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Contact:

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

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

Legal Aid Statement In Response To Governor Cuomo's Call To Repeal Police Secrecy Law 50-a

(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society issued the below statement in response to New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo's announcement that he would sign legislation to repeal Police Secrecy Law 50-a:

"Everyone must be disturbed by the videos that surfaced on social media of the NYPD using pepper spray and violently assaulting New Yorkers in Brooklyn last night. This egregious misconduct underscores the need for New York State to swiftly repeal Police Secrecy Law 50-a, which keeps the public in the dark about officer misconduct and the NYPD's broken disciplinary system. Under 50-a, the public will likely never know what happens to the officers seen throwing a young woman to the ground; pepper-spraying peaceful protestors, elected officials, and members of the media; and brutally assaulting nonviolent protestors exercising their First Amendment rights. Hiding this kind of misconduct behind 50-a is the antithesis of transparency.

Today, Governor Cuomo committed to signing legislation that would finally repeal this dangerous law. Now, more than ever, with police violence raging unchecked in cities across the country, New York must live up to its progressive ideals by ending police secrecy. We call upon the New York Legislature to immediately reconvene in Albany to pass Senator Jamaal Bailey and Assembly Member Danny O'Donnell's bill to fully repeal 50-a."

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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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