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**\*\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\*\***

## ***Joint Defender Statement Ahead Of NYPD Monthly Crime Briefing***

**(NEW YORK, NY) – The Legal Aid Society, The Bronx Defenders, New York County Defender Services, Brooklyn Defender Services and Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem** issued the below statement ahead of today’s New York City Police Department (NYPD) monthly crime briefing:

“According to data obtained from the New York State Office of Court Administration, docketed complaints plummeted by almost 20 percent throughout the city in the first two months of 2020 as compared with the same period last year. These numbers starkly contradict claims by the New York Police Department that crime has risen since the new bail law went into effect on January 1, 2020. This also comports with a decade-long trend in which crime has declined steadily each year since 2010.

The court case numbers are a more objective measure because each docket represents an instance in which a person has actually been accused of a crime and charged in court. Charged cases often face some degree of scrutiny from prosecutors and judges, and thus weed out entirely unfounded charges associated with initial arrests.

Since the NYPD controls how, when, and where they arrest people and what they charge an arrested person with, it is easy for them to generate and then use statistics to promote a self-interested agenda. The NYPD has fought bail reform for years, leaning on scare tactics rather than allowing all New Yorkers a chance at justice in the criminal legal system. As such, the NYPD’s current claims that crime has increased this year must be viewed with great skepticism.”