



July 30, 2020

Contact:

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

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

Legal Aid Statement In Response To NY Post Report Which Further Debunks Mayor de Blasio's Baseless Claim That Courts Have Any Connection To Recent Uptick In Shootings

(New York, NY) – **Corey Stoughton, Attorney-in-Charge of the Special Litigation Unit with the Criminal Defense Practice at The Legal Aid Society**, issued the following statement in response to a [*New York Post*](#) report which further debunks Mayor Bill de Blasio's baseless claim that court closures has any impact on the recent modest uptick in shootings:

“We already knew that these claims were an unfounded fear-mongering campaign designed to pressure the public into rolling back critical criminal justice reforms. Now the City's own data proves it. The Mayor and the New York City Police Department must stop spreading

misinformation and deliberately trying to deceive New Yorkers into believing falsehoods about the historic steps on bail reform and early prison releases. No matter how much they'd like to pretend otherwise, the facts show that ending mass incarceration strengthens communities and poses no threat to public safety.”

###

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. <https://www.legalaidnyc.org>