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

***Statement In Response To AG James's Preliminary Report On The NYPD's Response to Demonstrations Following The Death Of George Floyd***

**(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 New York State Attorney General Letitia James's preliminary report on the New York City Police Department's response to demonstrations following the death of George Floyd:

“The Attorney General's damning report confirms the immediate need for deep, structural changes to address not only the New York City Police Department's violent crackdown of the demonstrations that followed the killing of George Floyd, but the Department's longstanding history of discriminatory policing and systemic failure to hold police officers accountable for patterns of racist and abusive policing.

We support the Attorney General's call to remove the NYPD from our schools and any enforcement involving homeless New Yorkers and people experiencing mental health crises - areas which the NYPD is woefully unqualified to act. We also echo the Attorney General's call to overhaul the NYPD's disciplinary process, which has perpetuated a culture of impunity that has thrived for decades among the ranks of the NYPD, furthering the injustices our clients suffer from over-policing.

The Legal Aid Society appreciates the spotlight that this report sheds on these critical areas and we hope it supports broader efforts to bring wholesale reform to the NYPD.”

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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](http://www.legalaidnyc.org)*