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

## ***Legal Aid Statement on Mayor Mamdani's Sanctuary City Audit***

(NEW YORK, NY) — The Legal Aid Society today released the following statement in response to a recent sanctuary city [audit](#) by Mayor Zohran Mamdani and broader [efforts](#) to limit cooperation with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE):

“We welcome the recommendations outlined in this audit and encourage the City to continue identifying lawful ways to minimize collaboration with ICE. These proposed recommendations reflect concerns and suggestions that The Legal Aid Society and other advocates have communicated directly to City Hall about ways to protect immigrant communities, and we are encouraged to see our input reflected in this audit.

“New York’s sanctuary policies define our city and are essential to public safety and community trust. When immigrants are afraid that interacting with City agencies could expose them to immigration enforcement, entire communities become less likely to seek medical care, access critical services, send their children to school, and participate fully in civic life.

“We urge City Hall to fully implement these recommendations and continue taking proactive steps to ensure all agencies comply with sanctuary protections, safeguard sensitive personal information, and limit unnecessary entanglement with federal immigration enforcement. New York City must continue leading with dignity, safety, and compassion for all residents, regardless of immigration status.”

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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 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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