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**BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL  
COMMITTEES ON FINANCE AND PUBLIC SAFETY  
REMOTE HEARING  
MAY 11, 2022**

Good morning Chair Brannan, Chair Hanks and Members of the Council. Thank you for the opportunity to discuss the Mayor's Executive Budget for the 2023 Fiscal Year. I am joined today by members of my executive staff who will assist me in answering your questions.

I would like to begin by updating you and New Yorkers on the police involved shooting last night. Officers assigned to the 42<sup>nd</sup> Precinct Public Safety Team, engaged with an individual carrying an illegal firearm. One officer was shot in his left arm by this individual who was also shot in the exchange.

This individual was previously convicted for a robbery pattern in 2016 and released on five years' probation. He was again arrested in 2020 with an illegal gun, released, pled guilty to Attempted Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Third Degree in December 2021, released again, and his court date scheduled for last week was moved to June. We have been able to determine that the illegal firearm, a Glock 9mm, was reported stolen in Richmond, Virginia in 2021. The investigation into this incident is ongoing.

The officer shot represents the eighth – eighth – such officer this year alone in New York City, and highlights the dangerous conditions your officers are faced with in their fight to combat gun violence. The work of police officers in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Precinct has contributed to a 28% increase in gun arrests so far this year, which has led to a 31% decline in shooting incidents year-to-date in that command. The NYPD family, as I am certain all New Yorkers, are grateful our wounded officer is recovering at

home with his family after having been released from the hospital earlier today.

I want to thank New Yorkers for their inspiration, support and partnership in our vision of a safer New York City. While we have significantly increased the number of officers patrolling our streets and subways, and dramatically increased arrests of those preying on the innocent, the contribution of members of the public has proven invaluable as we fight to achieve our shared goal. Oftentimes, it is because of you that we are able develop leads, timely gather vital evidence and ultimately apprehend dangerous suspects.

Your assistance in bringing the subway shooter to justice last month was nothing short of remarkable. From the courageous riders, eyewitnesses and concerned citizens who kept a keen eye out for the suspect, to the business owners who provided us with crucial video footage, to everyone who provided comfort and solace to their fellow New Yorkers, whether injured or coping with fear and uncertainty, the NYPD, and may I say all of New York City, thanks you.

Every-day New Yorkers have always been instrumental in helping this Department solve crime and keep New York City safe. Recent examples have been arrests in the shooting of Bronx 16-year old Angellyh Yambo; the murder of 61-year old Juana Esperanza Soriano De-Perdomo in the Bronx; the hate crime assault of 65-year old Filipino immigrant Vilmi Kari in Midtown; the bias motivated gang assault of a 21-year old Hassidic man in Brooklyn; and the prosecution of the individual who opened fire on one of our officers in broad daylight during his commute to work on the busy Macombs Dam Bridge. All of these arrests have been made since I last testified before you during March's Preliminary Budget Hearing.

New Yorkers are stepping up and so are your police officers and detectives. When compared to the same period last year, murders are down 15%, while arrests for murder are up 12%. Shootings are down 5%, while gun arrests are up 10%. Officers have recovered over 2600 illegal

guns so far this year. Although we are still seeing increases in other index crime categories, your officers and detectives are pushing to turn the tide on these trends. Arrests for rape and robbery are up 34% each, felony assault and burglary arrests are up 27% each, grand larceny arrests are up 34%, and grand larceny auto arrests are up 48%.

While arrests are up for each of the major felony crimes, 21% of those arrested for murder, whose cases are open, are currently *not* in custody. The same is true for 87% of those with an open rape case, 76% with an open robbery, 90% with an open felony assault, 69% with an open burglary, 78% of those with an open gun case, and 37% with an open shooting case. So far this year, 16% of those arrested for possessing an illegal gun, and 24% arrested for a shooting, had an open felony case at the time of arrest. Those arrested for a burglary, grand larceny and auto theft, were rearrested for a new felony offense within 60 days at a rate of 24%, 20%, and 21%, respectively.

An arrest is only the starting-point in a victim's journey toward justice. But the cycle of victimization, resulting from those that commit crime, are arrested, released, then rearrested for victimizing additional people, is completely avoidable. The NYPD is committed to doing its part to ensure the safety and quality of life of everyone in this City, but meaningful success will not be achieved through our work alone. The criminal justice system must be calibrated to ensure violent felons and recidivist offenders do not escape meaningful consequences by taking advantage of reforms aimed at providing a second chance to first-time low-level offenders.

We have already begun reassigning officers from administrative assignments to patrol as we move forward with our top-to-bottom efficiency review. As of today, we have completed the first phase of our review one month ahead of schedule, and as a result, over 125 officers will be reassigned to patrol functions. The productivity of our officers, enhanced deployments which account for an additional 658 officers patrolling your streets daily, coupled with our recent deployment of our

Neighborhood Safety Teams that focus on gun violence, are beginning to show measurable results.

However, as we all know too well, the summer months will present challenges to our efforts. In anticipation of summer crime levels my executive team and I have developed a crime reduction plan that we have already begun to implement. The Summer Violence Strategy comprises strategic deployment, enhanced supervision, real-time effectiveness reviews, and leverages resources and personnel from every corner of the Department.

We began our preparation over a month ago with the identification of forty commands across the city that have historically experienced crime increases in the summer. We pinpointed that in both 2020 and 2021, between the month of May and Labor Day, approximately 42% of shootings occurred between 9:00 pm and 2:00 am in these commands. Our strategy will therefore adjust officer tours and focus deployments to ensure uninterrupted and robust coverage. But I want to be clear, the scope of the strategy will go far beyond gun violence.

Neighborhood Coordination Officers and Youth Coordination Officers will be working later tours. Field Intelligence Officers will increase field deployments during weekends and night hours. Traffic Safety Teams will be deployed in each of these commands during weekend evening hours. A lieutenant and sergeant will be assigned to oversee 311 and quality of life response and enforcement in each command. A multi-agency response will be on standby and will respond immediately to locations with large crowds, unauthorized sale of alcohol and noise violations on weekends. A summer violence coordinator in the rank of Inspector will be assigned to every Patrol Borough and will be tasked with maximizing efficiency and the effectiveness of our efforts, and making adjustments as needed in real-time.

Officers assigned to these 40 precincts will be exempted from regular summer details and will instead remain in their commands to maximize

the effectiveness of the violence reduction strategy. I believe their familiarity and experience with the neighborhood and its residents will be better utilized in their home command. We have identified over 125 officers to backfill the usual summer detail deployment in Coney Island, Orchard Beach and the Rockaways to ensure adequate coverage. The steps I have outlined represent highlights of the overall strategy, which is comprehensive and a true representation of an all-hands approach.

Mayor Adams has presented a bold public safety agenda involving nearly every facet of his administration, and we at the NYPD are committed to efficiently executing our aspects of his vision. The Mayor's vision for subway safety is at the top of the list. Since its inception in February, the NYPD has deployed over 1000 additional officers per day into the subways to address the increase in crime and subway rules violations, and to assist the various non-NYPD partner outreach teams to provide services to the homeless and those suffering from mental health crises.

Though non-punitive corrective measures are always the first resort when it comes to lower level offenses, year-to-date we have seen an approximately 18% increase in civil, and 8% increase in criminal summonses for subway rules violations. Transit felony and misdemeanor arrests are up approximately 49% and 66%, respectively. While we are still seeing an increase in subway crime as compared to last year, when ridership was significantly lower, if we compare the current crime numbers to pre-pandemic crime, we are actually witnessing a decrease. Results we will continue to improve upon as ridership continues to increase.

We are also redoubling our efforts, as part of the administration's initiative to address quality of life conditions city-wide, to focus services and resources on these everyday problems that gradually erode New Yorkers' sense of safety. New Yorkers are demanding our help. Whether through 311 calls for service (up over 17% versus last year), or direct requests made to our patrol officers and at precinct-level meetings, New Yorkers have made it clear to us that the status quo cannot stand. Last

month, we renewed our commitment to addressing these quality of life conditions and instructed our officers that when they observe such issues, they must be addressed.

The aim of this renewed effort is to be fundamentally non-punitive. Corrective action can take many forms, from simply warning an individual, to broader public engagement and collaboration with community groups, businesses, and service providers. However, when non-punitive efforts fail to address your complaints, enforcement action will become part of the solution. If certain locations are plagued by complaints, or a subject must be warned and admonished repeatedly, officers are expected to take appropriate enforcement action to rectify the condition, starting first with a civil summons, where available, and resorting to a criminal summons or arrest when necessary.

Through April, we have responded to over 381,000 311 calls for service for quality of life offenses, as compared to 325,000 in 2021 and 253,000 in 2020, for the same period. So far this year, we've issued over 6,000 civil summonses and 15,000 criminal summonses. However, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge and credit our officers for the countless effective non-punitive interactions that addressed your concerns.

Officers have also stepped up traffic safety enforcement in response to unacceptable levels of pedestrian and cyclist injuries and fatalities. Year to date, failure to yield enforcement is up over 33% (up 62% in April). We have also significantly increased enforcement for speeding, red light and hazardous violations, up 57%, 28% and 48%, respectively, for the month of April. I believe the stepped up enforcement and our work with the Department of Transportation will help turn the tide.

I want to take a moment to update the Council on some of the important initiatives I mentioned at the Preliminary Budget hearing in March. We have begun distributing the APX-Next digital radio to our officers which will allow the Department to update this vital equipment remotely, without the need for officers to come off patrol duties to have their

equipment manually updated. These new radios will also enable us to centrally determine an officer's location when necessary, especially during rapidly unfolding emergencies.

We have also updated officers' department cell phones with the Precision Alert System (PAS). This new technological tool will enable officers to push out alerts through their phones with the name of a wanted suspect or vehicle license plate and receive immediate feedback if the individual or vehicle is encountered by other officers in the City. We believe this tool not only builds upon our precision policing model, but will also be an invaluable crime fighting tool and will assist in locating individuals reported missing or abducted.

As part of the Department's drive to leverage technology to better connect with the communities we serve, the NYPD offered streaming access to 232 of the 309 Build the Block meetings in the first quarter of 2022. Although in-person attendance will become the norm again in a post-pandemic environment, we will continue to look for ways to provide virtual access to as many people as possible, in as many contexts as possible.

Improving community engagement is not limited to technological upgrades. We have also revamped the precinct commanding officer selection process to give a greater voice to both elected officials and the communities we serve. Now, when a commanding officer position becomes available, the Chief of Department will alert members of the service of the vacancy and the minimum and preferred qualifications for the position. After internal interviews, the finalists will present at a Precinct or PSA Community Council meeting moderated by the Community Council President.

The meeting will be open to *all* community members to attend in person or remotely, rather than a select few as had been done in the past. Attendees will be given the opportunity to provide feedback to the Department using a newly created feedback form, which will be used in

making the selection. While we will keep reassessing the process with an eye toward improvement, I believe this new process addresses concerns we have heard and operational challenges we have witnessed.

Finally, I would like to announce changes I am making to the Special Victims Unit. After listening to the concerns raised by survivors, advocates and elected leaders, I have taken steps to put in place a system that will provide officers and detectives with a career and promotional path wholly within the Special Victims Unit, if they choose to pursue it. Special Victims work is among the most challenging assignments in the Department and we owe it to survivors to ensure experienced and talented investigators, that are best suited to the job, are not forced to seek transfer because of a lack of opportunities.

I have also assigned a new commanding officer to oversee the Special Victim's Unit. Inspector Carlos Ortiz is an experienced police executive, having served twenty-five years in the Department. During his career, Inspector Ortiz served as a domestic violence sergeant for five years, oversaw six detective squads in the Bronx as a captain, was the commanding officer of Manhattan South detectives as a captain and deputy inspector; and commanded the 115<sup>th</sup> Precinct where he was promoted to inspector.

My executive team and I had met with special victims' advocates ahead of this selection. We facilitated the opportunity for the advocates to meet with three candidates that were under consideration individually, and to provide feedback, which I used in making my decision. I believe Inspector Ortiz is the right individual for the job. He will not only instill an atmosphere of empathy among investigators, but will use his experience to ensure investigators are conducting quality investigations and have manageable caseloads.

Lastly, I believe victims of human trafficking are by definition special victims. That is why I am transferring the responsibility to investigate human trafficking cases out of our Vice Unit and into the Special Victims



Unit. I strongly believe this move and the specialized training and skills possessed by our Special Victims investigators is the right approach for survivors and will change the way the Department fundamentally views human trafficking.

Turning to the Executive budget and its impact on the NYPD in the coming fiscal year.

In totality, the NYPD's Fiscal Year 2023 Expense Budget is \$5.6 billion, the vast majority of which – 91 percent – is allocated for personnel costs. The remaining 9 percent is dedicated to non-personnel costs, including technology that provides officers with immediate access to critical safety equipment, tools, and applications.

In this financial plan, the Department's fiscal year 2023 budget increased by \$182 million. Of this amount, \$119 million (or 66%) was for Detective and Sergeant labor contract increases. The balance of this increase, \$62 million, is for critical improvements to cyber security, maintenance of the Domain Awareness System, and adjustments for lease, fuel and energy costs.

I am determined to run this Department efficiently and effectively. To not only bring justice and closure to victims and their families, but to use our resources in a manner that will prevent victimization and improve the quality of life of everyone, in every neighborhood. Our partnership with you and the communities we serve is the most effective public safety tool. I am committed to enhancing these partnerships so we can all take pride in a safer and more prosperous City.

Thank you and we are happy to answer your questions.