



May 14, 2020

Contact:

Redmond Haskins  
The Legal Aid Society  
(929) 441-2384  
[rhaskins@legal-aid.org](mailto:rhaskins@legal-aid.org)

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

***With Release of Another Video Showing a Violent Social Distancing-Related Arrest Of Mother In Front Of Her Child In Brooklyn, Legal Aid Renews Calls for Police to Cease Enforcement of Social Distancing Rules***

(NEW YORK, NY) – Following the release of yet another [violent social distancing-related arrest](#) conducted by the New York City Police Department (NYPD) of a young mother in front of her child at a Brooklyn subway station, Legal Aid called once again on Mayor Bill de Blasio and NYPD Commissioner Dermot Shea to reduce the police role in enforcing social distancing rules.

A video on Twitter appears to show multiple officers confronting the woman for not fully wearing her protective mask. The situation quickly escalated, with several officers pushing and grabbing the woman, then eventually tackling her to the ground while her young child looked on.

Over the last several weeks, violent arrests such as these have surfaced on social media almost daily. Data recently released by the NYPD shows that “COVID-19 related” enforcement overwhelmingly targets New Yorkers of color. Between March 16 and May 5, the NYPD had issued roughly 374 summonses for “COVID-19 related” matters, and Black and Hispanic New Yorkers were the targets of [300 of those arrests](#).

“The evidence continues to mount that Mayor Bill de Blasio and Commissioner Dermot Shea made a terrible judgment call by asking police officers to aggressively enforce social distancing rules,

exposing people of color, who are already bearing the brunt of suffering during this terrible pandemic, to further harm from aggressive police enforcement actions” said **Corey Stoughton, Attorney-in-Charge of the Special Litigation Unit with the Criminal Defense Practice at The Legal Aid Society**. “The Mayor and Commissioner continue to mistake a public health crisis for a law enforcement issue. We need a different approach that removes policing like this from the equation.”

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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.*

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