

Monday, January 26, 2026

To:

NYC Council Speaker Julie Menin  
NY City Council  
250 Broadway, New York, NY  
10007

Council Member Gale Brewer  
Chair Government Operations  
NY City Council  
250 Broadway, New York, NY  
10007

CC:

Mayor Zohran Mamdani  
City Hall  
City Hall Park, New York, NY  
10007

Dear Speaker Menin:

New Yorkers want and deserve a city that is safe and affordable. Widening income inequality and the erosion of an already fraying social safety net by federal actions threaten both of these desires. Meanwhile there is a [growing consensus](#) here and across the country that holistic public safety requires fully funding things like schools, jobs, healthcare, and housing while mobilizing a wide range of emergency responses for social issues and unmet mental health needs. It is time for a balanced, evidence-based approach to safety.

[Intro 1524-2025](#) would establish a Department of Community Safety tasked with promoting community safety and providing health-first non-police emergency response to people in need while connecting them to care, such as mental health services and low-barrier housing. Of course, legislation is just the first step of many toward realizing this vision of community safety—but without timely legislation, city government will lack the structure or direction to scale up these vital services and ensure their permanence.

The undersigned organizations support the development of a Department of Community Safety and request that a hearing on Intro 1524-2025 be fast-tracked in 2026 so that formal public consideration can begin. Doing so early in the year will provide the mayor and city council the appropriate agency structure to make urgent FY 2027 budget investments that connect New Yorkers to the community-based safety services they need, such as non-police crisis response, mental health treatment, housing, and violence interruption.

Respectfully,

Bronx Movil

BTTM

CAMBA Inc.

Center for Justice Innovation

Coalition for the Homeless

Common Justice

Community Service Society of New York

Dream.Org

Drug Policy Alliance

Freedom Agenda

Good Shepherd Services

GOSO/SAVE

Jews For Racial & Economic Justice (JFREJ)

Jim Owles Liberal Democratic Club

Lifecamp Inc

Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem

New York Communities for Change

Not Another Child Inc

NYC Anti-Violence Project

Parents Supporting Parents NY

Project ECHO

Riders Alliance

Safety Net Project and Safety Net Activists at the Urban Justice Center

Save Our Streets

StreetsPAC

The Central Family Life Center, Inc

The Legal Aid Society

True 2 Life

Urban Justice Center Mental Health Project

Urban Pathways

Vera Institute of Justice

VOCAL-NY

Where Do We Go From Here Inc

Youth Represent