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Justice in Every Borough.

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

## Statement On City's Announcement To Post NYPD Disciplinary Records Online

(NEW YORK, NY) – Tina Luongo, Attorney-in-Charge of the Criminal Defense Practice at The Legal Aid Society, released the following statement in response to Mayor Bill de Blasio's announcement that the City will soon post disciplinary records for New York City Police Department (NYPD) officers online.

"Posting these records online is a clear step forward that will allow New Yorkers to better hold officers accountable and ensure that NYPD misconduct is disciplined in a way that actually discourages bad behavior. However, the devil is in the details, and we will monitor this process to ensure that any database is comprehensive, complete, and includes officers' full histories of misconduct. We also call on other City agencies that hold police misconduct records to make that information public, as Police Secrecy Law 50-a is no more.

Lastly, this news should not detract from the need for the City to reduce the NYPD's headcount and budget by at least \$1 billion, and to use those funds to invest in communities hardest hit by over-policing and COVID-19. Both ends of City Hall must ensure that these critical changes are adopted in the Fiscal Year 2021 budget."

**Background:** Earlier this week, The Legal Aid Society <u>called</u> on Mayor Bill de Blasio and City Council Speaker Corey Johnson to make NYPD disciplinary records easily available to the general public through the NYC Open Data Portal.

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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. <a href="https://www.legalaidnyc.org">www.legalaidnyc.org</a>