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

Statement on the Death of Ariel Quidone, Who was Found Unresponsive in His Cell at Rikers Island, and Taken to the Hospital Where He Passed Away Shortly Thereafter

(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society issued the following statement on the death of Ariel Quidone, who was found unresponsive in his cell at Rikers Island, and taken to the hospital where he passed away shortly thereafter:

“We mourn for the family, friends, and community of Ariel Quidone, who was just 20 years old when he was found unresponsive in his cell at Rikers Island and taken to the hospital, where he passed away shortly thereafter.

“His untimely death at such a young age demands an immediate, swift, and independent investigation. With each of these tragedies, City Hall and DOC leadership routinely deny counsel, the client’s family, and the general public access to the most basic information about what transpired. This is both cruel and unacceptable.

“These deaths, which continue to mount, are all further evidence that the City is incapable of managing its jail system, and only an independent body, such as a receiver, can help ensure our clients’ well-being and safeguard their constitutional rights.”

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