

*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

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PEOPLE'S PUBLIC SAFETY RALLY

Advocates & impacted NYers oppose more spending for NYPD, call for more non-police alternatives for public safety as City Council holds virtual preliminary NYPD budget hearing

WHAT: Rally & press conference

WHO: New Yorkers impacted by racist policing GANGS Coalition, VOCAL-NY, Legal Aid Society, Immigrant Defense Project, STOP, Families for Freedom, Police Reform Organizing Project, PROP, Freedom Agenda, Envision Freedom Fund, Center for Court Innovation - Youth Action, El Grito, Families of the Wrongfully Convicted, Innocent Appeal, Policing & Social Justice Project at Brooklyn College, Desis Rising Up and Moving (DRUM)

WHEN: Friday March 18th at 10AM

WHERE: City Hall Park

As the New York City Council debates its annual budget, and the Public Safety committee focuses on fortifying policing, the GANGS Coalition and partners will hold the **People's Public Safety Rally** on **Friday March 18 at 10AM at City Hall Park**. We'll hear from people and families impacted by racist policing and the pressing need to fund alternatives to policing that invest in our youth and communities instead of police.

Despite historic protests that have called to defund police and reprioritize how New York City spends our tax dollars, Mayor Eric Adams campaigned on and has seized upon a climate of fear to double down on an exorbitant police budget and calls for so-called "precision policing." This will mean a continuation of racist policing practices, including a rebranding of dangerous plainclothes police units and a reliance on the department's racist gang database.

However, we are committed to ending the policing status quo and call on city lawmakers to *truly* defund racist policing, erase the gang database, and make historic investments in community-based alternatives to achieving *true* public safety.

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