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

Statement on Ruling in Uniformed Fire Officers Association, et al. v. Bill de Blasio

(NEW YORK, NY) – Molly Griffard, Legal Fellow with the Cop Accountability Project at The Legal Aid Society, issued the following statement in response to a decision from United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in *Uniformed Fire Officers Association, et al. v. Bill de Blasio*:

“This decision rightfully rejects the police unions’ baseless attempts to undermine the Legislature’s decisive repeal of Police Secrecy Law 50-a and to continue hiding records of police discipline and misconduct. To live up to the values of transparency and accountability underlying that repeal, the City can and should immediately proceed with its plans to make police misconduct records accessible to the public, as promised by Mayor Bill de Blasio last summer.”

Background:

Legal Aid previously partnered with Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP in drafting and filing an [amicus brief](#) for this case. The brief raises the following points:

- The Legislature Intended to Permit the Release of the Disciplinary Records at Issue in this Case when Repealing Police Secrecy Law 50-a: When New York State passed a platform of policing reforms in June, an essential component was to remove the special protections afforded to local law enforcement disciplinary records, making those records – like most government records in the State of New York – available for public inspection under FOIL. The repeal legislation addressed the disturbing pattern of police violence against and harassment of people of color and the inability of policymakers and members of the public to retrieve the information they needed to evaluate the NYPD’s promise of self-regulation.
- The Police Unions’ Arguments for Blocking the Release of the Disciplinary Records at Issue in this Case Lack Merit: The police unions’ invocation of largely frivolous legal arguments is an attempt to use the federal courts to undermine clear state legislative prerogatives and fundamental values of civil rights and open government.

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