

January 11th, 2021

To: New York City Council

Re: Public Safety Hearing on Governor Cuomo EO (Reimagining Police)

Testimony: Keith Fuller, Leader with Make The Road New York

The reality is we live in two Americas. One in which people are propped up by the policing infrastructure and another America where people are weighed down by the policing infrastructure. And there's no coincidence that the groups that are oppressed come from black and Latinx communities. That's why it's so crucial that our electeds wake up and acknowledge that the only way we can effectively reimagine policing is by reducing their budget, power, and reach into our lives.

The insurrection at the Capitol building on Wednesday should have put everyone on notice, the core functions of the NYPD and law enforcement across this country is maintaining inequality and upholding white supremacy. The Mayor is not willing to address that directly, making the city process a hollow one we can't trust to bring us justice.

Compare what we saw to the BLM protests across the city this summer that were outraged that a black or brown person cannot sleep in their bed at night without the fear of being woken up and murdered by the police. We were beaten, sprayed, and drove down on by police cars. That is why I call it two Americas because police are here to control us and to aid them. So let's address this directly. Not by using our imagination but by addressing the reality. We can start by significantly reducing the NYPD budget by removing them from all social services, public institutions, including homeless outreach, mental health responses, and removing policing

transportation and schools. They have been embedded in social services largely serving Black and Latinx communities not to improve them but because we are seen as dangerous and criminal even when trying to access support. We need to immediately remove them from social services, end their relationships with social service agencies and reinvest that money that went to the NYPD back into the communities that need them the most. That is how we keep our communities safe and just

Sincerely,

Keith Fuller, Leader, Make the Road New York