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

Legal Aid Society Statement on City Council Letter Demanding Accountability After Samantha Randazzo Gives Birth in Brooklyn Courtroom While in Custody

(NEW YORK, NY) — The Legal Aid Society issued the following statement applauding the [29 members](#) of the New York City Council who have [called](#) for accountability and systemic reform following the shocking and unacceptable circumstances that led to Samantha Randazzo giving birth in a Brooklyn courtroom while in custody:

“No human being should be forced to give birth while in custody, in a courtroom, without adequate medical care, privacy, or basic human dignity. We applaud the 29 members of the New York City Council for demanding accountability and meaningful reform, but accountability alone is not enough. What happened to Samantha Randazzo was not an isolated failure. It comes amid a growing crisis in which New Yorkers have died in New York Police Department custody while awaiting arraignment, exposing the dangers of a system that continues to rely on unnecessary custodial arrests and detention for low-level offenses.

“That is why New York must implement the measures outlined in the public defenders’ ten-point plan. Those reforms include ending broken-windows policing and unnecessary custodial arrests, expanding the use of appearance tickets, creating independent EMS staffing in courthouses, strengthening oversight and accountability for in-custody harms and deaths, and ensuring that people in custody receive timely and adequate medical care.

“New York cannot continue to wait for another tragedy before taking action. City leaders must act now to protect the health, safety, and dignity of every person in government custody and ensure that no one is subjected to the kind of needless trauma and danger that Samantha Randazzo endured.”

Read more about the ten-point plan [here](#).

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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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