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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Legal Aid Statement on NYPDs' Changes to Summons Enforcement

(NEW YORK, NY) — The Legal Aid Society released the following statement in response to reporting that the New York City Police Department (NYPD) will stop issuing summonses for spitting outside the transit system, limit enforcement of vehicle idling violations to incidents reported through 311 or 911, and remind officers that jaywalking is now legal in New York City and should not result in summonses:

"We welcome the Mamdani Administration's decision to scale back enforcement of minor offenses that should never have been priorities for the NYPD in the first place. Policing New Yorkers for conduct that is no longer illegal, or deploying officers to issue summonses for trivial infractions, is an unnecessary and disproportionate use of police resources.

"This is a welcome step toward a more sensible approach to public safety, and we encourage Mayor Mamdani to go further. His administration should end unnecessary enforcement of low-level, nonviolent offenses, reduce police encounters that disproportionately burden Black and Brown New Yorkers, and redirect resources toward community-based solutions that address the underlying needs of our neighborhoods.

"New Yorkers deserve a public safety strategy that prioritizes their well-being over unnecessary enforcement. We look forward to seeing the administration build on this progress with meaningful, lasting reforms."

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The Legal Aid Society is a nonprofit law firm with one simple yet powerful purpose: 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. www.legalaidnyc.org