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

***Legal Aid Lauds City Council for Passage of Bill to Grant NYPD Oversight
Board Direct Access to Officer Body-Worn Camera Footage***

***Attorneys Urge Mayor to Immediately Sign Legislation to Increase Transparency,
Accountability for NYPD Officers Accused of Misconduct***

(NEW YORK, NY) – The Legal Aid Society released the following statement in response to the New York City Council today passing [legislation](#) to provide the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) – an independent police oversight agency – with direct access to unsealed New York City Police Department (NYPD) body-worn camera (BWC) footage, and called on Mayor Eric Adams to sign the legislation into law without delay:

“The City Council’s passage of Int. 1451-2025 marks a significant step toward improving police accountability in New York City by removing an unnecessary hurdle that has historically delayed investigations into allegations of officer misconduct and prevented New Yorkers from receiving the justice they deserve.

“Currently, the CCRB is entirely reliant on the NYPD to access BWC footage. This reliance allows the NYPD to impede CCRB investigations by delaying the production of relevant footage – at times for [months or years](#).

“This bill will put an end to those delays by providing the CCRB with direct, immediate access to BWC footage for unsealed cases. This will increase the CCRB’s ability to determine the merits of misconduct allegations, to the benefit of both New Yorkers and the officers accused of misconduct. Providing the CCRB with direct access also brings the agency closer to national best practices and modern standards.

“And contrary to what the NYPD has previously testified, the legislation does not violate the state’s sealing statutes because the bill contains specific language that maintains a review and production process for sealed records – direct access would only apply to unsealed footage and footage that does not relate to an arrest. Instead, NYPD may finally be forced to comply with sealing statutes to segregate unsealed and sealed records. An established process already exists to protect the sharing of sealed materials, which would continue should the bill become law.

“For too long, New Yorkers alleging misconduct by NYPD officers have had to rely on that very Department to produce footage of the incident. The CCRB’s stated purpose is to investigate, make findings, and recommend action on complaints against NYPD officers, and allowing them greater access to key evidence in these investigations will enhance public safety and public trust in law enforcement.

“We laud Speaker Adrienne Adams for introducing this critical legislation and urge Mayor Eric Adams to sign it into law without delay.”

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The Legal Aid Society is a nonprofit law firm 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 the people we serve and helps improve our communities.

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