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

Statement from Counsel for Rameek Smith

(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society released the following statement as counsel for Rameek Smith:

“Rameek Smith was a father and son. His tragic and untimely killing is devastating. Mr. Smith was released from New York City Department of Correction custody on a non-violent felony in March 2020, on consent of the Kings County District Attorney’s office and the Court. Since that time, after being accepted to Mental Health Court, Mr. Smith complied with all of his obligations, attending every court appearance and consistently participating in programming to address his needs.

Mayor Adams and the New York City Police Department’s baseless claims that this case involves bail reform is patently incorrect and exposes the Administration’s continued refusal to comprehend the scope and benefits of these reforms.

If anything, Mr. Smith’s case underscores the need for early intervention, access to services and community-based support.

Lastly, we caution New Yorkers on crediting the Mayor’s unconscionable fear-mongering about last night’s killing. In the end, a young man, struggling with multiple ailments, had his life cut short, and the public should not lose sight of that regardless of incendiary comments from City Hall.”

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