



PUBLIC ADVOCATE FOR THE CITY OF NEW YORK
Jumaane D. Williams

July 29, 2020

Dermot Shea
Commissioner
New York Police Department
1 Police Plaza
New York, NY 10038

Re: Arresting Tactics of Protestors

Dear Commissioner Shea:

I write with grave concern regarding the New York Police Department Warrant Squad's arrest of a transgender woman on Tuesday, July 28, 2020. The actions the world saw yesterday demonstrate a clear need to change how we police protestors engaging in their rights to assemble and gather.

This morning, the Mayor said this was not only a matter of "wrong place, wrong time," but an action that makes it difficult to build trust between police and our communities. To that end, I request your response to the following questions on the tactics deployed by the NYPD yesterday:

1. Have previous cases for alleged damage of property ever led to similar tactics by the NYPD we saw in the videos yesterday? If so, how frequently are those tactics used in those instances?
2. How did the New York Police Department determine the tactics used in the viral video to force a transgender woman in an unmarked car?
3. At what point of any arrest in an unmarked van by Warrant Squad are Miranda rights read?
4. What other criminal charges have ever led to plainclothes officers forcibly removing protestors if any?
5. Was an arrest warrant, signed by a judge, issued to make this or any arrest on July 28?
6. What protocols must be followed by the Warrant Squad when serving someone a warrant?

I hope you will understand the urgency of this request, and I look forward to receiving your response on this matter. Please contact First Deputy Public Advocate Nick E. Smith at nsmith@advocate.nyc.gov with any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.D. Williams".

Jumaane D. Williams
Public Advocate for the City of New York