

THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY

Justice in Every Borough.

December 14, 2021

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

Statement on Appointment of Keechant Sewell as NYPD Commissioner

(NEW YORK, NY) - **The Legal Aid Society** released the following statement in response to the appointment by New York City Mayor-Elect Adams of Keechant Sewell as next Commissioner of the New York City Police Department (NYPD):

“We welcome the appointment of a new NYPD Commissioner who we hope will bring a new approach to the helm of an agency in dire need of top-to-bottom reforms.

Policing in New York City remains fraught as ever. The next Commissioner must demonstrate an understanding that many community problems do not warrant a law enforcement response; that police misconduct must be taken seriously and addressed swiftly; and that tackling some of our city’s most pressing public safety issues, especially gun violence, requires full funding for proven, community-based approaches, including the CURE Violence model, and not a knee-jerk resort to the failed, aggressive and racist approaches of the past. The Commissioner must also immediately meet with community members to build real and meaningful pathways to input and accountability.

Mayor de Blasio unequivocally failed to deliver on his promise to deliver policing reforms that New Yorkers so desperately deserve. We look forward to turning the page with Mayor-elect Eric Adams and Keechant Sewell in hopes of making New York a more fair and just city for the clients and communities we serve.”

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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 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