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

***Legal Aid, Debevoise File Motion for Partial Summary Judgment in Litigation to Require NYPD to Issue Appearance Tickets Instead of Arresting, Detaining, and Processing New Yorkers on Minor Charges***

***Motion Follows Recent Deaths of Two New Yorkers in NYPD Custody***

(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society and Debevoise & Plimpton LLP filed a [motion](#) for partial summary judgment in *Douglas et al. v. City of New York et al.*, litigation filed on behalf of four clients who were unlawfully arrested, detained for long periods, and injured by the New York City Police Department (NYPD) during the 2020 George Floyd demonstrations, instead of receiving appearance tickets, as required by Criminal Procedure Law (CPL) Section 150.20.

CPL 150.20 was amended in 2020 to mandate that police officers issue appearance tickets to individuals accused of committing low-level offenses, including violations, infractions, misdemeanors, and certain class E felonies, instead of conducting an arrest.

Despite this, the NYPD handcuffed or zip-tied, transported, and detained the plaintiffs for hours in a holding cell before ultimately releasing them with a ticket for a low-level offense. NYPD policy explicitly instructs officers to follow this procedure of handcuffing, transporting, and detaining individuals at NYPD facilities before they can issue appearance tickets for eligible offenses— actions that courts have consistently viewed as an arrest.

The motion asks the court to declare that the NYPD’s arrest and processing policies for appearance ticket-eligible offenses are in violation of CPL 150.20 and the protections against unreasonable seizures under article I, section 12 of the New York Constitution, as well as grant an order prohibiting the Department from further harming New Yorkers with their unlawful and inhumane practices.

The motion comes at a time when the number of people charged with low-level offenses [languishing in custody](#) awaiting their arraignment has [ballooned](#), with the proportion of people who were custodially arrested and detained for arraignment for non-criminal violations in February 2025 having [quadrupled](#) compared to February 2024.

This staggering increase is creating longer arraignment wait times and exposing more and more people to dangerous conditions of confinement. Within the last month, two [New Yorkers](#) have [died](#) in custody.

“Four years ago, while participating in protests against the murder of George Floyd and police brutality, our clients were arrested, handcuffed, and transported to NYPD jail cells in direct violation of State law,” said **Karina Tefft, Staff Attorney in the Special Litigation Unit at The Legal Aid Society**. “The NYPD’s continued refusal to comply with a mandate directing them to issue appearance tickets to individuals alleged to have engaged in low-level offenses must be immediately addressed, and the officers found to have violated the law must be held accountable. New York State law is clear, and our clients – as well as all New Yorkers – deserve a swift and complete resolution to this matter that puts an end to the NYPD’s blatant and ongoing violation of our clients’ rights.”

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