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

## ***Statement in Response to Legislation Decriminalizing Jaywalking Becoming Law***

(NEW YORK, NY) - **The Legal Aid Society** released the following statement in response to [legislation](#) to decriminalize jaywalking becoming law:

“Decriminalizing jaywalking in New York City is long-overdue and eradicates a mechanism that the New York City Police Department (NYPD) has, for decades, employed as a pretext to stop, question, and frisk New Yorkers, especially those from communities of color.

“With this legislation now codified, we hope that both the Adams Administration and the City Council will continue to abolish relic laws that serve no public safety purpose and only ensnare people in the criminal legal system.

“We thank the City Council for championing and passing this important legislation and we will closely monitor implementation to ensure that the NYPD fully follows the spirit and intent of this needed reform.”

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