



March 14, 2022

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

Legal Aid Statement on NYPD's Neighborhood Safety Teams

(NEW YORK, NY) – **The Legal Aid Society** released the following statement on the New York City Police Department's (NYPD) Neighborhood Safety Teams (NST), which are set to deploy in certain communities today:

“No matter whether these units are uniformed or in plain clothes, or whether they are called Anti-Crime or 'Neighborhood Safety Teams,' what matters most is that Mayor Adams ensures that these officers conduct themselves lawfully to respect the constitutional rights of the people they are policing.

When NST officers commit acts of misconduct, City Hall must swiftly hold them to account. Otherwise, these teams will run roughshod through the city - likely in our clients' neighborhoods - with impunity, employing the same hyper-aggressive policing tactics of their troubled past. Today also underscores the need for transparency, and the general public has a right to know who these units employ and their individual histories to determine if those bad practices of old will be perpetuated in the now deployed NST teams.”

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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