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

***Video: NYPD Officer Employs Knee-on-Neck Hold – Same Technique That Killed George Floyd – During Violent Arrest of Sircarlyle Arnold, a Legal Aid Client***

***Legal Aid Calls on DA Katz to Drop Low-Level Charges Pending Against Mr. Arnold***

***Defenders Calls on NYPD to Fire Officers Involved and on DA Katz to File Criminal Charges***

(NEW YORK, NY) –The Legal Aid Society called on Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz to dismiss the remaining low-level charges pending against Sircarlyle Arnold, a Legal Aid client who was violently arrested by New York City Police Department (NYPD) officers and placed in a knee-on-neck hold, the same technique used in the killing of George Floyd.

Video: <https://twitter.com/msolurin/status/1346617602907512834>

In a graphic video, NYPD officers are seen kneeling on Mr. Arnold's neck while bystanders beg the officers to stop. Also, not a single officer is seen with a mask or practicing safe social distancing.

Following the murder of George Floyd, the City enacted a [package of legislation](#) including a bill that banned chokeholds and other methods of restraint, such as kneeling on a person's neck, by police officers while conducting an arrest. Officers who employed these brutal and unlawful arrest

tactics would be guilty of a class A misdemeanor regardless of whether the person they arrested sustained physical injury.

“This video is merely a microcosm of the racist policing that Black and Latinx New Yorkers suffer on a regular basis,” said **Olayemi Olurin, Staff Attorney with the Queens Trial Office and counsel for Mr. Arnold.** “These officers’ first impulse was to employ an illegal, life-threatening knee-on-neck hold on Mr. Arnold. Not only should the case against Mr. Arnold be immediately dismissed in the interest of justice, but the NYPD must expeditiously terminate the officers involved, and DA Katz – upholding her promise to hold accountable officers who commit serious acts of misconduct – must bring charges. The Legal Aid Society demands answers and justice for Mr. Arnold, his family and his community.”

The top charge against Mr. Arnold in this case is Reckless Endangerment in the Second Degree – a misdemeanor – for allegedly operating an ATV.

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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)*