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

## ***NYC Defenders Call For Council Hearing On NYPD's Manipulation Of Crime Stats To Undermine Bail Reform***

**(NEW YORK, NY) – The Legal Aid Society, Brooklyn Defender Services, The Bronx Defenders, New York County Defender Services and Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem** issued a joint letter to New York City Council Speaker Corey Johnson, Council Member Rory Lancman, and Council Member Donovan Richards urging the City Council to hold a hearing on the New York City Police Department's repeated manipulation of crime stats to undermine the newly enacted bail reforms.

This request comes after the NYC Defenders [released an analysis](#) of data obtained from the New York State Office of Court Administration (OCA) which revealed that docketed case have plummeted by almost 20 percent throughout the city in the first two months of 2020 as compared with the same period last year. 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 face some degree of scrutiny from prosecutors and judges, and thus entirely unfounded charges associated with initial arrests are sometimes weeded out.

The NYC Defenders also analyzed their collective caseload for grand larceny auto, an index crime that the NYPD alleges has skyrocketed almost 65 percent in 2020 compared to the same period in 2019. The Defenders' collective caseload, however, showed a decrease of 9%.

The [letter](#) states:

*The new bail law has already freed thousands of New Yorkers from across the state who could not have afforded to purchase their liberty from pretrial detention and allowed them to return to their families, jobs and communities. Thousands of families remain whole -- people are taking care of young children and elderly parents while they fight the charges against them. The vast majority are continuing to make all of their court appearances.*

*Contrast that with the handful of cases highlighted by police and prosecutors in the press, most of which have been misrepresented to smear bail and discovery reform, or with the small percentage of people whom the NYPD has re-arrested on new allegations.*

*We cannot continue to allow the NYPD to publicize manipulated data in a coordinated and cynical effort to undermine the new bail law, a reform that New York so desperately needed for decades.*

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