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Contact:

Redmond Haskins
The Legal Aid Society
(929) 441-2384
rhaskins@legal-aid.org

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

Legal Aid Statement Concerning NYPD Disciplinary Matrix

(NEW YORK, NY) – The Legal Aid Society issued the following statement concerning the New York City Police Department’s disciplinary matrix:

“Transparency is critical, but it is only one step towards accountability. While most other serious City employee discipline issues are handled by the New York City Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings - an independent administrative tribunal - the NYPD has far too much power in policing its own. The reluctance of top NYPD brass to discipline officers has led to a culture of impunity that has thrived within the NYPD for decades. The City’s independent oversight systems must play an active role in every disciplinary case to ensure that discipline is swift, consistent, and transparent to the public. Independence on NYPD disciplinary issues will help make the Department more accountable to the communities it serves.”

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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