

**Testimony by Victoria Davis, sister 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 Victoria Davis, and I am the sister of Delrawn Small. Thank you, Speaker Johnson, Councilmember Adams, and the rest of the councilmembers present today for taking the time to listen to my testimony and the testimonies of other families whose loved ones have been killed by the NYPD. I hope Mayor de Blasio and NYPD are also listening.

Two years ago, my brother Victor and I testified before the City Council on the failures of the NYPD's discipline system. We told the story of our older brother, Delrawn Small, who was on his way home from a 4th of July barbeque in 2016 when he was shot and killed by Wayne Isaacs, an off-duty NYPD officer. Delrawn was killed in front of his girlfriend, stepdaughter, and 4-month-old baby.

Delrawn was killed one day before Baton Rouge police killed Alton Sterling and two days before Minnesota police killed Philando Castile. Officers in those cases were fired, but almost five years later, we are still fighting to get Mayor de Blasio and the NYPD to even serve discipline charges on Wayne Isaacs for murdering my brother.

The CCRB substantiated charges against Isaacs in October and sent them to the NYPD. It's three months later, and as far as I know the NYPD still hasn't served those charges on Isaacs.

I believe the NYPD is trying to avoid firing Isaacs by continuing their years of delay and playing games.

I worked for the City and my job was in more jeopardy than Isaacs' because I had to take leave to attend the trial against Isaacs that the Attorney General did and I had to take time off to organize for justice for my brother.

I can tell you now that if I had cold bloodedly killed someone and lied about it the Wayne Isaacs murdered my brother, I would have been fired immediately by the City.

Delrawn was my brother, but he was also like a father to me and Victor. After our mother died, Delrawn took care of us and provided for us, even when he was still a kid himself.

Words and testimony can't convey the pain I have been through. I named my second son Justice because that's what I hope we will get.

I'm here today for Delrawn, but I'm also here for every Black and other New Yorker of color who has experienced violence by the NYPD.

Officers like Wayne Isaacs are a danger to New Yorkers and should be fired. Families like mine and families of Mohamed Bah, Kawaski Trawick, and Antonio Williams shouldn't be fighting for years for these officers to be fired.

And we need you to take seriously why we, the families are fighting to defund the NYPD and move some of that money to things that will truly keep our communities safe.

We're not campaigning to defund the NYPD out of vengeance, we're fighting to decrease the NYPD's outsized power to save our lives, the lives of our children and the lives of our communities.

There is a lot that the NYPD does that they have no business doing – like mental health response and youth outreach.

I have a background in health education and I can tell you now that part of the problem is we let the NYPD run this city instead of understanding that many things need a public health approach – and that public health is public safety.

The NYPD talks about community policing but they can't build bridges in the community. Last year I started a non-profit to build community and efforts like that that me and other families do help keep more New Yorkers safe than the NYPD.

The NYPD keeps acting without consequences. We can't keep giving them more money, staff and power.

I hope you will stand with me and my brother to make sure that Wayne Isaacs and other officers who kill and brutalize New Yorkers can be fired without the years of pain we have gone through.

And that you will stand with us to make sure that we cut the power and budget of the NYPD. They should not have the power they have in this city – our communities should have that power.

I hope you will let me know that you will stand with us.

Thank you.