



March 29, 2023

Contacts:

Alejandra Lopez  
[ALopez@legal-aid.org](mailto:ALopez@legal-aid.org)  
917-294-9348

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

***Legal Aid and New York State Senator Jabari Brisport Launch  
Know Your Rights Workshops for NYCHA Residents in Brooklyn***

***Workshops will be Held in Collaboration with U.S.  
Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez, New York State  
Assemblymember Phara Souffrant Forrest, and New York City  
Councilmember Crystal Hudson***

(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society and New York State Senator Jabari Brisport, in cooperation with U.S. Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez, New York State Assemblymember Phara Souffrant Forrest, and New York City Councilmember Crystal Hudson, announced a new series of Know Your Rights workshops which aim to empower and educate participants on their rights during police encounters and how to avoid entering the NYPD gang database. The workshops are open to the public, but will be held primarily for NYCHA residents in Farragut, Ingersoll and Whitman Houses in Brooklyn.

The workshops will focus on interactions with law enforcement, including prevention and de-escalation techniques, and how to protect yourself from illegal police searches and other acts of police misconduct. They will also focus on the NYPD gang database, and participants will learn about social media surveillance techniques and other intelligence gathering, as well as its impact on Black and Brown communities.

“We are thrilled to bring our Know Your Rights series to NYCHA houses in Brooklyn where we can educate residents about their rights and equip them with the knowledge to empower not only themselves, but others in their community,” said **Anthony Posada, supervising attorney in the Community Justice Unit at The Legal Aid Society**. “These workshops will teach NYCHA residents, and all those who want to attend, how to advocate for themselves in the face of potentially unethical law enforcement tactics that have long been pervasive in communities of color. The result is stronger, healthier communities less susceptible to abuses of power.”

“The NYPD has a long and consistent track record of violating the rights of civilians. It’s crucial that every New Yorker be equipped with the knowledge and strategies needed to best protect themselves and their community from the NYPD’s dangerous abuses of power,” said **Senator Jabari Brisport**.

“It’s vital that New Yorkers have a full understanding of the rights guaranteed to them under the constitution. This is especially true for NYCHA residents and communities of color, who are often subject to unethical and even unlawful treatment by law enforcement,” said **Congresswoman Velazquez**. “I’m proud to partner with The Legal Aid Society and Senator Brisport, to empower NYCHA residents and help ensure their just treatment under the law. Knowledge is power, and these workshops will help protect the fundamental rights that these communities are entitled to.”

The Know Your Rights workshop will be held on Friday, March 31 at 6:30pm at the Ingersoll Community Center, 177 Myrtle Ave, Brooklyn. For more information or to join the class, please contact Anthony Posada at (917) 494-3687.

###

*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](http://www.legalaidnyc.org)*