

# COMMUNITIES UNITED FOR POLICE REFORM

June 1, 2020

Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins  
Legislative Office Building  
188 State Street  
Room 907  
Albany, NY 12247

Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie  
Legislative Office Building  
188 State Street  
Room 932  
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins and Speaker Heastie:

**The following 85 organizations signed onto this letter urging you to reconvene the legislature, and pass Senator Bailey & Assemblyman O'Donnell's bill ([S3695-Bailey/A2513-O'Donnell](#)) to fully repeal 50-a.** We urge you to stand firmly in opposition to any attempts to water-down or offer partial measures that will continue to provide special rights for police officers and allow departments to shield abusive officers and brutality from public view.

We write to you at an unprecedented time. As you know, against the backdrop of a pandemic disproportionately killing and economically devastating Black, Latinx and other communities of color, our communities are also facing escalating police violence in different parts of the state. This weekend, we witnessed and some of us (including members of your respective conferences) were subjected to police violence while gathering to mourn and protest the police killings of George Floyd, Tony McDade, Breonna Taylor and other Black people across the country.

The blatant police violence experienced by New Yorkers is unacceptable. The continued police secrecy in New York enables that police violence and allows abusive officers to continue to act with impunity. We should be able to look up the misconduct and disciplinary records of every officer who mass-pepper sprayed, assaulted, blatantly covered their badge numbers and engaged in other abuse of authority and violence against New Yorkers. Instead, we are left in the dark and abusive police officers are given special rights and shielded because of 50-a.

The time to pass a full repeal of 50-a is now. **We cannot afford to entertain proposals to amend 50a that will give a false sense of progress** while loopholes continue to entrench police secrecy. New York is ranked among the worst states in the nation with respect to police transparency. New Yorkers have taken to the streets - risking their health during a pandemic - to express to their leaders in government that we can wait no longer for police accountability. **Anything short of full repeal of 50-a is simply not what we need in this moment.**

# **COMMUNITIES UNITED FOR POLICE REFORM**

**We urge you to immediately pass S3695-Bailey/A2513-O'Donnell to fully repeal 50-a, without amendments or modifications.**

Thank you.

Sincerely

Communities United for Police Reform (CPR)

1199 SEIU-UHWE  
32BJ SEIU  
Arab American Association of New York  
Bronx Defenders  
Brooklyn Defender Services  
Brooklyn NAACP  
The Bronx Freedom Fund  
The Brotherhood/Sister Sol  
Center for Anti-Violence Education  
Center for Popular Democracy  
Center for Community Alternatives, Inc.  
Center for Constitutional Rights  
Children's Defense Fund  
Citizen Action of New York  
Citizen's Committee for Children  
CLEAR Project  
Common Cause/NY  
Common Justice  
Community Service Society of New York  
Community Voices Heard  
Congregation Beth Elohim Dismantling Racism Team  
Court Appointed Special Advocates of NYC  
Crime Victims Treatment Center  
Day One  
Drug Policy Alliance  
DRUM- Desis Rising Up & Moving  
Faith in New York  
Families Together in NYS  
The Gathering for Justice/ Justice League NYC  
Girls for Gender Equity  
Harm Reduction Coalition  
Immigrant Defense Project  
Innocence Project  
Interfaith Assembly on Homelessness

# **COMMUNITIES** **UNITED FOR** **POLICE REFORM**

Interfaith Center of New York

JCCA

The Jewish Vote

Jewish Voice for Peace - New York City

Jews for Racial & Economic Justice

Jim Owles Liberal Democratic Club

Justice Committee

JustLeadershipUSA

Kairos Center for Religions, Rights, and Social Justice at Union Theological Seminary

Katal Center for Health, Equity, and Justice

LatinoJustice PRLDEF

Law Enforcement Action Partnership

Legal Action Center

The Legal Aid Society

Manhattan Young Democrats

Make the Road New York

Malcolm X Grassroots Movement

MomsRising

NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.

National Domestic Workers Alliance | La Alianza Nacional de Trabajadoras del Hogar

National Panhellenic Council of Greater New York

New Hour for Women and Children – LI

New Kings Democrats

New York Civil Liberties Union

New York County Defender Services

New York State Nurses Association

The New York Immigration Coalition

New York Lawyers for the Public Interest

New York State Defenders Association

Nodutdol for Korean Community Development

North Star Fund

Public Science Project

Raise the Age New Campaign

Rise Up Kingston

Rockaway Youth Task Force

Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights

Safe Horizon

Sanctuary for Families

Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ)-NYC

T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights

Take Root Justice

Transgender Law Center

WITNESS

Women & Justice Project

# **COMMUNITIES UNITED FOR POLICE REFORM**

The Woodhull Freedom Foundation  
Violence Intervention Program  
VOCAL- NY  
Wingspan Psychiatric, LLC  
Youth Represent  
YWCA of Brooklyn

cc: Assemblywoman Wright, Chair, Black Puerto Rican Hispanic Asian (BPHA) Caucus  
Assemblyman Zebrowski, Chair, Assembly Governmental Operations Committee  
Senator Bailey  
Assemblyman O'Donnell  
Senator Hoylman  
Assemblyman Lentol