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

***Statement on the NYC City Council Passing Legislation to Decriminalize
Jaywalking***

(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society issued the following statement in response to the City Council passing [legislation](#) to decriminalize jaywalking:

“Jaywalking enforcement has long served as a pretext for over-policing that has [disproportionately impacted](#) Black and Latinx communities, ensnaring New Yorkers of color in the criminal legal system. Make no mistake, jaywalking enforcement has never concerned public or traffic safety. Instead, it has only perpetuated biased policing that harms our clients and low-income neighborhoods.

“The Legal Aid Society lauds the City Council for passing this needed legislation and we call on Mayor Eric Adams to immediately sign the bill into law. Once Int. 0346-2024 is enacted, we will remain vigilant to ensure that the New York City Police Department does not subvert this critical measure through other means.”

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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 nearly 150 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