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

Legal Aid To Mayor de Blasio and Speaker Johnson: Make NYPD Disciplinary Records Immediately Accessible To The Public

(NEW YORK, NY) – The Legal Aid Society, in a [letter](#) recently issued, called on Mayor Bill de Blasio and Council Speaker Corey Johnson to immediately make available New York City Police Department (NYPD) disciplinary records on the [NYC Open Data Portal](#). This past Friday, Governor Andrew Cuomo enacted the repeal of Police Secrecy Law 50-a, which had prevented the public disclosure of police misconduct records.

“Police Secrecy Law 50-a is no more, and the City now has a responsibility to ensure that all New Yorkers have access to NYPD disciplinary records by way of the NYC Open Data Portal,” said **Corey Stoughton, Attorney-in-Charge of the Special Litigation Unit with the Criminal Defense Practice at The Legal Aid Society**. “This is a common sense solution that will benefit a myriad of stakeholders, many of whom may not have experience navigating the City’s Byzantine FOIL processes. Mayor Bill de Blasio and Council Speaker Corey Johnson must work to make these records available to New Yorkers in the easiest possible manner as soon as possible.”

The letter states:

We are writing in strong support of NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer’s [recommendation](#) that law enforcement disciplinary records be maintained and made available to the public in a searchable database. We echo the Comptroller’s call for the case-level data to be made accessible on the NYC Open Data portal, ensuring that a wide range of stakeholders have access to the records. This proposal is necessary to fulfil the promise that the repeal of Police Secrecy Law § 50-a will usher in a new era of transparency and accountability for police misconduct.

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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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