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

***Statement on Mayor Adams' and NYPD Commissioner Tisch's Misleading  
Comments on Discovery Reform***

**(NEW YORK, NY) – The Legal Aid Society** issued the following statement in response to misleading comments made by New York City Mayor Eric Adams and New York City Police Department (NYPD) Commissioner Jessica Tisch regarding discovery reform:

“Mayor Eric Adams and Commissioner Jessica Tisch are once again misleading the public with their gross mischaracterizations of Governor Kathy Hochul’s discovery proposal, which is a wholesale repeal of the current statute — not mere ‘tinkering’ around the edges.

“Commissioner Tisch’s claim that discovery is responsible for a ‘revolving door’ that lets people out of jail right after being arrested shows a total misunderstanding of how our laws work. The discovery law has no impact on a judge’s release decision. Her comments reveal a complete misunderstanding of both the statute and discovery practices in general. It is dangerous that leaders who are so misinformed are advocating drastic changes to fundamental due process rights.

“Moreover, the data refutes Commissioner Tisch’s claim that ‘serious violent felony cases’ are being dismissed. The vast majority of dismissals in New York City involve misdemeanor cases—cases that typically result with no jail time—not violent felonies. Critics have clearly resorted to spreading these falsehoods because their argument cannot prevail on the merits.

“If this wrongheaded proposal is adopted in the final budget, accused New Yorkers will not receive the full weight of the evidence pending against them in a timely fashion. Her proposal is not in the ‘spirit of the law,’ as Commissioner Tisch alleges, and this statute would revert to an era defined by wrongful convictions, case delays, mass incarceration, and coerced pleas.

“Earlier this session, lawmakers introduced [legislation](#) to give prosecutors direct access to police evidence databases, ensuring they are not dependent on local police departments to provide evidence. This is a measure that should take priority. Yet, Commissioner Tisch refuses to even talk about this proposal, even though it would seem to completely resolve the alleged problem that prosecutors are complaining about.

“The bill above, along with sustained funding for both prosecutors and public defender offices, will create a more efficient and transparent system, and is the way forward. Lawmakers must resist the fearmongering and misinformation spread by critics and safeguard this crucial reform they worked tirelessly to enact just a few years ago.”

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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)*