

**Make the Road New York Testimony**  
**The New York City Council's**  
**Jointly Committees on Public Safety and Justice System**  
**Delivered by: Darian X**  
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Peace and good afternoon council members, my name is Darian and I am the Youth Organizer for Justice and Community Safety at Make the Road NY.

For far too long, people of color in this city have faced harm and abuse by the hands of police, with the burden of scrutiny always being placed on them instead of the NYPD. Young people are exceptionally vulnerable to this violence in our communities. On our streets unconstitutional stops continue to happen everyday. Just because the NYPD has not been documenting stops doesn't mean they have changed their practices.

This violence is also real in our in schools where we are supposed to feel the safest. As recent Buzzfeed articles report, hundreds of officers have abused their powers from lying on official documents to sexual harassment and they continue to work in our communities. Over two dozen of those officers work in our schools, where students and families have no idea who is patrolling their hallways.

Safety for youth of color has been precariously held in the hands of those who routinely criminalize their neighborhoods and in some cases, like those previously aforementioned today, kill people who look like them. Not only can we no longer allow this to be the context through which young people in our city live, but we can no longer allow the harm and misconduct committed by the NYPD to be hidden behind blue walls of silence.

Despite the rhetoric that the NYPD has been completely re-trained and transformed, that is far from reality and just a form of political gaslighting. Police misconduct, abuse, and sexual harassment continues to happen with little or no consequences for officers. What videos and high profile incidents do is bring to light what's in the shadows throughout Black and Brown communities.

The calls to provide transparency and accountability from communities most impacted by police violence has never been louder, and it is this council's duty to answer those calls. The Council must urge and fight for a discipline matrix with swift and severe consequences if we are going to mitigate abuse of power in an agency that continues to police itself. Supporting a full repeal of Civil Rights Law 50-A must also be a priority for this council and the fact that the NYPD continuously attempts to broaden the scope of this legislation should be alarming to everyone. 50-A was one of the sole reasons Ms. Carr was unable to identify whether officers involved in killing her son held a history of misconduct; though we later did find this out about Daniel Pantaleo through leaks, confirming what our communities already knew through our day to day experiences.

We urge this council to stand with our young people, to stand with our communities and prioritize these issues. Thank you.