



July 7, 2021

Contact:

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

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

Legal Aid Statement on NYC Ticker Tape Parade for First Responders

(NEW YORK, NY) - **The Legal Aid Society** released the following statement on today's ticker tape parade for first responders:

“While we are proud to celebrate the work of our staff, and stand with fellow first responders and essential workers whose collective efforts literally saved countless lives throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the precious dollars spent on this parade should have instead been allocated to fund cost of living increases and pay parity for public defenders and civil legal services staff.

Having adopted the largest budget in New York City history where the New York City Police Department saw its bottom line increase by \$200 million and local District Attorney's budgets by a combined \$36 million, Mayor de Blasio and his Administration cannot credibly ask so many of the workers who risked their lives during the last year to settle for a parade rather than receive the compensation that they are rightfully owed.

Of course, we will continue fighting tenaciously on behalf of our clients, but the City must pay what it has promised so that our attorneys can fulfill their mission to deliver the kind of crucial legal services New Yorkers expect and deserve.”

###

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 145 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