June 25, 2020

Honorable Bill de Blasio
Mayor
City Hall
New York, New York 10019

Re: Reducing and Redirecting the NYPD Budget in Fiscal Year 2021

Dear Mayor de Blasio:

In May 2020, Community Board 11 issued a Statement regarding the Fiscal Year 2021 Executive Budget that highlights the inequitable budget cuts across city agencies and their disproportionate impact on East Harlem residents and other vulnerable neighborhoods. With the new fiscal year quickly approaching, CB11 maintains and reiterates the position that the City must yield a more equitable budget -- one that prioritizes our youth and social safety nets over policing.

In Early June 2020, Comptroller Scott Stringer issued a letter calling on the City to reduce NYPD spending by $1.1 billion over four years and reinvest those dollars to support communities disproportionately impacted by both COVID-19 and decades of systemic community disinvestment. Community Board 11 supports the Comptroller’s plan to reduce NYPD spending by $1.1 billion, however CB11 upholds that the full $1.1 billion reduction can and should be implemented over Fiscal Year 2021.

The Comptroller’s proposal accounts for the $1.1 billion cut over 4 years through a reduced uniformed headcount through attrition, a 5% cut to uniformed overtime, and a 4% reduction to Other than Personnel Services spending. CB11 maintains that NYPD can achieve a $1.1 billion reduction next fiscal year through a hiring freeze, a more significant cut to uniformed overtime, the removal of uniformed officers from our City’s public schools, and cuts to NYPD’s expansion into social services including homeless outreach and mental health crisis response.

In calling for a $1.1 billion cut to NYPD’s $10.9 billion dollar budget in Fiscal Year 2021, we join more than 170 local & national organizations, brought together by Communities United for Police Reform (CPR) for Budget Justice. The funds cut from the NYPD budget must be redirected to life-saving and life-affirming programs for communities of color most deeply impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. New York City is facing a budget deficit of at least $9 billion dollars over the next two years; the budget must not be balanced on the backs of the most vulnerable.
If you have any questions about this matter, please contact me at chair@cb11m.org.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Nilsa Orama
Chair
Community Board 11

cc: Hon. Diana Ayala, New York City Council
Hon. Bill Perkins, New York City Council
Hon. Ben Kallos, New York City Council
Hon. Keith Powers, New York City Council
Hon. Gale A. Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Scott Stringer, New York City Comptroller
Hon. Robert J. Rodriguez, New York State Assembly
Hon. Brian Benjamin, New York State Senate
Hon. Ines Dickens, New York State Assembly
Hon. Jose Serrano, New York State Senate
Jay L. Gottlieb, New York City Office of Management & Budget
Anthony Notaro, Jr, Chair, Community Board 1
Carter Booth, Chair, Community Board 2
Alysha Lewis-Coleman, Chair, Community Board 3
Lowell D. Kern, Chair, Community Board 4
Vikki Barbero, Chair, Community Board 5
Molly Hollister, Chair, Community Board 6
Mark Diller, Chair, Community Board 7
Alida Camp, Chair, Community Board 8
Barry Weinberg, Chair, Community Board 9
Cicely Harris, Chair, Community Board 10
Eleazar Bueno, Chair, Community Board 12