June 9, 2020

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***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

Legal Aid Statement On Arrest Of Vincent D’Andraia, NYPD Officer Who Assaulted a 20-Year-Old Protestor During George Floyd Demonstration

(NEW YORK, NY) – The Legal Aid Society issued the below statement in response to Brooklyn County District Attorney Eric Gonzalez indicting Vincent D’Andraia, the New York City Police Department (NYPD) officer who assaulted a 20-year-old protester last week at a George Floyd demonstration:

"Officer Vincent D’Andraia’s misconduct typifies a culture of impunity that thrives amongst the rank-and-file at the NYPD. The indictment is the right thing to do but, if it wasn’t for a video recording and global outrage, it may have never happened. In the absence of a NYPD discipline system that truly holds officers accountable for misconduct and discourages inappropriate or even criminal behavior, our local District Attorneys must provide that check on law enforcement. We hope that the countless other videos of police brutalizing protesters that surfaced on social media are met with the same scrutiny, and investigated and acted upon just as swiftly by local prosecutors."

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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. www.legalaidnyc.org