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

***Legal Aid Calls For Immediate Moratorium On NYPD Arrests***

***Reaffirms Need For Release Of New Yorkers Held On Parole  
Violations And Others In Pretrial Detention***

(NEW YORK, NY) – **The Legal Aid Society** called for an immediate moratorium on arrests and reaffirmed the need for the immediate release of all New Yorkers held on parole violations or in pretrial detention.

“We are in the midst of a pandemic and our last priority should be to cycle New Yorkers through our broken criminal justice system, separated from their families, communities, and quality services,” said **Tina Luongo, Attorney-in-Charge of the Criminal Defense Practice at The Legal Aid Society**. “City Hall must place an immediate moratorium on arrests, and for the hundreds of clients we have languishing in DOC custody pretrial or because of a parole violation, we call for their immediate release. These facilities are literal breeding grounds for infectious disease such as COVID-19. The continued incarceration of our clients during this health crisis could very well carry a death sentence.”

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*The Legal Aid Society exists for one simple yet powerful reason: to ensure that New Yorkers are not denied their right to equal justice because of poverty. For over 140 years, we have protected, defended, and advocated for those who have struggled in silence for far too long. Every day, in every borough, The Legal Aid Society changes the lives of our clients and helps improve our communities. <https://www.legalaidnyc.org>*