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

Statement on Mayor Adams Appointing Jessica Tisch as NYPD Commissioner

(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society released the following statement in response to Mayor Eric Adams appointing Jessica Tisch to Commissioner of the New York City Police Department (NYPD):

“We are hopeful that the appointment of Jessica Tisch to NYPD Commissioner will bring wholesale change to a City agency that’s in urgent need of reform.

“The NYPD’s relationship with the communities it polices remains fraught as ever. Since 2021, the Adams Administration has attempted, through a variety of means, to systematically dismantle the mechanisms that hold police who commit misconduct to account, revived ineffective and discriminatory practices that criminalize poverty and freedom of expression, and centered a law enforcement response to community problems where one is wholly unnecessary. This causes daily harm in over-policed communities and results in the brutalization and death of New Yorkers who reach out for support and are instead met with the end of an NYPD barrel. This all must change.

“We also note that the new Commissioner, in her previous post as Deputy Commissioner of Information Technology, was a driving force behind the NYPD’s increase in the use of surveillance technology, a practice that must be curtailed and subject to more robust oversight.

“The path to achieving true public safety lies in solutions that address root causes of harm — especially gun violence — and don’t revert back to the failed, aggressive, and racist tactics of the past. Community-based programming, such as the successful Cure Violence model, is one alternative approach to keeping our neighborhoods safe without the involvement of the punitive criminal legal system.

“The Legal Aid Society implores Commissioner Jessica Tisch to take these concerns and recommendations to heart, and we also urge her to immediately meet with community members to build real and meaningful pathways to input and accountability.”

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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. <https://www.legalaidnyc.org>.