



June 1, 2020

Contact:

Alejandra Lopez
The Legal Aid Society
(917) 294-9348
ailopez@legal-aid.org

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

Legal Aid Statement In Response To Citywide Curfew in New York City and Doubling of NYPD Enforcement

(NEW YORK, NY) - **The Legal Aid Society** issued the below statement in response to Governor Andrew Cuomo and Mayor de Blasio's announcement of a citywide curfew in New York City beginning at 11 PM tonight, and the doubling of NYPD police presence:

“As record numbers of New Yorkers unite to protest the brutal and inhumane systemic abuses at the hands of the NYPD and law enforcement across the country, it is deeply problematic that our leaders are imposing a curfew and essentially silencing New Yorkers from expressing their outrage at the racism that permeates the nation.

Given what we know about the disproportionate targeting of NYPD enforcement against people of color, we are extremely concerned that the doubling of police presence across the city will come with devastating consequences. Governor Cuomo himself has [stated](#) that some actions by the NYPD have ‘exacerbated the anger’ amid protests and described some cops’ aggression during recent demonstrations as ‘disturbing.’ It is nonsensical to increase their presence after acknowledging their harms.

We are pleased to learn that the Department of Homeless Services has confirmed that people living unsheltered on the streets of New York City, as well as outreach workers, are exempt from the nightly curfew announced this afternoon. We hope that the NYPD respects the exemption.

We will monitor the treatment of our clients by law enforcement while the curfew remains in effect.”

###

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.

www.legalaidnyc.org