



June 29, 2020

Fausto B. Pichardo
Chief of Patrol Services
New York Police Department
1 Police Plaza
New York, NY 10038

Dear Chief Pichardo:

It is our understanding that under your direction, New York Police Department precincts held meetings on June 25th, for local stakeholders to voice concerns about public safety and to discuss opportunities for partnership. While we applaud the intention to engage with our communities and forge new paths forward to address community safety, we were taken aback to find out that these meetings were intended to be held in person for 25+ people, in contradiction to the gathering directives of Governor Cuomo's Executive Orders and phased reopening protocol, and did not provide call in or video conferencing option for attendees.

While we understand that precincts provided PPE and attempted to locate large spaces for these meetings, these meetings go against Executive Order 202.35 that permits general gatherings of 10 or fewer persons, providing that social distancing protocols and cleaning and disinfection protocols are followed. Executive Order 202.42 permits general gatherings of up to 25 when a region enters Phase 3. It is our understanding that while attendance varied across precincts, some had as many as 40+ people in a room.

We believe that as local leaders and enforcers of the law, the NYPD should hold itself to the same standard it is holding our community members to and align its practices with the reopening guidance the state has set forth.

Hosting these meetings creates a situation where arguably the most vulnerable, in terms of public safety, cannot participate because they are high COVID-19 risk. It also risks these meetings being a location for spread.

We ask that all NYPD community meetings comply with state guidelines and provide virtual alternatives. I know you agree that our residents should not have to choose between their health and their safety in their community.

Sincerely,



Brad Hoylman
State Senator
27th District



Gale A. Brewer
Manhattan Borough President



Brian Kavanaugh
State Senator
26th District



Liz Krueger
State Senator
28th District



Harvey Epstein
State Assemblymember
74th District



Deborah J. Glick
State Assemblymember
66th District



Richard N. Gottfried
State Assemblymember
75th District



Yuh-Line Niou
State Assemblymember
65th District



Linda Rosenthal
State Assemblymember
67th District



Carlina Rivera
NYC Council Member
2nd District

Helen Rosenthal

Helen Rosenthal
NYC Council Member
6th District