



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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**DOI RELEASES FINDINGS OF INVESTIGATION INTO CITY FUNDED ENTITY'S PARTICIPATION IN
MUSIC VIDEO ADVOCATING THE KILLING OF POLICE OFFICERS**

Staff at The Bronx Defenders, a Legal Services Organization, Participated in "Hands Up" Video

Mark G. Peters, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI") today referred the findings of an investigation into whether a City funded legal services organization, The Bronx Defenders, participated in a video advocating the killing of police officers. Among other things, DOI found that: (1) Attorneys at The Bronx Defenders participated in the video, and allowed the organization's offices to be used in the video, despite knowing that it advocated the killing of police officers; (2) The organization's Executive Director, Robin Steinberg, failed to discipline the staff after learning of their conduct; (3) Ms. Steinberg made misleading statements to City officials about the organization's involvement.

DOI's findings, which are attached to this release, have been sent to Elizabeth Glazer, Director of the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, and to Zachary Carter, Corporation Counsel of the City of New York, for such action as they deem appropriate.

DOI began the investigation on December 12, 2014, immediately upon learning about the video. Pursuant to the City Charter and enabling executive orders, DOI is obligated to investigate misconduct in City funded entities.

The video, distributed online in early December 2014, includes images of two singers pointing guns at the head of an individual portraying a police officer. The lyrics include: "For Mike Brown and Sean Bell a cop got to get killed" and "time to start killing these coppers." Additional footage for the video was filmed in The Bronx Defenders office and two staffers at The Bronx Defenders appeared in the video. The credits at the end of the video also stated that The Bronx Defenders was its sponsor.

DOI Commissioner Mark G. Peters said, "Advocating the killing of police officers is unacceptable and offensive. These attorneys have abysmally failed to meet their obligations to their clients, to the courts and to the city as a whole."

This investigation was conducted by Inspectors General Andrew Brunsdon and Andrew Sein, and

their staff, including Counsel to the Inspectors General Annette Almazan, Special Counsel Inna Spector, Investigative Attorney Carolyn Sheehan, Special Investigator Peter Relyea, and Law Fellow James Wright, under the supervision of Associate Commissioner William Jorgenson.

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DOI is one of the oldest law-enforcement agencies in the country. The agency investigates and refers for prosecution City employees and contractors engaged in corrupt or fraudulent activities or unethical conduct. Investigations may involve any agency, officer, elected official or employee of the City, as well as those who do business with or receive benefits from the City.

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