

May 2, 2024

Contact:

Redmond Haskins
Director of Media Relations
The Legal Aid Society
RHaskins@legal-aid.org
929.441.2384

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

***Legal Aid Condemns NYPD for Unlawfully Detaining and Processing
Demonstrators on Low-Level Offenses Who Should Have Received Appearance
Tickets***

***Many Protesters Have Now Languished in Custody in Excess of 24-Hours, in
Violation of the 24-Hour Standard from Arrest to Arraignment***

(NEW YORK, NY) - **The Legal Aid Society** condemned the New York City Police Department (NYPD) for detaining and processing demonstrators who were ultimately charged on low-level offenses and who should have consequently received an appearance ticket, as [required](#) by [Criminal Procedure Law - Section 150.20](#). Also, many protesters have now languished in custody for more than 24-hours despite a long-standing court ruling Legal Aid secured in [Roundtree v. Brown](#), litigation brought decades ago, which set a 24-hour standard from arrest to arraignment.

Lawyers from various public defender offices and other organizations were present in court last night and ready to quickly arraign everyone but many protesters were not produced.

“Many protesters who were arrested earlier this week and arraigned last night were ultimately charged with criminal trespass, a low-level offense, and at that point, they should have been immediately released from custody. Existing law requires this, but that unfortunately did not occur, and Legal Aid has been [litigating](#) this very issue against the City and the NYPD to force them into compliance,” said **Chief Attorney of the Criminal Defense Practice at The Legal Aid Society Tina Luongo**. “Additionally, other protesters have now been held in custody for over 24-hours despite a court ruling from 1991 that set a 24-hour standard from arrest to arraignment. This is yet another egregious breach of New Yorkers’ rights. The Legal Aid Society calls on the NYPD and District Attorney Alvin Bragg to review the cases of everyone in custody and to release them pursuant to applicable law.”

###

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