My name is Christine Henson. I’m the mother of Andrew Henson who was assaulted by the NYPD not once but twice.

I know the impact of being abused by the police because I personally have experienced it, too.

I want to be direct. The NYPD’s budget should be cut, and that money should go to the programs and services our communities need.

My son, Andrew, has autism and limited speech abilities. When he was 16, Andrew was brutality assaulted by the NYPD. Since then, he has regressed. Everyone who knows my son sees the huge shift in his personality. The NYPD’s excessive force completely altered his life.

Looking at the mayor’s financial plan – all I see is that Mayor Adams is investing in this kind of violence at the expense of New Yorkers’ safety and health.

As the mother of a son with disabilities, I can tell you for sure that the malicious over-policing of our communities that has come with Eric Adams is not what will keep Andrew safe. He needs access to healthcare and programs for people with his kinds of challenges, which are less and less accessible.

Ever since Mayor Adams took office, police violence and harassment has increased. There is an enormous amount of officers on our streets and it should be reduced.

At the same time, people are suffering. More and more people are sleeping on the streets and going without their basic needs being met.

The mayor’s Financial Plan will cause these conditions to go from dire to utterly dangerous and unlivable because it once again protects the NYPD’s bloated budget while cutting other agencies.

Instead of slashing crucial services and agencies, Mayor Adams and the City Council should cut the NYPD’s bloated budget and use that money for programs for our schools, community-based behavioral health services, housing, employment, and healthcare.

Thank you.