

January 25, 2024

# COMMUNITIES UNITED FOR POLICE REFORM

New York City Council  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Dear New York City Council Members,

Communities United for Police Reform, which coordinates the broader [How Many Stops Act Coalition](#), urges you to consider Mayor Eric Adams' request for you to participate in what he is calling "NYPD ride-alongs" for what it is - a highly publicized public relations stunt with handpicked officers and yet another tactic in his ongoing and dangerous misinformation campaign he is waging against the How Many Stops Act.

We fully support the council members who are choosing to say no to the mayor's latest attempt to smear common-sense legislation that will improve public safety for all New Yorkers. We also understand that there are reasons that some council members may choose to participate or agree to ride-alongs only in your own districts. Regardless of your choice, we ask that you keep the following facts about the HMSA in mind:

- The mayor, NYPD, and police unions have been lying about Intro. 586 of the How Many Stops Act (HMSA) - both regarding what kinds of encounters require reporting and the method and amount of time it will take for officers to report.
- Casual interactions between officers and New Yorkers are explicitly excluded from HMSA reporting requirements, and there is language in the bill that makes this clear.
- HMSA reporting requires NO paperwork and will take officers a matter of seconds to report digitally. For more information regarding the truth about HMSA, please see the attached [factsheet](#).

The Mayor's willingness to be untruthful and intentionally misleading about HMSA is likely to be carried into how he and the NYPD plan, execute and portray the results of their One Police Plaza outing. Thus, if you choose to participate, it is likely that you will witness officers making street stops and investigative encounters in a scope and manner that is inconsistent with - and more constitutional than - how the NYPD is operating on a daily basis in our communities. Bear in mind that the independent federal monitor regularly reviews police interactions and consistently finds high rates of unconstitutional police activity.

Paradoxically, **giving the City Council and New Yorkers a real and full picture about how the NYPD is operating in Black, Latine, and NYC communities is exactly what the How Many Stops Act will accomplish.** Reporting on all street stops and investigative encounters - including where, why and key demographic about who is being

stopped - will tell you a great deal more about how the NYPD is operating in your district than a pre-planned, cherry-picked trip in a patrol car with an officer who knows they are being observed by an elected official.

HMSA is an essential step towards ending [discriminatory and unconstitutional](#) policing because it will help to address the chronic underreporting of stops by the NYPD, ensure officers are only making stops with the proper legal justification, give us the data we need to advance evidenced-based public safety solutions, and promote police accountability. Through HMSA, the directly impacted New Yorkers and organizations accountable to them who drafted and are fighting for the bill are seeking to set the stage for repairing the harm done by decades of unconstitutional and racially motivated enforcement practices.

Regardless of if you are participating in the mayor's One Police Plaza outing or a ride-along in your district, we ask that you make the same effort to understand the experiences of your constituents and other New Yorkers who are directly impacted by the NYPD's unconstitutional stop practices, who have been at the forefront of fighting to ensure the How Many Stops Act becomes law. We would be happy to arrange a meeting between you and some of the 100+ organizations of the How Many Stops Act coalition who are eager to share with you their constituents' experiences.

Ultimately, we call upon you to advance police transparency and accountability and true community safety by voting to override the Mayor's veto of the Intro. 586 of the How Many Stops Act.

Sincerely,

Manny Vaz, Managing Director of Communities United for Police Reform (CPR)

Sala Cyril, Malcolm X Grassroots Member and CPR Steering Committee Member

CC:

Public Advocate Jumaane Williams

Mayor Eric Adams

Deputy Mayor Philip Banks

NYPD Commissioner Edward Caban

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**About Communities United for Police Reform:** *Communities United for Police Reform (CPR) is an unprecedented campaign to end discriminatory and abusive policing practices in New York, and to build a lasting movement that promotes public safety and reduces reliance on policing. CPR runs coalitions of over 200 local, statewide and national organizations, bringing together a movement of community members, lawyers, researchers and activists to work for change. The partners in this campaign come from all 5 boroughs, from all walks of life and represent many of those most unfairly targeted by the NYPD. [www.changethenypd.org](http://www.changethenypd.org)*