

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