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

Statement In Response To Reports That Staten Island DA McMahon Will Refuse To Prosecute NYPD Officers Who Violate Recently Enacted NYC Diaphragm Law

(NEW YORK, NY) – The Legal Aid Society released the following statement in response to [reports](#) that Staten Island District Attorney Michael McMahon will refuse to prosecute New York City Police Department (NYPD) officers who violate the City’s recently enacted law banning unlawful restraints used by police during an arrest:

“Staten Island District Attorney Michael McMahon has a clear bias problem. When it comes to prosecuting Black and Latinx New Yorkers, even with weak or false evidence, his office is quick to bring charges, demand exorbitant bail and force guilty pleas. But when it comes to holding police officers accountable for committing heinous acts of misconduct, the NYPD can count on DA McMahon for special treatment.

This blanket policy is a slap in the face to Eric Garner, who was killed from an NYPD chokehold. If McMahon and others refuse to prosecute officers when they break the law and endanger lives, then we call on New York State Attorney General Letitia James to assume that role and perform it zealously.”

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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