



DETECTIVES' ENDOWMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.
POLICE DEPARTMENT • CITY OF NEW YORK
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www.nycdetectives.org

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Legislative Director



The Honorable Darcel D. Clark
District Attorney
Bronx County
198 E. 161st Street
Bronx, New York 10451

June 25, 2020

Dear District Attorney Clark:

On behalf of the 19,000 active and retired Detectives of the New York City Police Department's Detectives' Endowment Association, Inc., we are writing on a matter of significant concern to all of our members. Recently, a number of Assistant District Attorneys from your office penned what can only be described as a libelous letter disparaging the hard work that thousands of Police Officers do every day to protect the citizens of New York City during this unprecedented pandemic.

The letter states that the authors are deeply concerned about "the role this Office plays in perpetuating a culture of violence in law enforcement." It should be noted that the authors of this letter, many of whom chose to remain anonymous, have very little experience in your office. In fact, the "senior letter writer" has under three years of legal experience, and most of the signatures on that letter are from the class of 2019, which had a mere matter of months in your office before being quarantined.

As you know, while members of your office sat safely at home behind their computer screens writing a letter maligning the NYPD, and falsely claiming that Police are perpetrating hate crimes against citizens, our members did not have the luxury of sheltering at home. During this national health crisis, our Detectives have been out in the field every day, and six of our members lost their lives to the Coronavirus. Many others have gotten ill. Despite the health risks, our Detectives have been working non-stop, around the clock, every day trying to protect the people of this City.



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Additionally, many of New York City's residents poured their hearts and souls into their small businesses, and many of those were destroyed by vandalism and looting, especially in The Bronx and in lower Manhattan.

Our Detectives have been out every day being assaulted merely because of the uniform they wear. It is our members who have had Molotov cocktails launched into their vehicles, rocks and bricks thrown at their faces, baseball bats aimed at their heads, and their RMPs set ablaze. Yet, your employees' characterization of the NYPD's treatment of people is slanderous, contemptible, and categorically false.

As I know you are well aware, there are thousands of dedicated Detectives in the NYPD who spend night and day investigating homicides, counseling rape victims, solving robbery and burglary patterns, and much more. They have devoted their lives to seeking justice for victims whose own lives will never be the same after such traumatic incidents. Our Detectives work on their cases in your jurisdiction to help the people of The Bronx find some sense of comfort, let them know that what happened to them does, indeed, matter, and seek justice for their losses. Our Detectives tirelessly try to solve horrific crimes to help the victims find some sort of "closure."

The DEA has always had a very positive working relationship with your Office, and we look forward to maintaining it, so that residents of The Bronx can feel safe and secure in their lives. However, our members are deeply concerned about working with the Assistant District Attorneys who have signed the disturbing letter.

As I am sure you would agree, painting any group with a broad brushstroke of hate is wrong, baseless and divisive. Unfortunately, that is exactly what was done in that letter. As such, going forward, it has rendered it impossible for our Detectives to work with these ADAs, because their bias is clearly evidenced. Their own words demonstrate their absolute inability to evaluate cases and objectively assess the actions taken by the police involved.

Given the clear bias they have against law enforcement, our members are concerned they will look to make allegations of misconduct against police when totally unjustified, and to continue pushing their false narrative, while forgetting their duty is to *crime victims*. Given their words and their abject disdain for members of the NYPD, they can no longer effectively and fairly





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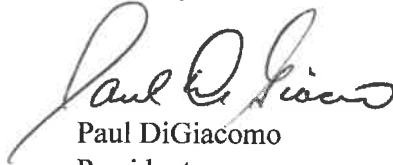
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perform their duties. They have made any working relationship between themselves and members of the DEA unimaginable. Given the prejudicial and biased beliefs expressed by these alleged "Officers of the Court," we believe they are in violation of their oath of office. To have our members work with them would be a violation of our own members' Constitutional right to due process.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,



Paul DiGiacomo
President

PDG/sfk



THE POLICE UNION REPRESENTING THE GREATEST DETECTIVES IN THE WORLD

AFFILIATIONS – NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS (NAPO)

NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF PBAs

Dear D.A. Clark:

We, the undersigned Assistant District Attorneys, along with 21 others who wish to remain anonymous, write to you from a place of deep concern regarding the role that this Office plays in perpetuating a culture of violence in law enforcement. Although we received your June 1, 2020 acknowledgment of George Floyd's murder and the ensuing protests, we feel that this Office must do more to contend with the reality of police brutality in the Bronx, beginning with an unequivocal condemnation of the NYPD's unwarranted use of violence.

On May 25, 2020, Minneapolis police murdered George Floyd in a senseless and callous act of violence, thereby adding his legacy to an unconscionably long list of Black and brown lives that police have destroyed through the use of excessive force. The cruelty of Mr. Floyd's execution, and the Minneapolis District Attorney's delay in holding the police accountable for it, struck a deep nerve in our communities that sparked weeks of protests in cities across the nation, including our own.

Indeed, your message that "damaging property and physical violence in our community does nothing more than hurt us where we live," showed our community that we, as an Office, understand the sentiment behind the protests. However, it is well-documented that the NYPD, in particular, has acted out against even peaceful demonstrators by, *inter alia*, driving SUVs into them in Brooklyn, trapping thousands of them on the Manhattan Bridge, blinding them with pepper spray, refusing to allow EMTs to aid injured protesters, and effectuating violent mass arrests like the one that took place in the Bronx on the evening of June 4, 2020. In short, the NYPD heard our city asking police to stop killing Black people and responded with more force and violence than many of us, privileged or not, have ever witnessed first-hand. This is why, as a follow up to your statement, we are asking you to speak out against police brutality and assert this Office's dedication to holding police accountable for the crimes they commit against the people we are sworn

Moreover, although we recognize that the NYPD and BXDA are distinct entities, it remains true that prosecution is inextricably linked to police conduct, rendering this Office complicit in maintaining a legal paradigm that validates and upholds the NYPD's use of violence. Police brutality undermines the legitimacy of our profession as prosecutors and powerfully obfuscates the community's perception of the hard work that we do, day in and day out, in pursuit of justice. To this end, we also ask that you directly address the BXDA staff's feelings of legitimate grief and confusion by providing reassurance that this Office will do everything in its power to fix our broken system. Part of this requires providing resources and outlets of communication for BXDA staff to foster honest discussions about the Office's relationship to police violence without fear of supervisory backlash.

This Office must also undertake a comprehensive review of how we currently respond, both formally and informally, to police brutality when we witness it directly. For example, one important way we can counteract police violence on a daily basis is in the complaint room, where ADAs have the opportunity to speak with officers immediately after arrest. Nearly every ADA represented in this letter has encountered an incident in the complaint room where an officer has used unwarranted force; however, because officers tend not to be receptive when young ADAs correct their behavior, these interactions do little to either rectify violence that has already taken place or prevent future violent arrests. As a response, this Office should institute clear procedures and guidance for identifying and handling police misconduct, violent arrests, and unconstitutional practices so these one-on-one interactions with police, in aggregate, become a meaningful part of BXDA's unified response to police brutality.

The criminal justice system is in dire need of sweeping change, and it is our responsibility, as part of that system, to take every step within our control to end violence in policing. As ADAs committed to pursuing justice with integrity, we are calling upon you, the leader of this Office, to begin taking those steps by condemning police brutality and agreeing to develop concrete plans for holding ourselves accountable, to the people we serve, for abuses of power that occur within our purview.

Sincerely and Respectfully Yours,

THIS LETTER HAS BEEN SENT. IF YOU WISH TO SHOW SUPPORT, PLEASE CHECK AGAIN TOMORROW AND WE WILL HAVE A NEW SYSTEM FOR SIGNING AN ADDENDUM.

accountable, to the people we serve, for abuses of power that occur within our purview.

Sincerely and Respectfully Yours,

Shavonn Bennette, Violent Criminal Enterprise Bureau, 2019

Sanjana Biswas, Domestic Violence Bureau, 2018

Angelique Blake, Domestic Violence Bureau, 2018

Brittany Burk, Domestic Violence Bureau, 2018

Daniel Carlisle, Trial Bureau 70, 2019

Carissa Caukin, Domestic Violence Bureau, 2019

Raquel Chavez, Domestic Violence Bureau, 2018

Teri Chung, Trial Bureau 70, 2017

Jack Daily, Trial Bureau 40, 2017

Amanda Danforth, Trial Bureau 30, 2017

Sharlene Disla, Domestic Violence Bureau, 2019

Jennifer Esposito, Domestic Violence Bureau, 2019

Hannah Freiman, Domestic Violence Bureau, 2018

Brian Gauthier, Domestic Violence Bureau, 2017

William D. Hoffman, Narcotics Bureau, 2017

Alexandra Insinga, Child Abuse and Sex Crimes Bureau and Human Trafficking Unit, 2019

Simon Kahng, Trial Bureau 30, 2019

Ashley Martin, Domestic Violence Bureau, 2019

Nicholas McGill-Behr, Trial Bureau 40, 2018

Franz Mevs, Child Abuse and Sex Crimes Bureau, 2017

Victoria Mosca, Domestic Violence Bureau, 2019

Robert Myers, Appeals Bureau, 2018

Morgan Namian, Appeals Bureau, 2019

Cassie Perez, Trial Bureau 50, 2017

Grace Phillips, Child Abuse and Sex Crimes, 2018

Erin Pietkewicz, Domestic Violence Bureau, 2019

JaCelynn N. Porter, Trial Bureau 60, 2017

Marquise Rivon, Domestic Violence Bureau, 2017

Aharon Schrieber, Domestic Violence Bureau, 2018

Camila Sosa, Child Abuse and Sex Crimes Bureau, 2019

Nicole Theal, Domestic Violence Bureau, 2018

Melissa Vo, Trial Bureau 70, 2017

Chantelle Williams, Rikers Island Prosecution Bureau, 2017

Joel Wright, Domestic Violence Bureau, 2018

ANONYMOUS SUPPORTERS:

Anonymous Signer 1, 2018

Anonymous Signer 2, 2017

Anonymous Signer 3, 2017

Anonymous Signer 4, 2019

Anonymous Signer 5, 2018

Anonymous Signer 6, 2019

Anonymous Signer 7, 2019

Anonymous Signer 8, 2017

Anonymous Signer 9, 2019

Anonymous Signer 10, 2019

Anonymous Signer 11, 2019