currently underway, and work needed in the coming years.

To date, thanks to City Council funding, we have trained close to 10,000 members of service, including recruits, newly promoted Sergeants, Training Sergeants, and Youth Coordinating Officers. The responses on our training evaluations have been largely positive, as described earlier. We have also:

- Provided children's props for scenario-based training with recruits that are now included in these settings to signify children are present and must be considered during arrest incidents;
- Developed a handout on *Effectively Communicating with Children* and an Activity Log Insert as a practical tools for Officers to reference on the job;
- Identified 21 community-based children's mental health providers or "partners" who have agreed to accept referrals post-arrest;
- Worked with CJA to collect annual data about parental/caregiving status from people who are arrested in the five boroughs;
- Worked with the NYC Children's Cabinet to brief them on this issue and identify opportunities to continue to safeguard children; and
- Developed a training video featuring children and young adults speaking about their parents' arrest.

Work in progress or planned/needed:

- Collaborate with the NYPD Training Bureau to develop a sustainable training plan;
- Review existing NYPD curricula to identify areas where safeguarding children material can be infused;
- With shifts in how NYPD is structured and retirements, identify partners outside of the

Training Bureau to advance this work and comply with the 2019 law;

- Collaborate with NYPD to produce refresher training videos for roll call and in service training;
- Expand the number of community partners engaged in this work and provide them with technical assistance and training; advocate for funding to meet the needs of children and families affected by parental arrest;
- Engage the NYC DOC to develop a Safeguarding Children of Arrested Parents protocol that reflects best practices when visitors with children are arrested;
- Engage the NYC DOC to further develop and implement child-friendly visiting processes required by Local Law 40, which adds §9-168 “Child Visitor Program” to the Administrative Code.

With 34,000 UMOS, a complex network of community providers in NYC, and many elements to implement, achieving a truly comprehensive, citywide approach to safeguarding children will take time. We are grateful to be partnering with NYPD and look forward to building on this work with DOC as well.

One final note about public safety: this year, Osborne enters its 93rd year of providing programs and advocating for justice and we have seen that public safety is an outcome of investing in people and communities. Today, this means prioritizing alternatives to arrest, jail, and prison whenever possible, and working to decarcerate and to close Rikers Island. The city and state must continue to implement pre-trial reforms and measures to expedite court processes. Reducing the number of people, including many parents to minor children, detained in our city jails and the length of time they spend there must be a priority for the Council and the city, for our shared humanity and for smarter investments that improve on the dismal return we currently receive for spending more than \$500,000 per person per year on Rikers.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Contact: Tarini Garimella, Policy Associate, tgirimella@osborneny.org

Osborne Association FY27 Discretionary Funding Requests

Program	Description	FY27 Request	FY26 Funding
Alternatives to Incarceration and Reentry Services (Ref. 2155808)	Osborne’s portion of the ATI & Reentry Coalition request, which will support multiple programs: (1) court advocacy and mitigation services; (2) video visiting and family strengthening activities; (3) expansion of job training and placement; (4) elder reentry services; and (5) the Osborne Center for Justice Across Generations.	\$2,152,074	\$1,952,074
Bronx Osborne Gun Accountability and Prevention Program - BOGAP (Ref: 2242267))	To support BOGAP—an innovative diversion program developed with the Bronx DA. Funds will be used to provide hot meals to program participants, stipends for internships, and additional support services to participants to increase their chances of success in the program.	\$25,000	\$20,000
Elder Reentry Initiative Services and Advocacy (Ref: 2242507)	To support two related program areas: (1) The Elder Reentry Initiative’s participant screening, intake and assessment, reentry service plans, community case management, and technical assistance; and (2) Osborne’s advocacy and public education on behalf of incarcerated and returning older adults.	\$125,000	\$65,000

<p>Health and Wellness – Ending the Epidemic (Ref. 2241903)</p>	<p>To support formerly incarcerated people who are living with or at high risk of contracting HIV and come from low-income communities of color, with a focus on LGBTQIA+ people. Osborne will provide sexual health education, prevention/treatment, trauma support, and other supportive services.</p>	<p>\$110,000</p>	<p>\$83,461</p>
<p>Safeguarding Children Initiative (Ref: 2239478)</p>	<p>To support the implementation of Local Law 1349-A, enacted to reduce trauma to children when NYPD arrests parents/ caregivers. Osborne will provide necessary training and collaborate with NYPD on numerous aspects of implementation, and engage and train a network of CBOs that can provide post-arrest support to children. Expanded funding also allows for safeguarding children's work with NYC DOC.</p>	<p>\$500,000</p>	<p>\$265,000</p>
<p>Improving Behavioral Health and Wellbeing for Youth (Ref: 2192640))</p>	<p>For assessing and addressing mental health and trauma in youth impacted by the criminal legal system through treatment options that alleviate stress, improve functioning, and reduce trauma symptoms. Targets: 70 assessments; 60 referrals.</p>	<p>\$308,000</p>	<p>\$158,000</p>
<p>Kinship Reentry Housing Initiative (Ref. 2243156))</p>	<p>To sustain and expand the Kinship Reentry Housing Program, which provides financial assistance, case management, and peer support to families housing a loved one returning from incarceration. By addressing economic and logistical barriers to stable reentry housing, the program reduces reliance on the shelter system, strengthens family reunification, and lowers the risk of recidivism.</p>	<p>\$250,000</p>	<p>N/A</p>



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

Stanley Richards, Commissioner
Nell Colon, Deputy Commissioner
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East Elmhurst, N.Y. 11370
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Honorable Julie Menin
Speaker of the New York City Council
250 Broadway, Ste. 1880
New York, NY 10007

May 6, 2026

Dear Speaker Menin:

The Osborne Association has applied for New York City Council discretionary funding to expand its Safeguarding Children initiative, building on its ongoing collaborative work with the NYC Police Department to implement the Child-Sensitive Arrest protocol delineated New York City Administrative Code § section 14-181, including considering the needs of children whose parents are arrested. To create a continuum of consideration and care from arrest through detention (for parents who are detained post-arraignment), Osborne has proposed extending this work to the NYC Department of Correction (DOC) to collaborate with us to strengthen our work to support parents in our custody and their children in the community. While DOC currently has many initiatives underway to consider and support children, and Osborne currently provides a variety of services to those on Rikers Island, we welcome the opportunity to expand and strengthen this work and partnership, and we support Osborne's application for discretionary funding to do so.

Osborne's funding application would allow them to have the staff needed to work with us to:

- Strengthen our existing visiting training curriculum and train the trainers;
- Ensure our interagency protocol for arresting visitors with children reflects best practices and to develop a training on this newly updated protocol;
- Examine the continuum of a parent's journey through our system to ensure access is provided for parents to check on and make arrangements for the care of their children, including working with us on signage and coordination with other City agencies, including the NYC Children's Cabinet.

In addition to assisting with various training and technical assistance, we welcome support from partnering agencies like the Osborne Association with the implementation of Local Law 40 which establishes a children's visiting program at each of our facilities.

The expanded City Council funding Osborne is requesting would allow them to make staff available to DOC to assist with the above critical initiatives. We respectfully request that you give the Osborne Association's funding application favorable consideration for inclusion in the Fiscal Year 2027 budget. This work directly advances the public safety and child welfare interests of the City, and the mission and current vision of DOC.

Sincerely,

Stanley Richards
Commissioner
New York City Department of Correction

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THE POLICE COMMISSIONER
CITY OF NEW YORK

March 27, 2026

Honorable Julie Menin
Speaker of the New York City Council
250 Broadway, Ste. 1880
New York, NY 10007

Dear Speaker Menin:

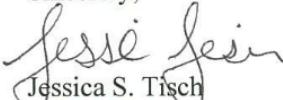
The Osborne Association has applied for continued New York City Council discretionary funding for its work with the New York City Police Department ("NYPD") on implementing practices and developing training regarding the Child-Sensitive Arrest protocol delineated in New York City Administrative Code § section 14-181.

This law was enacted in 2020, specifically to reduce the trauma children and families may face when NYPD officers arrest the caregiver of a minor child. Last year, the Osborne Association received City Council funding which allowed it to assist the NYPD with the implementation of this protocol, which requires training and follow-up support. The law specified that the NYPD should include a nonprofit partner to participate in the process. No funding was allocated to accomplish this. The City Council provided funding to the Osborne Association through which it was able to hire full-time staff. Further, the Osborne Association was able to make additional staff available to the NYPD to develop training materials and establish a network of partner referral organizations, as required in Administrative Code § section 14-181.

We are working with the Osborne Association to tailor training to a wide variety of personnel, including recruits, police officers and various ranks of supervisors. We welcome the Osborne Association's role in educating uniformed members of the service about the impact of parental arrest, along with practical ideas for implementing policies designed to lessen trauma at, and following, an arrest including providing and connecting children to safe settings when caregivers are taken into custody.

We respectfully request that you give the Osborne Association's funding application favorable consideration for inclusion in the Fiscal Year 2027 budget. This work directly advances the public safety and child welfare interests of the City, and the NYPD's ability to implement the protocol required under Administrative Code § section 14-181 depends on the continued partnership the Osborne Association provides.

Sincerely,


Jessica S. Tisch
Police Commissioner



The 92nd Street Y, New York
1395 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10128

**Testimony to the New York City Council
Committee on Public Safety
Wednesday, June 10th, 2026
The 92nd Street Y, New York**

Thank you to the New York City Council, Chair Oswald Feliz and members of the Committee on Public Safety for the opportunity to share testimony on the legislation recently introduced by City Council Member Encarnacion which would require a plan regarding security perimeters adjacent to education facilities.

My name is Ariel Savransky and I am the Director of Government and Community Relations at The 92nd Street Y, New York (92NY), a nonprofit cultural and community center in Manhattan. I am here today to speak in support of requiring a plan regarding security perimeters adjacent to educational facilities. Unlike the recently passed New York State security perimeter legislation, which explicitly includes community centers within its protections, the 92nd Street Y is not specifically covered by this proposed city legislation. However, as an institution that serves thousands of children and families through a broad range of educational programs, we recognize the importance of ensuring safe and secure access to educational facilities. We strongly support this legislation and we want to thank Council Member Encarnacion, Council Member Dinowitz and Speaker Menin for their leadership and commitment to protecting New Yorkers.

92NY's Mission and Reach

Since 92NY's founding more than 150 years ago, we have offered services for children, families, and individuals across New York City. Each year, more than 700,000 people of diverse racial, religious, ethnic, and economic backgrounds come to 92NY to experience the arts and literature, engage their minds through lectures and classes, and strengthen their bodies through fitness and wellness programming.

Background:

The need for thoughtful planning around security perimeters at educational facilities is clear. Across New York City, schools and educational institutions face an increasingly complex security environment. Parents, students, educators, and staff should be able to access educational facilities without fear of harassment, intimidation, or disruption.

According to ADL's 2024 Audit of Antisemitic Incidents, New York State recorded 1,437 antisemitic incidents, the highest number of reported incidents in the country and representing 15 percent of all antisemitic incidents nationwide. Sixty-eight percent of these incidents occurred within New York City's five boroughs. At the same time, antisemitic hate crimes in New York City have risen significantly since October 7, 2023, underscoring the heightened security concerns facing Jewish institutions and communities.

While this legislation focuses on educational facilities, the broader concern it seeks to address is one that many community-serving organizations have experienced firsthand: ensuring that individuals can safely access schools, educational programs, and community spaces without obstruction, intimidation, or fear. We commend the Council for requiring formal security plans around educational facilities.

The 92nd Street Y's recent experiences

92NY operates a wide range of educational programs serving children, teens, families, and lifelong learners. We therefore understand the importance of ensuring that educational environments remain safe, welcoming, and accessible.

As a prominent Jewish institution serving a large Jewish constituency and identifying with Israel, the 92NY's risk is amplified by its scale and visibility. The organization hosts more than 250 high-profile public events annually, many of which are livestreamed and accessible globally, generating extensive media coverage and online engagement. 92NY has extensive security measures in place to protect its patrons and employees; however, incidents do occur. There have been occasions when demonstrations have included aggressive conduct, harassment, and intimidating behavior directed at patrons, including families and individuals attending educational programs.

To share a recent example, On February 1st, the 92nd Street Y held its *State of World Jewry* address, delivered by New York Times columnist Bret Stephens. The annual address, which focuses on the state of the Jewish community locally and globally, has been delivered in years past by luminaries such as Natan Sharansky, a famous ex-Soviet "refusenik," Abba Eban, a former Israeli official, and Elie Wiesel, a Nobel-peace prize winning author, human rights activist, and holocaust survivor.

Individuals entering the building were confronted by dozens of masked demonstrators, aggressive rhetoric, and conduct that went beyond expressing disagreement with a particular event or viewpoint. As our CEO Seth Pinsky subsequently wrote, attendees, families, and visitors encountered an atmosphere that many found intimidating.

Importantly, the impact extended beyond event attendees. Families arriving for children's programming, students participating in classes, and community members using our facility were forced to navigate an environment that felt hostile and disruptive. These experiences reinforce the importance of advance planning, coordination, and clearly established procedures to ensure safe access to facilities that serve children and families.

Recommended Action

We support the legislation requiring the development of a plan regarding security perimeters adjacent to educational facilities. Such planning can help ensure that schools have appropriate tools and protocols available when circumstances warrant enhanced security measures.

We believe the principles underlying this proposal are critically important. Students, parents, educators, and staff should be able to enter and exit educational facilities safely and without intimidation. Establishing a framework for evaluating and implementing security perimeters when necessary will help protect access to education.

Conclusion:

Thank you to the NYC Council, Council Members Encarnacion and Dinowitz, and Speaker Menin for thoughtfully proposing ways to combat antisemitism and other forms of hatred and strengthen protections for educational facilities. We look forward to continuing to work with the NYC Council to ensure that New Yorkers feel safe in their communities and to safeguard educational environments across New York City.



**TESTIMONY OF
THE FORTUNE SOCIETY**

**THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

City Hall,
New York, NY

Wednesday, June 10, 2026

SUBJECT: Executive Budget Hearing

PURPOSE: To highlight the importance of funding programming and resources for justice-impacted New Yorkers

Submitted by

Lily Shapiro
Policy Counsel
David Rothenberg Center for Public Policy

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<http://www.fortunesociety.com>

Thank you, Chair Lee, Deputy Speaker Williams, and members of the Committee on Finance, for the opportunity to provide testimony today. My name is Lily Shapiro, and I am the Policy Counsel of The Fortune Society's David Rothenberg Center for Public Policy. For over 58 years, The Fortune Society (Fortune) has been committed to supporting people returning from incarceration and providing meaningful alternatives to incarceration. Guided by the lived experiences of those we serve, our work is rooted in the belief that people can rebuild their lives and even thrive when given the right support and opportunities. In Fiscal Year 2025, Fortune served more than 18,000 New Yorkers through our broad array of programs, including employment services, mental health and substance use treatment, and housing; that total number includes more than 1,000 who participated our alternative to incarceration (ATI) programs. We consistently see how holistic, community-based programming and interventions can change lives, break cycles of involvement in the justice system, and create safer communities for all of us. We have no wrong front door, meaning that whether someone is mandated to participate in our services or comes to us voluntarily, and regardless of which program is their initial form of engagement, they can avail themselves of all of the resources we have to offer.

Reinvesting in Community-Based Care

1) Alternatives to Incarceration and Reentry Programming

The Fortune Society is proud to be a member of the NYC ATI/Reentry Coalition, a network of 12 service providers that collectively served 69,000 people in FY 25, with decades of experience offering a diverse, person-centered array of programs that have been proven to keep people safely in their communities instead of being detained on Rikers Island or incarcerated in our state prisons. At Fortune, in Fiscal Year 2025, 83% of our participants successfully completed their ATI programming, and 92% of participants successfully completed gun diversion programming.

We applaud the restoration of funding for Alternatives to Incarceration programs and reentry services in the Executive Budget, including increases of \$3.03 million and \$5.9 million, respectively. These investments represent an important commitment to community-based public safety strategies that reduce reliance on incarceration and support New Yorkers in building more stable, productive lives.

At the same time, additional investment is needed to bring these programs to scale. A recent fiscal impact analysis conducted by the Data Collaborative for Justice found that the Coalition's services generated more than \$60 million in savings for New York City by reducing reliance on incarceration at Rikers Island—demonstrating that investments in community-based alternatives produce both fiscal and public safety benefits.

We therefore urge the City Council to build on the Administration's commitment by providing an additional \$2.4 million in discretionary funding through the Alternatives to Incarceration and Reentry Programs initiative. This investment would enable our twelve coalition organizations to serve more New Yorkers and further expand access to effective community-based alternatives that promote safety, stability, and opportunity. This investment is also essential to closing Rikers Island. Our programs, and those of our sister organizations, are crucial to safely reducing the Rikers population, but without increased and sustained funding, our reach can only go so far.

2) Behavioral Health

We urge the Administration and Council to include at least \$66.3 million, or \$22 million more than the Executive Budget allocates, for Intensive Mobile Treatment (IMT) teams and at least \$23.8 million, or \$4.5 million more than the Executive budget allocates, for Assertive Community Treatment (ACT), which should allow the programs to expand sufficiently to eliminate their current waitlists. Waitlists are so long that some community-based providers who provide out-patient mental health services, including Fortune, are reluctant to make referrals as it seems pointless, even though these services are critically helpful and needed.

We also hope the Administration and Council will allocate \$6.9 million to the Court-Involved Youth Mental Health Initiative, an overdue increase for a critically important program. Fortune is grateful to receive funding from this initiative to serve young people aged 18-24 at our onsite Article 31 state-licensed Better Living Center. Last year, we served 38 young people at a cost of less than \$6,600 per youth – a sum that is thousands of dollars less than the annual cost of detaining an individual in New York City. Safe spaces like our Better Living Center are essential

to helping young people process their trauma and develop coping mechanisms – which makes them and our communities healthier and stronger.

3) Justice Involved Supportive Housing

Fortune also hopes that the Administration will ensure the City’s commitment to Justice-Involved Supportive Housing (JISH) units is fully reflected and protected in the FY27 Adopted Budget and beyond. In the Points of Agreement to close Rikers Island by 2027, the City promised to create 500 JISH units.¹ While we are encouraged by the Administration’s early action on JISH – including the updated Request for Proposals to create up to 190 new supportive homes for formerly incarcerated New Yorkers, and the restart of the Just Home project– there is still a deficit of about 130 units between the number of planned units and those that were promised. The Administration should further fund the Request for Proposals to bring all remaining promised JISH units online by the 2027 deadline.

NYCBenefits

The Fortune Society urges the Administration and Council to restore \$9.75 million for NYCBenefits² in the FY27 Adopted Budget and to baseline that funding through FY32. NYCBenefits is a vital partnership between the Department of Social Services, 35 community-based organizations, including Fortune, and three technical assistance providers that helps low-income New Yorkers access and maintain the benefits they need — from SNAP and Medicaid to cash assistance, housing support, and more. In just the first nine months of FY26, the program served 28,000 New Yorkers citywide, with SNAP clients receiving over \$20 million in annual benefits.

Every single person that comes through Fortune’s intake process is connected to our Benefits Access program, because we know the likelihood of their need for support is so great. Supported by NYC Benefits, Fortune's Benefits Access program connects our participants with

¹ “Rikers to Close: City Council Approves Historic Plan to Close Rikers Island and Secures \$391 to Reform NYC Criminal Justice System.” *New York City Council*. October 17, 2019.
<https://council.nyc.gov/data/closerikers/>.

² “NYCBenefits.” *NYC Human Resources Administration*.
<https://www.nyc.gov/site/hra/partners/NYCBenefits.page>.

Benefits Navigators who support them through the eligibility and enrollment processes. NYCBenefits also established a direct connection between the Department of Social Services and providers, so our staff can resolve any challenges that our participants may encounter in a timely manner. For participants who are navigating the already vulnerable period of reentry, this kind of targeted, one-on-one benefits support is a lifeline. As new work requirements and shorter windows for recertification go into effect under HR1,³ our work will be all the more critical to help our participants navigate those requirements, qualify for exceptions, and recertify on time.

New York City cannot afford to cut one of its most cost-effective tools for keeping residents housed, fed, and healthy. We ask the administration to act now to protect this program before these funding gaps disrupt operations for the tens of thousands of New Yorkers who depend on this program.

Funding for the NYC Board of Correction

The Executive Budget currently cuts the Board of Correction's (BOC) budget by \$605,000. We urge the administration to instead allocate an additional \$3.6 million to restore these cuts and expand the Board's crucial oversight capacity. We are proud that our City is one of the few in the country with a non-judicial oversight board mandated to regulate, monitor, and inspect its correctional facilities. For the BOC to fully meet this essential mandate of accountability and transparency, particularly in light of the ongoing humanitarian crisis on Rikers Island,⁴ they must be able to hire additional staff, making this funding increase critical.

Funding for the NYC Commission on Human Rights

As a co-leader of the Fair Chance for Housing Coalition, Fortune is deeply concerned about the proposed \$1.5 million in funding cuts to the New York City Commission on Human

³ "NYC effort saves SNAP benefits for thousands, but 40,000 still at risk after federal rule change." *Eyewitness News*. June 1, 2026. <https://abc7ny.com/post/new-york-city-effort-saves-snap-benefits-thousands-40000-risk-federal-rule-change/19212018/>.

⁴ Kaye, Jacob. "Two detainees die within a day on Rikers." *Queens Daily Eagle*. May 19, 2026. [Two detainees die within a day on Rikers — Queens Daily Eagle](#).

Rights (CCHR or the Commission). Without robust public education and the enforcement that only CCHR can provide, the Fair Chair for Housing law will be an empty promise to people with conviction histories. The fiscal impact of the law was reported to be \$1.4 million, to conduct public education and hire ten new staff; instead of ever receiving this funding, CCHR is now facing an even greater cut. We know this kind of housing discrimination is alive and well in our city, because housing providers either do not know their responsibilities under the law or do not believe they will face any penalties for flouting it.

We urge the administration and Council to correct course and instead increase CCHR's budget by \$10 million in the FY27 budget and exempt CCHR from hiring freezes to ensure the Commission can carry out its mandate. Even with this increase, CCHR's total funding would represent less than 0.02% of the City's overall budget. For our participants and thousands of other New Yorkers, CCHR is one of the only places they can turn to for relief without a lawyer to seek redress for discrimination in housing and employment based on race, sexual orientation, gender identity, immigration status, and importantly, conviction history. At a moment when federal civil rights protections are being eviscerated, the City must fully fund CCHR to meet this moment and continue to protect all New Yorkers.

Thank you again, Chair Lee, Deputy Speaker Williams, and members of the Committee on Finance, for the opportunity to submit testimony today. We are encouraged by many of the investments already reflected in the Executive Budget and remain hopeful that the Council and Administration build on this momentum by increasing funding for ATI and reentry services as well as other community-based supports, protecting NYC Benefits, and restoring and increasing CCHR's budget. The people that Fortune serves – and the thousands more across our city depending on these resources – are counting on our elected officials to take these crucial next steps.



ICNY
Interfaith Center of New York

**New York City Council Committee on Criminal Justice
Budget Hearing – FY2027**

To: Chair Linda Lee and Council Members

From: The Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer, Interfaith Center of New York

We are grateful for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Interfaith Center of New York, a nonprofit organization which, over the course of 26 years, has built the most religiously diverse and civically-engaged network of grassroots and immigrant religious leaders across the five boroughs of Manhattan, Queens, Brooklyn, Staten Island and the Bronx.

The City's budget is a moral document, and it must reflect our collective commitment to dignity, care, and justice. Though some progress has been made, the proposed FY2027 Executive budget still falls short of the City's legal and moral obligation to close Rikers Island and invest in the conditions that truly create safety for our communities.

At a cost of over half a million dollars per person each year, Rikers Island remains one of the most expensive and least effective systems in our city, while continuing to expose people to violence, neglect, and trauma. At the same time, the budget maintains excessive spending on incarceration while failing to adequately invest in supportive housing, mental health care, and community-based services—investments that are essential to rehabilitation and long-term safety.

This imbalance reflects a continued reliance on incarceration over the restorative and transformative approaches that lead to stronger, healthier communities. Faith communities across New York see every day that true safety is built through stability, care, and opportunity—not undue confinement.

We urge the Council to advance a budget that prioritizes reinvestment in strategies that reduce recidivism and moves our city closer to the closure of Rikers Island.

Specifically, we call on the Council to work with the mayor to:

- **Allocate an additional \$39.2M to meet mental health needs outside of Rikers, including:**
 - **At least \$66.3M, baselined, for [Intensive Mobile Treatment \(IMT\)](#) teams, \$22M more than the Executive Budget allocates, which should allow the program to expand sufficiently to eliminate the current waitlist.**
 - **At least \$23.8M, baselined, for [Assertive Community Treatment \(ACT\)](#), \$4.5M more than the Executive Budget allocates.**

- **At least \$6M, baselined, for [Forensic Assertive Community Treatment \(FACT\)](#), \$2M more than the Executive Budget allocates), which provide both mental health and reentry services to people returning from jail and prison.**
- **\$1.7M to establish an outpatient competency restoration pilot program** for 50-75 people who might otherwise be waiting at Rikers for [transfer to a state hospital](#).
- **\$3M in capital funds to support 60 new residential treatment beds** for people with serious mental illness and with co-occurring addictions.
- **At least \$8.8M, baselined, for crisis respite centers**, \$6M more than the Executive Budget allocates, which should enable the opening of four new centers, in compliance with Local Law 118-2023.
- **Allocate an additional \$47.2M for diversion and reentry services through the Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice (MOCJ), including:**
 - **\$10M** in additional funds for ATI programs and **\$10M** in additional funds for Reentry Services, as recommended by the [ATI/Reentry Coalition](#), to bring these evidence-based models to scale.
 - **\$6.9M** to expand programs serving court-involved youth with mental health needs.
 - **\$20.3M** to establish at least 150 units of low-barrier housing for people with court-involvement and mental health diagnoses.
 - OCJ should also publish an analysis of the full need for transitional reentry housing, and conduct a data match to generate an updated eligibility list for [Justice Impacted Supportive Housing](#) (JISH), a permanent reentry housing model.
- **Allocate an additional \$3.6M to restore cuts to the Board of Correction (BOC), and expand their oversight capacity**
- **Eliminate unnecessary DOC uniformed staff vacancies and reduce overtime spending**, aligning staffing with a shrinking jail population.

Reforming our criminal justice and public safety systems will take moral courage and continued political leadership. We are grateful to the City Council for your attention and concern for the well-being, dignity, and humanity of all New Yorkers.

Sincerely,
The Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer
 Executive Director
 The Interfaith Center of New York

June 10, 2026

Testimony of Renee Hastick-Motes, MPA
Chief Executive Officer
The Joseph P. Addabbo Family Health Center

Good afternoon.

My name is Renee Hastick-Motes, Chief Executive Officer of the Joseph P. Addabbo Family Health Center (JPAFHC), a Federally Qualified Health Center serving the communities of Southeast Queens (Far Rockaway, Arverne, Jamaica, Queens) and Red Hook, Brooklyn.

I am honored to offer my strong support for the establishment of a trauma center on the Rockaway Peninsula. For decades, the residents of the Rockaway Peninsula have faced unique healthcare challenges driven by geography, transportation barriers, and limited access to specialized healthcare services. While our community has demonstrated tremendous resilience, access to lifesaving trauma care remains a critical gap in our healthcare infrastructure.

When a traumatic injury occurs, every minute matters. The ability to access specialized trauma services quickly can mean the difference between life and death, recovery and disability, hope and heartbreak. Yet residents of the Rockaways often face longer transport times and additional barriers to receiving the level of trauma care they deserve.

The Rockaway community deserves the peace of mind that comes with knowing high-quality trauma services are accessible close to home when they need them most.

The creation of trauma services in Far Rockaway would represent far more than a healthcare investment. It would be an investment in health equity, public safety, community resilience, and the future of this peninsula.

It would strengthen the healthcare continuum, improve emergency response capabilities, support better health outcomes, and provide critical resources for one of New York City's most geographically isolated communities.

As we face a very critical turning point in the healthcare ecosystem with changes to Medicaid, we will see a significant drop in preventive healthcare which will increase the need of trauma care.

I would commend Council Member Selvena Brooks-Powers for her leadership and unwavering commitment to advancing this important initiative. Her advocacy reflects a deep understanding of the needs of Rockaway residents and a commitment to ensuring that our communities receive the healthcare infrastructure they deserve.

At JPAFHC, our mission is rooted in access to care, reducing health disparities, and improving the health and well-being of the communities we serve. The establishment of a trauma center aligns directly with those goals and would help create a stronger, more equitable healthcare system for generations to come.

We proudly stand in support of this effort and look forward to working alongside Councilmember Brooks-Powers and other community stakeholders to help make this vision a reality.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



**The New York City Council
Committees On Public Safety
Chair Feliz**

Pre-considered Intro T2026-2052
Creates Free Speech Security Perimeters Around Educational Facilities

Testimony of
The Legal Aid Society

June 10th, 2026

Submitted by:

The Legal Aid Society
49 Thomas Street
New York, NY 10013

The Legal Aid Society Opposes Pre-considered Intro T2026-2052

The Legal Aid Society, founded in 1876, is the nation’s oldest and largest nonprofit legal services agency, providing comprehensive legal services to low-income individuals and families in all five boroughs of New York City. Legal Aid’s mission is to improve the lives of low-income New Yorkers by ensuring that no New Yorker is denied access to justice because of poverty. For 150 years, our growth has mirrored that of the city we serve. We have expanded our work to passionately advocate for individuals, families, and our youth by fighting for the most vulnerable populations not only in court, but also beside them in their communities. With this mission in mind, we submit this testimony in strong opposition to Pre-considered Intro T2026-2052.

The changes to the definition of “educational facility” in what was previously Int. 175-B-2026 do not address our fundamental concerns with the bill’s proposal to establish free-speech security perimeters around every public and non-public elementary and middle school in the City as well as all non-public high schools. We encourage the council to vote no on this proposed legislation.

The Bill Will Disproportionately Harm Marginalized Youth

The Council’s own report analyzing data from 2016 to the second quarter of 2023 suggests that an increased police presence at New York City schools is likely to result in increasing the criminalization of Black students.¹ Children, in particular, may respond negatively to a police presence by schools, decreasing rather than increasing their sense of safety. Extending security beyond perimeters of the school building is likely to exacerbate already-existing inequities.² In pursuing safety for students, increased policing often results in disproportionately negative outcomes for Black and brown students.³ Research shows that these students and

¹ “Black students are disproportionately more likely to receive any kind of intervention (52.5%) as well as disproportionately more likely to be arrested (59.8%), restrained in general (60.1%), and restrained with metal (59.77%).” New York City Council, *Law Enforcement in NYC Public Schools*, <https://council.nyc.gov/data/nypd-activity-in-public-schools/>

² Behnken, M., *Why School Police Officers May Not Be the Most Effective Way to Prevent Violence*, Iowa State University, (11/19/2024) available at <https://research.iastate.edu/2024/11/19/why-school-police-officers-may-not-be-the-most-effective-way-to-prevent-violence/>

³ Nicquel Terry Ellis, *Experts Worry About a Heavier Police Presence in School: ‘Black and Brown Children Bear the Brunt of Criminalization*, CNN (Sept 12, 2024) <https://www.cnn.com/2022/06/07/us/school-officers-impact-on-black-students>

students with disabilities are already most likely to be targeted for discipline from school-based police officers.⁴

These bills also create a significant risk of increased criminalization of LGBQ+ youth and, in particular, transgender, gender non-conforming, and non-binary (TGNCNB) youth. TGNCNB youth have been particularly targeted by the current federal administration, with escalating attacks on their rights to access healthcare and to be respected and protected in school. For instance, the federal government has threatened millions of dollars in funding to New York City schools because of policies that prohibit discrimination and harassment of transgender students. Now, more than ever, young people should be able to make their voices heard in their communities and schools without the threat of criminalization.

An increased presence of NYPD officers in the vicinity of schools will exacerbate the already disproportionately high numbers of LGBQ+ youth who interact with the juvenile justice system and are burdened by the negative consequences of system involvement. Data consistently demonstrates that LGBTQ+ youth, and particularly LGBQ+ youth of color, are at greater risk of being stopped or targeted by police than their cisgender and heterosexual peers. Generally, lesbian, gay, and bisexual people are 2.25 times as likely to be arrested as straight people and are incarcerated at a rate of 3 times that of the total adult population. While there is less data specific to the experiences of transgender people, the data that does exist demonstrates significant profiling by police officers, leading to overrepresentation in the carceral system. For instance, 1 in 6 transgender people have been incarcerated and forty-seven percent of Black transgender people have been incarcerated. NYPD has a long history of arresting transgender women of color simply for walking down the streets under the guise of vague laws that give officers discretion to engage in racial profiling and profiling based on gender expression and non-conformity. These bills will further open the door for increased targeting of the LGBTQ+ community by permitting the NYPD broad discretion to determine the use and extent of the “security perimeters” and the extent of police interaction with New Yorkers to maintain these security perimeters

⁴ Charles Tocci, Sara T. Stacy, Rachel Siegal, Jennifer Renick, Jamie LoCurto, Davielle Lakind, Jennifer Gruber, and Benjamin W. Fisher, *Statement on the Effects of Law Enforcement in School Settings*, American Journal of Community Psychology, Vol 73, Issue 3-4 (June 2024) available at <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1002/ajcp.12723>

The Bill Will Increase the Risk of Criminalizing First Amendment Activity

The bill also risks increased criminalization for First Amendment activity while giving discretion to the NYPD to determine the use of and the extent of these “security perimeters.” The language that tasks police with ensuring that the security perimeter in no way “curtails protest rights” does not cure the wide-ranging power that the bill gives to the NYPD, which would indeed chill First Amendment activity and increase police interaction with New Yorkers engaged in that activity. This proposal is unconstitutional, unnecessary, and will lead to increased police interaction and criminal system involvement for New Yorkers exercising their civil rights.

Data and research also show that protest arrests reflect significant racial disparities, with Black people and people of color facing higher risks of arrest and more aggressive police response as compared to white protesters, even when controlling for factors like crowd size or participant behavior.⁵ During the 2020 protests, racial justice demonstrations were more likely to face escalated police tactics as compared to other types of demonstrations. Creating these security perimeters, which are tantamount to speech-free buffer zones, will stifle political speech and expose more people to the brutality of arrest and criminalization simply for speaking their minds.

The Bill’s Speech-Free Zones Raise Serious Legal Concerns

The Supreme Court has long held that the state cannot create speech-free zones without a significant interest that would justify restricting a fundamental right.⁶ And any restrictions on free speech must be narrowly tailored.⁷ This is for good reason: First Amendment principles are at the heart of maintaining democracy. Here, there is no record that comes close to justifying so drastic a solution outside of all public and non-public kindergarten through middle schools and all non-public high schools in New York City. The First Amendment flatly prohibits it. The proposed “security perimeters” criminalize speech and will ultimately increase the number and intensity of encounters between civilians and overzealous law enforcement—a result that will

⁵ Sandhya Kajepta and Daniel K.N. Johnson, [Police and Protests: The Inequity of Police Responses to Racial justice Demonstrations](https://tminstituteldf.org/police-and-protests-the-inequity-of-police-responses-to-racial-justices-demonstrations/) (Nov. 2023) available at <https://tminstituteldf.org/police-and-protests-the-inequity-of-police-responses-to-racial-justices-demonstrations/>

⁶ *McCullen v Coakley*, 573 U.S. 464 (2014) (striking down Massachusetts law establishing a 35-foot buffer zone around abortion clinics violated the First Amendment as not narrowly tailored to serve a significant government interest as it burdened more speech than necessary.)

⁷ While the Supreme Court upheld a type of buffer zone in *Hill v. Colorado*, 530 U.S. 703 (2000), the statute upheld in that opinion did not prohibit *all* protest activity, as Int-0001-2026 and Int. 0175-2026 would, but rather, limited the ability of individuals to disseminate literature outside of abortion clinics.

disproportionately affect not only certain viewpoints but also communities that are already over-policed. The perimeters are also far from “narrowly tailored”: the sheer number of educational facilities in a city as dense as New York would turn the city into a hot bed of speech-free zones and would unconstitutionally burden the speech of *every* New Yorker who happens to find themselves within the buffer zone of a protected facility.⁸ Indeed, our criminal laws already address alleged harassing and violent conduct outside of educational institutions. A law requiring the creation of “security perimeters” – even while requiring the police to take steps to ensure the zones do not curtail protest rights – is not necessary when there are alternatives to achieving the stated purpose of safety, particularly when it infringes on people’s freedom of expression.

After years of litigation by the Legal Aid Society and co-counsel, plaintiffs in *Payne v. DeBlasio et al.*, and the consolidated cases *In Re: NYPD Policing During Summer 2020*, along with the NYPD, entered into a landmark settlement (“Protest Settlement Agreement”) that addresses the policing of First Amendment Activities in New York City as a result of the NYPD’s repressive policing of protests in the wake of George Floyd’s murder at the hands of the police. Under the Protest Settlement Agreement, the NYPD is tasked with *promoting*, whenever and wherever possible, First Amendment activity. The Protest Settlement Agreement implemented a tiered NYPD response to protests to affirmatively *prevent* the chilling of free speech that occurs as a matter of course when there is an outsized police presence at First Amendment activities. Were this bill to pass into law, it would upset the carefully negotiated balance of the Protest Settlement Agreement by requiring law enforcement to create and maintain security perimeters, thus requiring increased deployment of NYPD personnel and unnecessarily increasing police visibility at peaceful protests, demonstrations, and other First Amendment activity. Modern policing experts understand that police presence at protests can escalate crowd tension instead of promote safety.⁹ To address this understanding, the settlement required the NYPD to adopt a tiered approach to policing protests, in which they stage their resources out of the view of protesters, and only increase visibility, if necessary, as a protest moves up the tiered system. The tiered system only

⁸ For example, there are well over 5,000 places of worship and approximately 4,000 denominated Christian churches in the five boroughs. See William Grimes, *Where New Yorkers Worship: Finding God in a City of Bustle*, NY Times (Dec. 24, 2015) <https://www.nytimes.com/2015/12/25/arts/where-new-yorkers-worship-finding-god-in-a-city-of-bustle.html>

⁹ Edward R. Maguire and Megan Oakley, *Policing Protests: Lessons from the Occupy Movement, Ferguson & Beyond: A Guide for Police* (2020).

allows for NYPD presence at, and in response to, protests if demonstrations block major traffic arteries or sensitive locations, if protesters engage in unlawful conduct, or other instances that could compromise public safety. This bill would undermine that settlement provision by inviting police presence to effectuate security perimeters up to NYPD's discretion at the specified educational locations. The Protest Settlement Agreement, just like the First Amendment, applies equally to all protests and does not differentiate between certain locations or viewpoints to make exceptions as to where and how First Amendment activities are allowed.

With the Protest Settlement Agreement, and existing law, the NYPD has numerous tools at their disposal to ensure that protests remain peaceful while enabling access to educational facilities that this bill seeks to protect. Requiring the proposed "security perimeters" will burden protestors and the NYPD alike in that it will unnecessarily place members of the public at risk and create serious conflicts with legal obligations that the NYPD has entered through a multi-year, binding settlement. This bill would provide the NYPD with extensive discretion to issue dispersal orders, create substantial risk of viewpoint discrimination, and likely result in the very violence that it seeks to avoid.

Conclusion

For all the reasons set forth above, we oppose this proposed legislation.



**The New York City Council
Committee On Public Safety
Chair: Council Member Oswald J. Feliz**

Testimony of

The Legal Aid Society's Special Litigation Unit

June 10, 2026

Submitted by:

Paula Garcia-Salazar
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Special Litigation Unit
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49 Thomas Street
New York, NY 10013

This testimony is submitted on behalf of The Legal Aid Society, New York City's oldest and largest public defender organization.

The Legal Aid Society is built on one simple but powerful belief: that no New Yorker should be denied the right to equal justice. We seek to be a beacon of hope for New Yorkers who feel neglected--regardless of who they are, where they come from, or how they identify. From our start over 140 years ago, our growth has mirrored that of the city we serve. Today, we are proud to be the largest, most influential social justice law firm in New York City. Our staff and attorneys deliver justice in every borough, working tirelessly to defend our clients and dismantle the hidden, systemic barriers that can prevent them from thriving. As passionate advocates for individuals and families, The Legal Aid Society is an indispensable component of the legal, social, and economic fabric of our city.

In response to the bills addressed by the Council during this hearing, we offer the following recommendations for the bills under consideration.

Intro 489:

Position: Support with recommended amendments

We support Int. 489, with recommended amendments. We commend CM Vernikov for introducing legislation aimed at helping New Yorkers locate their vehicles after they have been towed. We applaud the recognition of how difficult it is for New Yorkers to retrieve their vehicles after they have been moved by the NYPD or the rotation tow. The loss of a vehicle for even one day can have devastating consequences for New Yorkers who rely on their vehicles to get to and from work, or who may use their vehicles for their employment. Often, when vehicles are towed, New Yorkers are at a loss when searching for their vehicles, and police precincts have been historically unhelpful.

We recommend that the Council clarify that this database is available not just for towed vehicles, but also for vehicles seized by the NYPD during an arrest. The NYPD seized 16,226 vehicles in 2025 alone.¹ Many of those vehicles are seized during an arrest and then sold at auction after a

¹ Attachment B, Local Law 131 - Seized Property Data Report, available at <https://www.nyc.gov/site/nypd/stats/reports-analysis/seized-property.page>

declined prosecution or a quick disposition. Many Legal Aid clients are affected by the loss of a vehicle simply because they could not track down its whereabouts. The loss of a vehicle for Legal Aid's indigent clients can have profound economic consequences. We also recommend that, for vehicles involved in an arrest, the database comply with any and all sealing statutes that would prohibit the maintenance of criminal charge information on a publicly available database.

Intro 552: Position: Oppose

As written, we must oppose Int. 552. We commend CM Felix for introducing legislation aiming at relieving some of the space issues at many of the City's auto pounds. Many Legal Aid clients find their cars auctioned off by private tow companies extremely quickly because they were diverted from the NYPD auto pounds due to space issues. However, the NYPD need not be incentivized to seize more vehicles. Legal Aid clients often suffer the loss of enjoyment of their property at the hands of NYPD with little to no due process. The NYPD seizes vehicles for months, sometimes years. Often, the vehicles have nothing to do with the underlying charge, and have no probative value to an underlying criminal case. The NYPD refuses to return vehicles that are seized as investigatory evidence even if no case is ever initiated. And when individuals demand the return of the vehicle, the NYPD conditions the return of the vehicle on the satisfaction of monetary settlements, often in the thousands, even though no formal forfeiture proceedings were ever initiated, and even if the owner of the vehicle is not the person arrested for the crime associated with the vehicle. The NYPD is extorting every day New Yorkers out of thousands of dollars to assure the safe return of their property.

The City has been the subject of lawsuits over this very practice before. In *Krimstock v. Kelly*, the Second Circuit recognized the extreme toll that vehicle seizures took on indigent individuals. The Court recognized that taking somebody's valuable property as a consequence of traffic violations was an extreme measure that needed sufficient process. By promoting the NYPD's sweeping vehicle seizure program, the City is opening itself up to further abuses of due process.

The NYPD seized over 16,000 vehicles last year. Increasing pound capacity with the directive to commensurately increase enforcement will not solve space issues. It will lead to more unjust and unfounded seizures and to more New Yorkers losing their rightful property. We recommend that City Council instead pass a bill that would streamline the property retrieval process and allow New Yorkers to retrieve their vehicles from the precinct promptly, without delay, and without having

to pay exorbitant settlement amounts, so that vehicles do not end up in the NYPD Auto Pounds unless they are legitimately necessary as evidence or are subject to a properly filed forfeiture action.

Conclusion

We thank you for your consideration of our positions and remain open and available for further explanation and collaboration.



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**Testimony of the New York Civil Liberties Union
to
The New York City Council Committee on Public Safety**

June 10, 2026

The New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU), the New York State affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union, is a not-for-profit, nonpartisan organization with eight offices across the state and over 100,000 members and supporters. The NYCLU defends and promotes the fundamental principles and values embodied in the Bill of Rights, the U.S. Constitution, and the New York Constitution, through an integrated program of litigation, legislative advocacy, public education, and community organizing.

Protecting and upholding First Amendment rights is core to our organization’s mission. To this end, the NYCLU respectfully submits the following testimony to the New York City Council Committee on Public Safety to oppose Int. 929, a bill that would require the New York Police Department (“NYPD”) to create a plan for the use of security perimeters at and around educational facilities.¹

I. Creating a Security Perimeter Plan for Educational Facilities Threatens to Undo Hard Fought-For Reforms and Disproportionately Harm Traditionally Marginalized and Overpoliced Communities.

As written, Int. 929 requires the NYPD to, for the first time,² develop a plan for establishing security perimeters outside of k-8 public and private schools and private high schools. This threatens to undermine the In re Summer 2020 Protest Settlement and disproportionately impact Black, brown, LGBTQIA2s+, and immigrant New Yorkers.

¹ The NYCLU also expresses extreme concern at the fast-tracking of this legislation. Not only was Int. 929 introduced without dealing with the very real concerns that groups expressed about its precursor (Int. 175-B), but the date of the hearing on this bill is overlapping with the singular hearing that City residents and organizations have to testify on the budget. This is particularly concerning given that many of the groups opposing these bills are also active on issues involving the City budget.

² At the June 10, 2026 hearing held by the Committee on Public Safety, the NYPD confirmed that it does not have a plan specific to the establishment of security perimeters (aka. frozen zones) outside of schools. *See* Committee on Public Safety, June 10, 2026 Hearing, Video, *available at* <https://legistar.council.nyc.gov/DepartmentDetail.aspx?ID=6913&GUID=BCE87221-FD8F-40B5-94D4-66C5F4F643E7#> (discussion starting at 1:00:35).

A. Int. 929 Threatens to Undermine the NYPD Protest Settlement.

Int. 929 centers one particular and aggressive response to protest—the establishment of security perimeters—as the mechanism that a plan needs to be developed around. The bill fails to recognize that security perimeters are only one in a range of possible responses, and the deployment of them will not always be appropriate or constitutional.

The bill could fundamentally undermine the NYPD Protest Settlement,³ which was entered by a federal district court in 2024 and requires the NYPD to minimize police presence at protests and demonstrations using a tiered approach to ensure compliance with the First Amendment. By giving the NYPD a blank check to escalate police deployment on public streets and sidewalks outside of schools, Int. 929 will impact public demonstrations and is likely to encourage excessive police presence and escalation at First Amendment activities throughout the City.

We've seen time and time again that when police are indiscriminately deployed to protests, tensions with communities escalate and protestors are subject to increased criminalization. Requiring more police to erect and maintain security perimeters at protests outside of schools also conflicts with nationally accepted best policing practices, which clearly state that deploying more officers to protests escalates tensions and makes conflict with different community groups, police, and members of the public more likely.⁴ Experts instead recommend that police focus their efforts on community engagement before and during First Amendment activities, and also prioritize de-escalation at protests. Police should see their role as helping to *facilitate* First Amendment expression, not undertaking measures that will impede that expression.

The tiered approach in the Protest Settlement is intentionally structured to comport with these nationally accepted standards in the context of police response to First Amendment activities. The tiered system requires the NYPD to deploy no more police officers and protest liaisons than necessary and to use de-escalation methods before increasing officer deployments to protests. The tiered system only allows for increased NYPD presence and response to protests if demonstrations risk blocking major traffic arteries or sensitive locations, if protesters engage in certain unlawful conduct, or other instances that could compromise protestor or public safety. Int. 929 could create

³ Stipulated Order, In re: New York City Policing During Summer 2020 Protests, 1:20-cv-08924-CM, Dkt. No. 1099-2 (Sept. 5, 2023), *available at* https://www.nyclu.org/uploads/2023/09/1099-2_settlement_agreement.pdf.

⁴ See Police Executive Research Forum, Rethinking the Police Response to Mass Demonstrations: 9 Recommendations, at 19-20, 29-30 (Feb. 2022), *available at* <https://www.policeforum.org/assets/MassDemonstrationsResponse.pdf>; *see also* Declaration of Hassan Aden, In re: New York City Policing During Summer 2020 Protests, 1:20-cv-08924-CM, Dkt. No. 1128 (Nov. 3, 2023), *available at* https://www.nyclu.org/uploads/2023/11/payne_affirmation_of_expert_hassan_aden_in_support_of_opposition_to_pba_motion.pdf.

an improper exception to the tiered approach and potentially escalate the use of force and mass arrests any time a covered educational facility is nearby.

Int. 929 also raises significant concerns that the instances when police respond to First Amendment activity outside covered facilities may vary depending on the viewpoint expressed. The protest settlement and the Constitution mandate that the NYPD not police protests differently based on the message of the demonstration or the neighborhood where the demonstration is occurring. But Int. 929 would invite the NYPD to specific locations to issue dispersal orders to protestors based on the topic of the demonstration and the groups protesting, leading to viewpoint discrimination and possibly resulting in the very violence that these proposals seek to prevent.

The NYPD must not act in response to any viewpoint expressed during a protest, and must not create a plan that would run afoul of the First Amendment and the Protest Settlement.

B. The Bill Could Fuel the School to Prison Pipeline.

In a city already marked by racial disparities in policing, and where the police have consistently brutalized protestors, increasing law enforcement presence at schools will only harm those students and communities already disproportionately targeted by law enforcement, including Black, brown, and LGBTQIA2s+ students. Indeed, research consistently shows that the presence of law enforcement in schools does not enhance safety. Rather, it fosters environments of fear and criminalization, disproportionately impacting Black, Brown, immigrant, transgender and queer students, and students with disabilities.⁵ By encouraging increased law enforcement presence at schools, Int. 929 increases the likelihood that young people will be restrained, arrested, or placed in the NYPD's gang database.

Students have often been among those leading pushes for civil and human rights. And schools should be a place where students can learn to express their opinions, engage in debate, and advocate for social reform. As we are seeing government actors trying to suppress First Amendment activities, our city should be encouraging students to engage in civic life—not discouraging it.

C. Increasing Law Enforcement Presence Around Schools Could Increase Fear Among Immigrant New Yorkers.

At a moment when the Trump Administration is deploying a cruel and inhumane deportation agenda, increasing law enforcement presence outside of schools will only

⁵ See, e.g., Tyler Whittenberg & Maria Fernandez, *Ending Student Criminalization and the School-to-Prison Pipeline*, Advancement Project, New York University (2024), <https://steinhardt.nyu.edu/metrocenter/ejroc/ending-student-criminalization-and-school-prison-pipeline>.

fuel fear among immigrant New Yorkers. New York City is a city of immigrants⁶—a city whose strength and beauty stems from its diversity.

At a time when our immigrant neighbors are under attack, and ICE agents have reportedly been seen circling schools in parts of the country, it is imperative that our city not encourage increased law enforcement presence at sensitive locations. Doing so will only increase the real and perceived threats to immigrant children and families.

II. No Record Has Established the Need for Int. 929.

There is simply no record establishing any need for Int. 929. When Int. 929’s precursor—Int. 175—was considered by the Council, there was no testimony or data provided to establish that there had been protests or other activities outside of k-12 schools that had impeded students’ ability to safely enter or exit these facilities.

The lack of any relevant record was reaffirmed at the hearing held by the Committee on Public Safety on June 10, 2026. At that hearing, the NYPD was asked if it could describe incidents where the Department had “determined that individuals were not able to safely enter or exit schools due to protest activity.” The response—reiterated more than once during the hearing—was that they “were not aware of a situation where that happened in recent memory.”⁷

This begs the question: What problem is the Council trying to solve with Int. 929? And, why is our City trying to advance a bill that—as written—could increase law enforcement presence at schools and harm marginalized communities?

II. As Written, Int. 929 is Not a Transparency Measure.

While many supporters of Int. 929 state that it is merely a transparency measure seeking to outline the NYPD’s current practices—it is anything but. The bill frames protest as a security concern and asks the NYPD to create a “proposed plan” for the establishment of security perimeters outside of our city’s educational facilities when, by the NYPD’s own admission, no written plan currently exists. It then creates a 45-day window when the proposed plan will go to the Speaker of the City Council and the Mayor, before it is published. It is hard to conceive of any reason for this window, if not to provide an opportunity to give feedback, edit, or otherwise manipulate the

⁶ According to a November 2025 data brief published by the Center for Migration Studies, more than one third—or 38%—of New Yorkers residents were born outside of the United States. Center for Migration Studies, Data Briefing: A Portrait of Immigrant New Yorkers, Nov. 14, 2025, <https://cmsny.org/publications/data-briefing-on-new-york-city-immigrants/>.

⁷ Committee on Public Safety, *supra* note 1 (starting at 1:08:58); *see also, e.g., id.* (starting at 1:10:27) (noting that the NYPD has not seen issues arising at elementary, middle, or high schools).

When this line of questioning was followed up with an inquiry as to whether people had experienced intimidation outside of schools, the NYPD noted there has not been a record of incidents where protestors were targeting the educational facilities covered under Int. 929. *Id.* (starting at 1:09:24).

proposal—something that clearly cuts against the idea that the measure is simply seeking to disclose current NYPD practices.

Further, as noted above, the bill focuses on one particular, restrictive NYPD response to First Amendment activity: security perimeters. It privileges that response above others, and fails to recognize that security perimeters are only one of many ways that NYPD can respond to protest or other protected activities, and that the use of such perimeters will not always be appropriate or constitutional.

If the Council truly wanted to advance a transparency measure, the bill must be amended from its current form. First, it must require the NYPD to publish its policies and practices for responding to educational facilities. The bill should not name or focus on security perimeters or require the NYPD to create a new plan for deployment outside of schools in our city. This would actually promote transparency, as security perimeters will often not be an appropriate response, and if the Council and members of the public actually want to better understand NYPD policies and practices, the bill should be centered on sharing how the NYPD balances the facts on the ground and the interests at play when deciding what an appropriate response is, as well as the range of responses that the NYPD considers.⁸

Second, the bill should specify that such responses should comply with the *In re Summer 2020 Protest Settlement* and First Amendment protections on speech, assembly, and protest. At the hearing on this bill's precursor—Int. 175—the NYPD Protest Settlement seemed to be a second thought. It should be directly named that any police response to protest needs to comport with both the settlement and state and federal constitutional protections.

Third, if the goal of Int. 929 is to provide transparency into *current* NYPD policies and practices, there is no rationale or reason for giving the NYPD 45 days to develop a proposal and then having a 45-day window when the proposal is in the hands of two members of state government before it is made public. Rather, if the aim is to have the NYPD make its current practices public, the NYPD's policies should be posted directly online within a couple of weeks of the bill's enactment.

While some have claimed Int. 929's precursor (Int. 175-B) received overwhelming support, this is patently false. To be clear, over 100 groups—representing a vast range of constituencies—opposed Int. 175-B.⁹ While Int. 929 narrowed the definition of

⁸ At the hearing on June 10th, the NYPD noted that the analysis when determining when a security perimeter or frozen zone is necessary is “incredibly context specific,” requiring “all relevant factors” to be accounted for in a “totality of the circumstances analysis” to determine what is a “reasonable time, place, and manner restriction.” *Id.* (discussion starting at 1:01:45).

⁹ See, e.g., 100+ Org Letter Urging City Council to Sustain Veto of Intro. 175-B, <https://www.nyclu.org/resources/policy/testimonies/100-org-letter-urging-city-council-to-sustain-veto-of-intro-175-b>.

educational facility, no other language of the bill changed; this means that the bulk of concerns previously raised remain.

At a moment in time when the federal government is censoring and punishing political speech, it is imperative that our City not proceed down the same path. The NYCLU strongly urges the Council not to move Int. 929 in its current form and would be happy to discuss how the bill could be amended to create a measure that's truly about transparency.

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL

Committee on Public Safety

Int. No. (T2026-2058) (Council Members Feliz and Ariola)
A Local Law in relation to weekly reporting on confirmed firearm discharges
Testimony of John Hall, NYPD (ret.)



Good morning, Chair and members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

My name is John Hall. I served twenty years in the New York City Police Department, where I worked in the Office of Crime Control Strategies and in the Police Commissioner's Office and oversaw the department's data operations and crime reporting. I started the NYPD's contribution to the City's Open Data portal, and I represented the department at the White House Police Data Initiative in 2015. Today I advise government agencies on data and public safety, I write frequently for *Vital City*, and I am a PhD student in criminology at the University of Cambridge. I come to you as the person who helped build the NYPD's open data practice and as one of its most frequent users. I want to be clear that I am here today in my personal capacity, speaking only for myself as a consumer of the City's open data. I am not testifying on behalf of any agency, client, or employer.

I support the goal of this bill. I am here to help you make it work. I am a strong believer in open data because it does three things at once. It holds government accountable, it advances science, and it helps people understand what is happening in their own city.

Open data already does real work in this city

This is not theoretical. The City's public safety data is in use every day, and the results reach far beyond City Hall.

- It is the foundation of *Vital City's* annual and midyear crime reports, which give the public an independent, plain-language read on safety trends.
- It allowed reporters at *The City (Reporter)* to expose the NYPD's irresponsible escalation in vehicle pursuits.
- That reporting let me write a peer-reviewed study, *The Fast and the Spurious*, on how those pursuits affected crime. It is now under consideration at the *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*.
- Researchers contact me regularly to work with this data, which sharpens our understanding of both local and national trends.

- It lets city agencies see what other agencies are doing without negotiating data-sharing agreements and standing up months of meetings to do it.
- It informed a report released just last week by Manhattan Borough President Brad Hoylman-Sigal, his staff, and BetaNYC.

Open data is no longer a courtesy government extends to the public. It is a baseline expectation of modern government, and the public is right to expect it.

Get the details right, or the bill does nothing

My central concern is relevance and balance. Where this bill is vague, we will get a product that is not useful to the Council or to the people who would rely on it. Where it is overly prescriptive, we will lose data quality along the way. Too many reporting bills land in the dead zone between the two. They often merely create work for agencies and deliver almost nothing of public or institutional value.

This bill does not have to be one of them. With a few amendments, it would be genuinely useful to my work, to the Office of Community Safety, to the District Attorneys, and to many others. I will add that, in my former role at the department, the District Attorneys consistently raised interest in exactly this kind of data. They may well want to advocate for this bill, or for a version of it.

The changes below are small. Each one is the difference between a dataset people use and a requirement that sits unused on a server.

Recommended amendments

1. Require a machine-readable format on the Open Data platform.

The bill does not say how the data must be published. Left open, that invites PDFs or pre-aggregated tables that no one can analyze. The bill should require publication in a machine-readable format, such as CSV or XLS, on the City's Open Data platform. The department already publishes related data there on a quarterly basis, so this codifies existing practice rather than inventing a new one. I would stress that this is not an added burden. It is less work for the department, not more. I built this part of the NYPD's open data operation, so I can tell you directly that exporting a clean machine-readable file is simpler than hand-building a formatted PDF or a custom aggregated report. The raw data already lives in the department's systems in this form. Asking for a PDF is asking someone to take usable data and degrade it by hand. Asking for a CSV is asking them to skip that step.

2. Report quarterly, not weekly.

The bill calls for weekly reporting. I recommend quarterly, consistent with every other category of police open data. Confirming a discharge takes time, and a weekly clock forces the data out before it is reliable. The police department spends time ensuring that this data is correct. The NYPD does not publish shooting data weekly for precisely this reason. My firm expectation is that a weekly mandate would produce data in a format we cannot actually use. Quarterly reporting will be both more accurate and more usable.

3. Geocode it the way the department geocodes crime data.

The bill should require each discharge to be geocoded the same way as the department's existing crime data, to the midblock or nearest intersection. Consistent geocoding is what lets this dataset be joined to everything else the City already publishes. Without it, the data sits in a silo.

4. Make it incident-level, with a persistent unique identifier.

The data must be incident-level to be worth anything. I would make that explicit in the text with a sentence such as: *"The dataset shall contain one record for each confirmed firearm discharge."* Without that line, "incident-level" is just an adjective the department can read loosely and satisfy with a summary table. I would pair it with a required identifier field: *"A unique identifier assigned by the department to the confirmed firearm discharge, which shall persist across updates to the dataset."* A persistent identifier is what lets analysts track a record as it is corrected and updated over time. It is the single most important technical detail in the bill.

5. Drop the "circumstances" requirement.

Subdivision (c) asks for *"a description of the circumstances under which the firearms were discharged."* This one should be dropped. There are three problems with it. First, the circumstances of a discharge are frequently unknown, especially early on, when most of these records would be reported. Second, what is known is often wrong at first and changes as the investigation develops, so an early description is as likely to mislead as to inform. Third, and decisively, the underlying source for this field is the free text that officers enter, and that text routinely contains personally identifying information and other sensitive details about victims, witnesses, and suspects. Publishing it is a non-starter. It cannot go on an open data platform without extensive manual redaction, which defeats the purpose and is not sustainable at any regular cadence. This is a provision the Council can let go without losing anything the public can actually use. The structured fields in the rest of the bill carry the real value.

6. Strike the word "approximate."

Subdivision (b) requires *"the approximate date, time, and location for each confirmed firearm discharge."* Remove "approximate." That one word hands the department license to publish data less granular than it needs to be. Date, time, and location should be reported at the same

precision as the department's other crime data. The currently published Complaint dataset includes time that the incident reported as well as time that it occurred.

7. Institutionalize this in the Council's Open Data program.

Rather than leaving format and standards to case-by-case interpretation, anchor this reporting in the NYC Council's Open Data program so it inherits the standards that already make the rest of the City's data usable. That is the most durable way to keep this from drifting into a one-off PDF.

If we get this right

Done well, this dataset will serve the Office of Community Safety, the District Attorneys' offices, researchers, the press, and, above all, the public. None of the amendments I have described are heavy lifts. Together they are what separates a living dataset from a box-checking exercise.

I started open data for the NYPD, and I now rely on it from the outside. I would be glad to help the Council shape, steer, and refine this bill so it delivers what its sponsors intend. Thank you. I am happy to take any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

John Hall



The New York City Council
Honorable Chair Oswald Feliz
Hearing on the Committee on Public Safety
June 10th, 2026

Good morning esteemed Council Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Janice Chong and I am a youth leader with the YA-YA Network and an intern at the Dignity in School Campaign of NY. I graduated high school last year, and I am now an incoming sophomore at Georgetown University. I'm still here to fight for the rights of the next generation of NYC public school students and college students.

First, I want to acknowledge the success we had in blocking bill 175-B from coming to fruition. I am grateful for the council members who stayed firm in their stance against the bill. However, this new school "security perimeters" bill is once again threatening our students' right to free speech, exacerbates the school-to-prison pipeline, and will disproportionately impact Black, Brown, low-income, and immigrant communities.

As a longtime student organizer, I have had the privilege to exercise my freedom of speech at rallies, hearings, and press conferences alike, and I want to ensure that generations of students after me can exercise the same rights. This bill jeopardizes young people's civil liberties by not having requirements, standards, or limits to the buffer zones that will surround education facilities—what counts as an educational facility is also still broadly unclear.

This new bill is framed as a path towards transparency, but it is not a transparency bill. Why is there a normalization of NYPD perimeter authority around public and non-public k-12 schools without justification? Why is there an expansion of fear and criminalization for immigrant, low income, BIPOC students through increased police presence? Where is the transparency in current NYPD practices towards protests?

Therefore, for all the council members who have not signed on, I implore you all to not sign this bill until our concerns are addressed with amendments.

For council members who have signed on, push for this bill to become a true transparency bill by requiring NYPD to report on and publish its current practices for responding to protests outside schools, with protections consistent with the 2024 settlement and First Amendment rights under federal and state law.

The effects of this bill could be chilling. Instead of justifying additional police presence in or around schools, the city should invest in the mental health continuum, restorative justice initiatives, and other equity-based services. We should be able to have safety for all communities without increasing police presence.

June 8, 2026

Honorable Members of the New York City Council
Committee on Public Safety

Subject: Strong Support for Intro 0913-2026

Dear Chairperson Kamillah Hanks and Esteemed Members of the Committee,

My name is MD Mahmud Kadir, and I am a proud New York City resident writing to express my strong support for Intro 0913-2026, which would increase the maximum age for New York City Police Officer civil service examinations to 43 years old.

I am 36 years old, and I believe this legislation is both timely and necessary. New York City is facing significant recruitment challenges, and many qualified, experienced, and physically capable individuals remain ready to serve but are currently excluded solely because of an outdated age restriction.

I am one of those individuals. I successfully passed NYPD Police Officer Exam 6312 and remain committed to pursuing a career in law enforcement. In addition, I have completed extensive federal law enforcement training and possess valuable public safety experience that has strengthened my professionalism, discipline, and commitment to serving the public.

Despite my qualifications, physical readiness, and desire to serve, I am currently unable to continue the NYPD hiring process because of the age limitation. This does not reflect my ability to perform the duties of a police officer. I remain physically fit, motivated, and prepared to meet the demands of the profession.

New York State has already recognized the value of mature candidates by raising the maximum examination age to 43. Passing Intro 0913-2026 would bring New York City into alignment with state standards while expanding the pool of qualified applicants who can help address staffing shortages and strengthen public safety.

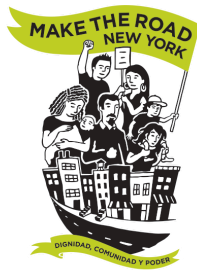
Candidates in their late 30s and early 40s often bring valuable life experience, maturity, sound judgment, and a strong commitment to community service. These qualities are essential to modern policing and can contribute greatly to the mission of the NYPD.

I respectfully urge the Committee and the full City Council to support and advance Intro 0913-2026. This legislation would provide dedicated New Yorkers like myself with a fair opportunity to serve our communities while helping the NYPD recruit experienced and capable officers.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and continued dedication to the safety of our city.

Respectfully submitted,

MD Mahmud Kadir
New York City Resident
NYPD Exam 6312 Candidate



Good afternoon, my name is Ana, and I'm a youth leader with Make the Road New York. I go to 8th grade at a Queens middle school. Council Member Thomas-Henry represents where I live and where I go to school. I left school early today to make sure my voice gets heard. Because just like this bill, this hearing is being held at a time that aims to silence the voices of those it affects the most - students like me. This bill should not pass.

Last month, I met with my council member and shared with her why the original buffer zone bill was unnecessary and harmful. Cops should not be the ones coming up with the plan to keep me and my friends safe in school. Cops do not equal safety to us. But now this new bill being proposed does the exact same thing: it only changes the locations that would be covered. But my school would still be included. I don't need cops to come up with a plan on how to respond to protests near my school. In my middle school, the school cops literally yell in students' faces and say "what do you want" whenever anyone comes up to them. It makes me feel like I'm doing something wrong and I end up freezing. Since English isn't my first language, I feel intimidated and struggle to respond. Having these cops be the deciding factors of where perimeters in my school go during a protest doesn't make me feel safe.

Just two days ago Trump's border czar Tom Homan has continued to threaten to send more ICE agents to New York City, just because students like me fought for and won protections for schools from immigration enforcement. It's really scary to me that at any point my loved ones could get kidnapped by ICE. Schools should be safe places for students and families. Having more cops and ICE agents around our schools increases the chances for young people like me to get moved into the school-to-deportation pipeline.

My friends and I have watched brave students across the country leading walkouts from their schools to protest ICE. If we wanted to take this kind of action, this new bill would make us think twice. If this passes into law, I don't think a lot of my friends would want to participate. Cops already have the power to move people during a protest. We don't have to continue passing laws that make it seem normal to have cops making decisions that impact every part of our life.

What makes me feel safe is more mental health support in schools. Instead of spending millions of dollars on empty school cop positions, and all this time arguing about school buffer zones, let's talk about how we need more psychologists and social workers in our schools. With the increased threats of ICE in our community, we need more adults who are trained to support students and reduce harm. My friend ended his life this year. He was just 13 years old. His death is still hard to talk about, I felt so shocked and



overwhelmed when I heard the news. There were so many people in my school that were crying the next day, and we didn't have enough adults to help us deal with this loss. These are real student safety concerns. This is where we need to spend our time and money. I am a middle schooler and I'm telling you, I don't need cops to come up with a formal plan on how to respond to protests near my school. My school staff have that covered. Cops do not equal safety. They never have and they never will. On behalf of young people, I urge you to vote no. Thank you.

From: [Bright Limm](#)
To: [Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Written Testimony Calling to Amend Security Perimeters Bill
Date: Monday, June 8, 2026 4:30:47 PM



City Council Testimony,

To Speaker Menin, Council Member Encarnacion, and the Members of the New York City Council:

As a New Yorker and constituent, I strongly oppose the proposed bill on security perimeters around educational facilities. At a time of increasing surveillance and dangerous expansion of policing by the Trump administration, New York City should be leading the way on protecting our right to protest—not threatening it.

The fact is, this bill is a solution in search of a problem. There is currently no evidence whatsoever that schools are being harassed or threatened by protestors. Instead, this bill would have a chilling effect on students who want to speak out against injustice and threaten to increase policing and criminalization of Black and brown kids in New York City. It's time to turn the page on that sordid past, and this bill could make it harder to do that.

Instead, I'm calling on the Council to amend the bill. We don't need more policing, and we don't need "security perimeters." What we do need is transparency. I'm calling on the city council to amend the bill to require the NYPD to publish and report on their current policies and procedures for responding to protests around educational facilities, as defined in your current bill. The NYPD certainly already has plans to respond to protests of all kinds including around schools. It's important that the public is made aware of their procedures when responding to sensitive locations like schools, where children are at risk. The 2024 protest settlement with the NYPD made clear that the NYPD's procedures can pose a risk to the rights of protestors, and it's important that those rights—including for young people—are respected in the NYPD's existing plans. The public has a right to know.

I urge you to amend the bill to make it a true transparency measure to require the NYPD publish its existing policies and procedures in order to better protect young people and protestors in New York City.

Thank you.

Bright Limm

allison@domesticworkers.org



Jamaica, New York 11435

Public Safety Meeting Speech

Good evening,

My name is **Jacqueline DeJesus**. I am a mother and a parent advocate for the autism and disability community.

I am here tonight because public safety is about more than responding to emergencies—it is about preventing them.

Our community has a high number of children and young adults living with autism, ADHD, developmental disabilities, and mental health challenges. Many of these children are being raised by grandparents or relatives who are doing the best they can, often with limited financial resources and little support.

Unfortunately, our community lacks the resources these families need. Our parks are not sensory-friendly. Our community centers have very few accommodations or programs for children with disabilities. While facilities like the YMCA are wonderful, many families in our community simply cannot afford access.

When children have nowhere to go, no support, and no services, they often end up struggling. Some act out, some fall behind, and some find themselves interacting with law enforcement.

But we need to ask ourselves: **Are we addressing the behavior, or are we addressing the cause?**

Too often, when a child or young adult with a disability is in crisis, the response is punishment rather than support. We place them in group homes, suspend them, or involve the justice system. Those actions may provide a temporary solution, but they do not address the underlying issues.

We need a better approach.

I am asking for mandatory mental health, autism, and disability-awareness training for city officials, police officers, EMS personnel, and all public servants. First responders should have the tools to recognize a mental health crisis, understand developmental disabilities, and use de-escalation techniques whenever possible.

Mental health crises should be treated as health emergencies. Families need access to therapy, behavioral services, crisis intervention, and support programs—not just temporary fixes.

If we truly want safer communities, we must invest in prevention. We must create sensory-friendly spaces, expand affordable programs, support families, and ensure that those in crisis receive help instead of simply being pushed through a system that does not meet their needs.

Every child deserves the opportunity to be understood, supported, and successful.

Thank you for your time, and I hope we can work together to build a community that serves all of our children and families.

Thank you.

My name is Jay Julio; I am a member of the American Federation of Musicians and a former teaching artist in schools in East Harlem and the Bronx. I have also taught as a substitute at the Manhattan School of Music Precollege Division and been a part of their union's latest contract negotiation disputes with administration in 2025. I am writing today from my experiences in that fight for a new contract with appropriate wages. The Manhattan School of Music administration refused to come to the table with arbitration until the faculty union held online and in-person actions, including pickets in front of the school, that included faculty members, community members, school alumni, and current students. People affected by a school's actions include far more than meets the eye. The current bill would have made it impossible for the union to negotiate, as in-person actions make it clear to the community what is lost when voices are silenced, whether by refusing to meet with workers or by displacing people off their land through gentrification or colonization.

Dear CM Elsie Encarnación and Chair of Public Safety Oswald Feliz,

My name is Dr. Kaliris Salas-Ramirez. I am a neuroscientist, medical educator, East Harlem/EI Barrio resident. I am the mother of two public school students, former Manhattan Borough President appointee to the PEP, 3 term elected CEC4 president, and steering committee member of New Yorkers for Racially Just Public Schools.

What makes this moment particularly painful is that many of us have attempted to engage with all of you in good faith. We have requested meetings, attended meetings, written statements and used all of the opportunities possible to communicate that these buffer zone bills, meant to “police protests” (Speaker Julie Menin) in our schools, are not a reflection of what the community wants or needs. They are also ineffective in addressing anti-Semitism in our schools and much less our city. There is zero evidence of this being an issue in our school communities. There is a lot of evidence of councilmembers being threatened and bullied into supporting bills/legislation that reflect the wants of a few powerful people, and not the most vulnerable.

On May 13th, more than fifteen community members of East Harlem and the Bronx met with you, CM Encarnación. We weren't expecting Education Committee Chair Eric Dinowitz, author of 175B, at the meeting, but we rolled with it. Our goal was to discuss our concerns about Intro 175-B and the fact that it intentionally violated our first amendment rights. We are not political insiders, but are people with lived experience; people who raise children in your neighborhoods, teach in your schools, organize alongside families, and understand firsthand the consequences of over-policing.

Many of us left that meeting feeling dismissed, gaslit and offended.

We were repeatedly told that the legislation was merely a “transparency bill.” Yet the language before us does not create meaningful transparency. It creates a framework through which the NYPD develops and implements school security perimeter policies with little meaningful community oversight or public accountability. We were also told that this discussion was “not about emotions” and not about “people with lived experience.” But public policy affecting children, schools, civil liberties, and community safety must be informed by the lived experiences of the communities most impacted. Your communities, where you have seen the silencing of our people firsthand.

For Black, Puerto Rican, immigrant, and working-class families, lived experience is not anecdotal. It is our expertise. It is evidence. It is the accumulated knowledge of generations who have experienced both the consequences of disinvestment and the harms of over-policing and the systemic targeting to disenfranchise our people.

If the true goal is transparency, then the legislation should be rewritten as a reporting and accountability measure. The City Council should require the NYPD to publicly disclose its existing policies, procedures, and decision-making processes related to protests and demonstrations near schools. Any reporting framework should include public data on when perimeters are established, how decisions are made, what alternatives were considered, and

the impact on students, families, and surrounding communities. Transparency means informing the public. It does not mean granting additional authority while asking communities to trust that authority will be exercised appropriately.

Moreover, New York City Public Schools already has Chancellor's Regulations that emphasize collaboration, communication, and coordinated planning among schools, families, communities, and city agencies when addressing safety concerns. Regulations that I was involved in revising as a PEP member for the last administration that clearly delineates when the NYPD should be involved in any incidence surrounding our schools. Effective school safety is rooted in collective planning, mutual understanding, and community partnership. It is **not** unilateral decision-making by law enforcement. Rather than creating new mechanisms for policing, the City should strengthen and enforce the collaborative structures that already exist in community informed Chancellor's regulations, laws that protect our communities and/or the council should be investing in systems and structures we know work, like restorative justice and the mental health continuum for students.

The legislation must also explicitly uphold the First Amendment rights of students, families, educators, and community members. Following the mass demonstrations for racial justice after the murder of George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter protests of 2020, New York City entered into significant reforms and legal settlements regarding protest policing. Those reforms recognized that excessive police presence and aggressive crowd-control tactics can violate constitutional rights and undermine public trust. Any legislation concerning demonstrations near schools must be aligned with those hard-fought protections and must clearly state that the exercise of free speech, assembly, and protest cannot be curtailed through vague or overly broad security measures.

Harlem has always been a place where people organized, marched, protested, and demanded justice. The South Bronx has always been a place where communities mobilized against neglect and abandonment. From the Civil Rights Movement to community control struggles, from the Young Lords to Black liberation movements, our neighborhoods have taught generations that democracy requires participation and dissent. Our schools should not become spaces where young people learn that civic engagement is met with barriers, surveillance, and police presence. I know that is certainly not the position of our duly elected parent body, the Community Education Council in D4 East Harlem, which you have not actively engaged in this process either.

Many of us supported you, as progressive leaders, because we believed it would be different. We knocked on doors, organized our neighbors, and mobilized our communities because we believed leaders like you would stand with those who have historically been marginalized and excluded. We believed you would fight for the vulnerable, not for policies that expand systems that have too often caused harm. The disproportionality that exists among our communities with being justice involved must be countered by policies that reduce the harm, not perpetuate the school to prison pipeline.

The people who elected you did not do so because we wanted more policing around schools. We elected you because we wanted more justice, more investment, more dignity, and more democracy. We believed you would champion the voices of Black, Puerto Rican, immigrant, and working-class families. We believed you would fight for our children.

Today, I urge you to remember why so many of us supported your leadership in the first place. The families of El Barrio and the Bronx deserve representatives who listen when communities raise concerns. We deserve leaders who understand that true safety comes from investment, opportunity, restorative practices, mental health supports, housing stability, and thriving schools, not from expanding police authority around our children, educators and family.

Schools are the cornerstone for democracy. It is one of the few spaces where students and families are seen and embraced. It is the place where we create a better future for New Yorkers. Increasing policing has never resulted in better outcomes. It has resulted in perpetuating the very system that we claim we want to improve. We need more investment, more opportunity, more trust, and more freedom in our community.

We look forward to engaging in productive, meaningful conversations with you all and pass a policy/law that is reflective of what our communities need and deserve. Not one of further oppression to our most vulnerable.

As a Lifelong Rockaway resident our Peninsula is in Desperate Need of Trauma Center with Expanded Health Care Services! We are in Urgent Need of a Trauma Care Center due to the Overwhelming health Emergencies that occur Everyday within our ROCKAWAY Community!

Too many of our Residents in the Rockaway Community suffer life threatening issues such as Gun Violence and Cardiac Health and other health Emergencies.

I am asking that we get the necessary funds to ensure that our Rockaway Trauma Care Center can start development to serve the Rockaway Community.

Thank you so much.

Dear New York City Council Committee on Public Safety,

My name is Dr. Megan Pamela Ruth Madison. I am an educator, policy scholar, and New York City resident. I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the proposed bill on security perimeters around educational facilities.

Let's not mince words: It's a dangerous time for dissent in America today. Trump has increased surveillance and policing in frightening ways. At the same time that this hearing is taking place in New York, the education committee of the U.S. Congress is holding a hearing in which the human and Constitutional rights of vulnerable students across the country are being threatened. We should do everything we can to protect freedom of speech here in New York City. But this bill would do the opposite. It would restrict children and their right to protest in New York City. That's unacceptable.

The Speaker and the Council cannot point to a single incident of students being harassed outside of schools or threatened by protestors. Instead of positively impacting student safety, this bill would have a chilling effect on students who want to speak out against injustice and intensify the harmful policing and criminalization of Black and brown children in our schools.

I'm asking the Council today to instead amend this bill. We don't need new plans or more policing outside of schools, and we don't need "security perimeters" as a response to protest when protest is not a security threat. Requiring the NYPD to develop a new plan threatens to undermine the 2024 Protest Settlement, which was entered in response to the NYPD brutalizing BLM protestors in 2020 and requires police presence at protests be minimized. What we do need is transparency. Amend this bill to instead **require the NYPD to publish and report on their current policies and procedures** for responding to protests around schools. The amended bill should enshrine protections consistent with the 2024 protest settlement and with First Amendment rights under the federal and state constitutions.

I urge you to amend the bill to make it a true transparency measure to require the NYPD publish its existing policies and procedures in order to better protect young people and protesters in New York City.

Thank you for your service to our community,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Megan', with a stylized, cursive script.

Dr. Megan Pamela Ruth Madison

I'm a Bronx resident and a parent, and I want to express my concerns about safety in the Bronx.

A few years ago, my oldest son experienced violence firsthand, and ever since then, my level of worry has worsened. Like many parents, I already worry about my children, but after something like that happens, you start to look at everything differently. You become more alert, more cautious, and constantly play worst-case scenarios in your head. And honestly, I am tired of being afraid and anxious.

Now I have a 12-year-old boy who is starting to want more independence. He wants to take the bus home on his own from school. My fear is not that he cannot handle the responsibility. My fear is that something will happen to him.

And I know a lot of other parents carry that same fear when it comes to their children. They want their kids to be independent and outside more instead of being stuck in the house playing a game system all day. But many parents are also thinking: at least I know my child is home and safe.

Bronx families deserve safe communities, peace of mind, and the ability to let their children grow more independent without constantly worrying about their safety.

When we talk about safety in our communities, we often hear discussions about mental health, poverty, lack of opportunity, and unemployment as contributing factors to violence. And while efforts are being made to address these issues, at some point we must ask ourselves: are those efforts making a meaningful difference in the lives of the people who live in the Bronx?

I encourage Council Members to continue investing in solutions that make our communities safer and improve quality of life. Because Bronx residents deserves safety and peace of mind.



Good afternoon, my name is Yarezi. I'm 13 years old, I am in the 8th grade, and I am a youth leader at Make the Road New York. I'm here today because I care about my classmates, my community, and making sure young people like me have the support we need to succeed.

As a student, I know what it feels like to be stressed, overwhelmed, and not know where to go for help. There have been times when I felt like no one was really listening to me. No student should feel like that at school. School should be a place where we feel safe, respected, and supported.

Yet, every day, I see police everywhere, from the streets to the train stations on my way to school. It feels like they are always around. To me, that sends a message that adults expect problems from us instead of investing in us, and that hurts. At the same time I do not see enough counselors, social workers, and mental health staff who can actually help students when we are struggling.

Because of this, I am worried about buffer zones and expanded policing around schools, especially when they could be used to respond to students who are simply speaking out and advocating for change. Standing up for what we believe is part of how we make change and get our voices heard. When the city creates a law that responds with more policing or restrictions, it makes us feel like our voices are not welcome.

For me, this is personal. At a time when immigrant communities are already living with fear because of increased ICE enforcement, adding more policing does not make me feel safer. A month ago, on May 2nd, someone was detained by ICE and taken to Wyckoff Hospital. There was a lot of police activity around the area and even right outside my window. It was nighttime, and I could hear sirens, helicopters, bells, and whistles all night for hours. My mom and I were scared because we did not know what was going on. We wanted answers, but we were also afraid to ask questions or get too close because of how easily immigrant families are being targeted. I could not sleep that night. It reminded me that more policing does not make me feel safer. It actually makes me feel more scared.

What I experience is not unique. More police around schools does not make students safer. It just makes school and our communities feel more tense, especially for Black, Brown, and immigrant students who already deal with overpolicing. It is our communities that are disproportionately targeted and impacted by police.

At the same time, we are always told there is not enough money for the things we need, but there always seems to be money for policing. That is why I am asking City Hall to listen to students. Invest in us. Invest in counselors. Invest in mental health. Invest in restorative justice. Invest in our future. We do not just deserve to get through school; we deserve to actually thrive after it and not be treated like a threat for speaking up. Thank you.

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Michael Gerber

Address: _____

I represent: NYPD

Address: 1 Police Plaza

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Admin Contract Spec. Seth Severino

Address: 1 Police Plaza, NY, NY 10038

I represent: New York City Police Dept

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: OLUFUNMILOLA OBE, CHIEF OF TRANSPORTATION

Address: NYPD

I represent: _____

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Chief Lora Obe 10038

Address: 1 Police Plaza, 8th floor, NY NY

I represent: NYPD

Address: 1 Police Plaza, NY NY 10038

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: MICHAEL GERBER, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, LEGAL MATTERS

Address: NYPD

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/16/2020

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Garin Healy

Address: [Redacted] Jackson Heights

I represent: _____

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

Name: Maria Bautista (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: [redacted] Beverly Road

I represent: New Yorkers for Racially Just 201650401

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 2026-2057 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Mark Treynor

Address: 520 2nd Ave, NY, NY 10018

I represent: JCRC - NY, CEO

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. T7026-2057 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/10/26

Name: Alaina Daniels (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 154 Christopher Street NY NY 10014

I represent: Trans for native Schools

Address: [redacted] NY NY 10005

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. T2626-2052 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Hindy Poupko

Address: 130 E 59th St

I represent: UJA-Federation of NY

Address: 130 E 59th St

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. security permit Res. No. _____
pre-considered

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/10/26

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: KAISER (Baron Kaiser)

Address: 400 E 17th St. Brooklyn

I represent: Alliance for Quality Education

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. security permit Res. No. _____
pre-considered

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/10/26

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Naila Awan

Address: 55 Broadway, Fl 15 New York, NY

I represent: New York Civil Liberties Union

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 17B Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 06-10-26

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Habiba Elaa'idy

Address: [REDACTED] Astoria NY

I represent: Malikah

Address: 2561 Steinway Street NY

Youth

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Shokhjakhon Samir

Address: _____

I represent: NY CLU TAP

Address: DSC-NY

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. Proposed Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/10/26

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Elizabeth Bender

Address: 317 W 104th Ave

I represent: Neighborhood Defender Serv. of Harlem

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 06/11/26

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Karen Champion

Address: [Redacted] 10 Broadway (41169)

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 2026-2052 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Joseph Rosenberg

Address: _____

I represent: Catholic Community Relations Council

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 2052 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: STEVEN WEILL

Address: [Redacted] 27th ST.

I represent: STRIX DEFENSE

Address: 500 4th AV

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 2026-2052 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/10/2026

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Judy Baum

Address: _____

I represent: JCRC-NY

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 20262052 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Ariel Savransky

Address: 1395 Lexington Avenue

I represent: 92nd Street Y

Address: 1395 Lexington Avenue

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 06-10-24

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Ro Peña

Address: _____

I represent: Transformative Schools

Address: 154 Christopher St NY, NY 10014

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 2052
 in favor in opposition

Date: 6/10/26

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Brandi Katz Rubin

Address: [Redacted] Third Avenue, NY, NY

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 12026-2052 Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: 6/10/26

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jaclyn Goodman

Address: 49 Thomas St. NY, NY

I represent: The Legal Aid Society Juvenile Rights

Address: 49 Thomas St. NY, NY

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 2052
 in favor in opposition

Date: 6/10/26

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Scott Richman

Address: [Redacted] Third Avenue, NY, NY

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. per considered Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/15/26

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Abraham

Address: _____

I represent: The People's Plan

Address: 25 Broadway NYC

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Ariel Sarransky

Address: _____

I represent: 92nd street y

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. per considered Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: ZAKIA NASIR

Address: 2626 JACKSON AVE

I represent: Peoples Plan NYC

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Channing Young

Address: _____ NY

I represent: New Settlement PAC

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Andrea Ortiz

Address: _____

I represent: Dignity in Schools - NY

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Youth

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Yaretzi Valera

Address: _____

I represent: Make the Road NY

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 12026-2052 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Abbie Rubin-Pope

Address: 130 E 59th St, New York

I represent: UJA-Federation of NY

Address: 130 E 59th St.

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Chaplain Sandra Mitchell

Address: _____

I represent: New Settlement PAC

Address: DSC-NY

Youth
**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Ana Maria Aguirre

Address: _____

I represent: Make the Road NY

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

Youth

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/10/26

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Michael Castro

Address: _____

I represent: NYCLU TAP - Dignity in

Address: Schools Campaign NY

Youth

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jesus Cano

Address: _____

I represent: NYCLU TAP

Address: DSC-NY

Youth

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Kadiatou Diallo

Address: _____

I represent: NYCLU TAP

Address: DSC-NY



Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms



**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Rasheedah Brown-Harris

Address: _____

I represent: Bronx Legal Services

Address: _____

Youth

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/10/2026

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Janice Cheng

Address: _____

I represent: Dignity in Schools - NY

Address: _____

Youth

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Ariana Misha

Address: _____

I represent: NY CLU TAP

Address: DSC-NY

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms