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

***Legal Aid Statement on the Appointment of Dr. Ayesha Delany-Brumsey as
Commissioner of the Mayor’s Office of Community Safety***

(NEW YORK, NY) — **The Legal Aid Society** released the following statement in response to Mayor Zohran Mamdani’s appointment of Dr. Ayesha Delany-Brumsey as Commissioner of the Mayor’s Office of Community Safety:

“We welcome the appointment of Dr. Ayesha Delany-Brumsey to lead the Mayor’s Office of Community Safety and commend Mayor Mamdani for continuing to build an office with the potential to fundamentally reshape how the City responds to people in crisis. Dr. Delany-Brumsey’s experience at the intersection of behavioral health, crisis response, and criminal legal system reform positions her well to advance a community-driven intervention model rooted in care, prevention, and dignity rather than criminalization.

“For too long, New Yorkers experiencing homelessness, mental health crises, and substance abuse have been met first by law enforcement, often with tragic outcomes — particularly in low-income communities and communities of color. The work ahead for the Office of Community Safety must focus on changing that reality by building robust, community-based responses that de-escalate crises, connect people to services, and reduce harm.

“As The Legal Aid Society marks 150 years of serving New Yorkers, we remain committed to working with Dr. Ayesha Delany-Brumsey, Deputy Mayor for Community Safety Renita Francois, and City Hall to ensure the Office of Community Safety is equipped with the resources, independence, and vision necessary to deliver meaningful, lasting change for the communities that need it most.”

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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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