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

***With Extreme Heat Looming, Legal Aid Calls on Local Detention Centers to Ensure Immigrants Have Access to Water and Cooling Measures***

**(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society** released the following statement ahead of the extreme heat expected to impact the New York City region starting this weekend, with temperatures forecast to rise into the upper 90s and possibly reach 100 degrees, on the need for immigrant detention centers to ensure the well-being of those in their care:

“With sweltering heat right around the corner, immigrant detention centers throughout the New York City region must ensure that people in custody have adequate air conditioning, unfettered access to water, and other means of cooling themselves. In previous years, many of these facilities have experienced issues with their cooling systems, leading to unsafe and unbearable conditions for those detained. We are currently hearing of overcrowded facilities and a lack of sufficient food. Overheating will make already poor conditions even more dangerous.

“Both the counties that contract with the federal government and the federal government itself have legal and moral obligations to ensure the safety of people in their care. They must immediately take all necessary measures to mitigate the extreme heat expected to arrive in the area come Sunday.”

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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 almost 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>*