

September 19, 2025

Contact:

Redmond Haskins
929.441.2384
rhaskins@legal-aid.org

*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

NYC Public Defenders, Elected Officials, and Community Groups to Unveil Plan to Address Growing Crisis of Deaths in NYPD Custody Ahead of Council Hearing

At Least Nine New Yorkers Have Already Died in NYPD Custody This Year Alone

NYPD Silent on Custody Deaths, Offers No Real Plan for Prevention

(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society, Brooklyn Defender Services, The Bronx Defenders, New York County Defender Services, the Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem, Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, Comptroller Brad Lander, Council Member Tiffany Caban, elected officials, community groups, and impacted New Yorkers, ahead of a [City Council oversight hearing](#), will unveil a ten-point plan to address the growing crisis of deaths in New York City Police Department (NYPD) custody, the Department's lack of transparency, and the urgent need for meaningful reforms.

Monday's announcement will come in response to the recent deaths of [Christopher Nieves](#), 46, who died in August at the Kings County courthouse despite showing signs of illness and repeated attempts by his defense counsel to secure him urgent medical care, and [Musa Cetin](#), 29, who also died in August after being found unconscious in a holding cell at the Midtown South Precinct station house. The City's medical examiner later determined that Mr. Cetin's death was a [suicide](#).

In July, 18-year-old [Saniyah Cheatham](#) died while in NYPD custody at the 41st Precinct in the Bronx. Police told her mother that Saniyah had taken her own life in a holding cell, but the family has publicly questioned that account and demanded the release of surveillance footage.

On March 26, a [43-year-old man](#) died while awaiting arraignment at Manhattan Criminal Court. Reports indicate he had been arrested roughly 14 hours earlier and was being held in a courthouse holding cell at the time of his death. His identity was not released, and the cause of death remains unclear.

Days earlier, on March 21, [Soso Ramishvili](#), 32, died in police custody at Brooklyn Criminal Court while awaiting arraignment. He languished in pain for three days and was deprived of medical care despite repeated pleas from defense lawyers and other personnel to secure him the treatment he needed.

[At least nine people](#) have lost their lives in NYPD custody this year alone, according to the Department.

WHO: The Legal Aid Society, Brooklyn Defender Services, The Bronx Defenders, New York County Defender Services, the Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem, Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, Comptroller Brad Lander, Council Member Tiffany Caban, elected officials, community groups, and impacted New Yorkers.

WHEN: Monday, September 22, 2025, at 9 AM

WHERE: Steps of City Hall, downtown Manhattan

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