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Contact:

Press@legal-aid.org

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

***Statement in Response to NYC Department of Investigations OIG-NYPD's Report
on the NYPD's Gang Database***

(NEW YORK, NY) — The Legal Aid Society released the following statement in response to the Department of Investigation's (DOI) Office of the Inspector General for the New York City Police Department's (OIG-NYPD) [report](#) on the New York City Police Department's (NYPD) gang database:

“This report confirms what the communities served by The Legal Aid Society have long known: the NYPD's gang database — like so many other policing tools — has functioned as a sweeping dragnet that overwhelmingly ensnares New Yorkers of color.

“The data makes clear that Black and Brown New Yorkers continue to be disproportionately surveilled and cataloged through this database. The disparity has not narrowed, and these ongoing inequities underscore why this system remains fundamentally broken and unconstitutional, regardless of incremental policy changes or recommendations.

“That is why, together with our co-counsel, we filed federal civil rights litigation this past April to finally bring this broken system to an end. True public safety cannot be built on discriminatory databases that trample on the rights and dignity of the New Yorkers we represent.”

Background:

[This past April](#), The Legal Aid Society, the Legal Defense Fund, The Bronx Defenders, LatinoJustice PRLDEF, and the law firm Ballard Spahr filed a [putative class-action lawsuit](#) against the City of New York, challenging the NYPD's racially disparate targeting, surveillance, and criminalization of tens of thousands of Black and Latino New Yorkers through the use of the gang database.

The complaint asserts that the NYPD's practices and policies related to the gang database are in violation of the First, Fourth, and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution, as well as state and local laws.

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The Legal Aid Society is a nonprofit organization that 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.

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