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

***Over 100 Racial Justice, Civil & Human Rights Groups Call on Gov. Cuomo, Mayor de Blasio to Publish Disciplinary Information for Jail and Prison Staff in Publicly Accessible Database***

(NEW YORK, NY) – Over 100 civil and human rights organizations, community-based groups, and public defenders across the state, in two separate letters, called on Governor Andrew Cuomo and Mayor Bill de Blasio to create and maintain a database of correctional officer misconduct and disciplinary records online, freely available to the public, by September 15, 2020. This database would include disciplinary records for employees of the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) and the New York City Department of Correction (DOC).

**The letter to Governor Andrew Cuomo states:**

*The overwhelming vote to repeal 50-a in the wake of the protests resulting from the murder of George Floyd should be considered a public mandate to bring to light not only information about police, but also information about law enforcement officers who operate outside of the public view and carry out similar patterns of institutionalized violence. The impunity for this culture of violence in our prisons rests on secrecy. Accountability starts with public access to the information about the injustices perpetrated in DOCCS facilities.*

[Link to full letter here.](#)

**The letter to Mayor Bill de Blasio states:**



*Brutality against incarcerated people at the hands of DOC officers has been rampant for many years. As you are aware, DOC is subject to a consent judgment in the case Nunez v. City of New York, requiring DOC to overhaul its practices in order to reduce the unconstitutional levels of violence in city jails. The Ninth Report of the Independent Monitor in that case found that, as of May 2020, DOC has [continuously failed](#) to comply with core requirements of the Consent Judgment. After five years, DOC has still not implemented effective systems for investigating violent misconduct by staff, supervising staff to prevent such misconduct, or imposing appropriate discipline....The repeal of 50-a was necessary but not sufficient to hold law enforcement accountable. To ensure misconduct records do not continue to be shielded by the denials and delays that plague Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) requests, it is critical that you affirmatively publish disciplinary records and allegations of misconduct of DOC officers.*

[Link to the full letter here.](#)

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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)*

*Center for Community Alternatives, founded in 1981, is a leader in community-based alternatives to incarceration and policy advocacy to reduce mass incarceration and mass criminalization in New York State. We provide direct services to communities in New York City, Syracuse, and Rochester, working with approximately 2,500 youth and adults annually who would otherwise be incarcerated. [www.communityalternatives.org](http://www.communityalternatives.org)*