

**Testimony of Ellen Trawick, Mother of Kawaski Trawick who was killed by NYPD in 2019
and member of the Justice Committee**

Submitted to the New York City Council for February 6, 2023 Joint Hearing of Committee on Hospitals, the Committee on Mental Health, Disabilities and Addiction, the Committee on Fire and Emergency Management and the Committee on Public Safety

My name is Ellen Trawick. I am the mother of Kawaski Trawick, who was murdered by NYPD Officers Brendan Thompson and Herbert Davis on April 14, 2019.

I was appalled to learn that Mayor Adams has directed the NYPD to sweep people off the streets and force them into hospitals just because officers decide they are mentally ill or homeless.

Sending the NYPD to respond to people who are struggling with mental health issues has already costs so many New Yorkers their lives, including my son. Mayor Adams' directive will only lead to more brutality.

In 2016, Kawaski came to NYC to follow his dreams. In 2019, the NYPD destroyed those dreams and stole him away from our family.

Kawaski lived in Hill House, a supportive housing facility in the Bronx. He was living there so he could receive health and mental health care. Instead – the facility called 911 on him. Officers Brendan Thompson and Herbert Davis showed up, illegally entered his home, barked orders at him and refused to answer his questions. Officer Thompson tased him and shot him in 112 seconds. Neither Thompson or Davis tried to administer any aid. They just closed the door on him and let him die.

From Kawaski's story – it's so clear – New York City's healthcare system and the NYPD do not see Black people as humans.

Both of the officers who killed Kawaski had been CIT trained, one of them within three days of murdering my son. This shows you - police have no business being involved in mental health response, yet Mayor Adams is giving them more power in this area.

I am calling on the City Council to stand with me and other families who have lost loved ones to the NYPD in opposing Mayor Adams' forced hospitalization directive. Instead, New York City must focus on making sure that people like my son can get the care they need by investing in community-based services that treat them with dignity.

I am also asking that the City Council call on Mayor Adams and Commissioner Sewell to ensure Officers Davis and Thompson are fired and to stand with me at the NYPD trial for Officers Davis and Thompson, which starts on April 24.
