

**Testimony by Victor Dempsey brother of Delrawn Small
Delrawn was killed by NYPD Officer Wayne Isaacs on July 4, 2016**

**For the New York City Council Public Safety Committee
Oversight Hearing on The City's Policing Reform Process
January 11, 2021**

Dear Speaker Johnson, Public Safety Committee Chair Adrienne Adams, and members of the Public Safety Committee:

My name is Victor Dempsey, and I am the brother of Delrawn Small. Thank you, Speaker Johnson, Councilmember Adams, and the rest of the councilmembers on this committee for the opportunity to provide testimony on the City's Policing Reform Process.

My sister Victoria and I are here today, once again, to discuss the urgent need for comprehensive change to public safety and policing in our city. We, along with the other families, know too much about the NYPD, the lack of accountability and the daily violence they do in our lives.

As my sister said, Delrawn was killed in front of his girlfriend, stepdaughter, and 4-month old baby by Wayne Isaacs, more than four and a half years ago. Isaacs rolled his window down, shot my brother 3 times, and as Delrawn was dying in the street, Isaacs called 911 for himself, falsely claiming he was attacked. He never even told 911 that he had shot someone who needed aid and he didn't try to provide any aid. He let my brother bleed out in the street.

In the years since Delrawn was killed, we have gotten to know many other families that have faced the same struggle as us. The NYPD and the Mayor use deliberate tactics to delay and block accountability, to protect officers from the consequences of their wrongdoing. It's almost impossible to get an NYPD officer fired when they kill or brutalize Black, Latino or other people of color in this city – and that is wrong.

Last year when Governor Cuomo called for Mayor de Blasio and other leaders in cities and towns throughout the state to reform policing, I was skeptical because I know how resistant the Mayor is to standing up to the NYPD. But I know, and the families that are here today know, the NYPD's power must be checked.

I have been following the NYPD's process responding to the Governor's executive order – and I can tell you that it is a farce. Their "community engagement" have been propaganda sessions for the NYPD.

There is no real engagement – they're going to tell you they've engaged with hundreds or thousands of people, but it's all been fake. I know this because I was present in the Facebook audience for 5 of the sessions and I saw the numbers personally.

And even if it wasn't fake – the NYPD shouldn't be the ones running this process. The fact that the Mayor has let them do that is the reason they know they can act with impunity.

So far, the families whose loved ones have been killed the NYPD and the main groups who have expertise and can call them out have not been consulted in any real way on the City's plan for reforming

police. That should make clear to you that whatever plan the Mayor and NYPD proposes to the City Council won't be effective – I know this because we are part of the families who were not asked.

The process from the Mayor and the NYPD has been largely happening behind closed doors, with almost no transparency. We need you to make plain that a process that is being directed by the NYPD - the same people who already refuse to do the bare minimum – is a sham process.

The Mayor and NYPD won't even serve the discipline charges against Wayne Isaacs that CCRB sent them months ago. There is no excuse for that.

As the City Council, we need you to be the peoples' voice. We need you to work with us, the families, and the groups that we trust to make sure that police who kill our loved ones are fired.

There's so much people don't know about the pain our families go through. I knew Antonio Williams. I played ball with him. I can't tell you what it was like to find out Antonio was also killed by the NYPD – and it has been so hard for his family to get basic information or action from the NYPD.

I, like the other families, want to see the officers who kill, brutalize and disrespect our communities fired. We want to see the NYPD's power cut so they can't run this city the way they've been doing. We need money moved from the NYPD to go to the Crisis Management System and violence interrupter groups and other needs so that we can have real safety in our city.

We don't need more police in our communities. I hope you will work with us to make sure that Wayne Isaacs is fired and that we as a city do some real thinking about what will create public safety that isn't only about police.