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

Legal Aid Statement on City Council Passing Legislation Requiring NYPD to Create Security Perimeters Around Educational Facilities

(NEW YORK, NY) — **The Legal Aid Society** issued the following statement in response to the New York City Council passing [Int 0929-2026](#), legislation to require the New York City Police Department (NYPD) to develop a plan for the establishment of security perimeters to respond to protests around educational facilities across the city:

“Intro 0929-2026 is a deeply flawed proposal that, if enacted, threatens to erode New Yorkers’ first amendment rights and increase the criminalization of marginalized students and communities across the city.

“Giving the NYPD wide-ranging power to determine the use and extent of so-called ‘security perimeters’ around schools will not make New Yorkers safer. Rather, it will stifle political speech and increase unnecessary encounters with law enforcement for New Yorkers merely exercising their rights to speak, assemble, and advocate for their communities.

“Particularly for Black and brown students, as well as LGBTQ+ youth who are already more likely to be targeted and criminalized by NYPD officers, a heightened NYPD presence around schools will only exacerbate existing disparities and ensnare more young people in the revolving door of the criminal legal system.

“The legislation is an unnecessary invitation for police escalation outside of schools given existing measures to protect both speech and student safety, such as the critical reforms established under the *Payne v. De Blasio, et al.* settlement which was designed to ensure that public safety and free expression can coexist without excessive or escalatory policing.

“Increasing NYPD presence at schools will undoubtedly harm students and communities already disproportionately targeted by law enforcement, and we strongly encourage Mayor Zohran Mamdani to veto this bill to protect the rights, safety, and well-being of all New Yorkers.”

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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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