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January 25, 2018

Hon. Bill de Blasio
Mayor
City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

RE: NYPD and ICE Actions at the Ravi Ragbir Deportation Protest

Dear Mayor de Blasio:

We are writing to formally request clarification on several concerning issues that were raised during the arrests conducted by the New York Police Department on January 11, 2018 during a peaceful protest of the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention and attempted deportation of Ravi Ragbir.

As you are undoubtedly aware, Council Members Jumaane Williams and Ydanis Rodriguez were arrested by the NYPD along with sixteen other supporters of Ravi's. They and the others in the crowd were accompanying Ravi to his scheduled ICE check-in at the Jacob K. Javits Federal Building as part of a peaceful vigil awaiting completion of this procedure and his release, as has happened repeatedly before. Word soon spread that in fact, Ravi was to be detained and deportation proceedings immediately, facilitated by transporting Ravi in an ambulance with inactive lights and sirens.

The crowd engaged in nonviolent resistance to this immoral act. This nonviolence was met with overwhelming force on the part of ICE agents and members of the NYPD Strategic Response Group which saw Council Member Williams thrown into several vehicles, Council Member Rodriguez dragged across the street in restraints, and more.

We formally and strongly request answers to the following questions:

- What instructions were given to the New York Police Department in general, and to the NYPD Strategic Response Group in particular, on January 11, 2018 when they were called in to assist at the protest?



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- What instructions are given to SRG in general in these instances? Are they told the nature of the protests for which they were called in to assist?
- Did the NYPD or any other agency assist ICE and or any agency of the Federal Government in any way with deporting Ravi Ragbir?
- Were the NYPD present at Bellevue Hospital when Ravi Ragbir was being examined? If so, what function were they performing?
- Did the NYPD assist in ICE transporting Ravi Ragbir to the Holland Tunnel and into New Jersey? If so, what function did they perform in the assistance?
- Were the NYPD in general and SRG in particular aware that when the ambulance transporting Ravi Ragbir exited the Jacob K. Javits Federal Building, and for some time thereafter, no emergency lights or sirens were activated?

Thank you for your attention and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.
Council Member, 39th District
Co-Chair, Black Latino & Asian Caucus

Ritchie Torres
Council Member, 15th District
Co-Chair, Black Latino & Asian Caucus

Jumaane D. Williams
Council Member, 45th District

Ydanis Rodriguez
Council Member, 10th District

Cc: James P. O'Neill, Commissioner, New York Police Department