

Greetings, I am Divad Durant, a leader in the Justice Committee, a grassroots organization committed to ending police violence and systemic racism in New York City.

As a Black man, raised in the South Bronx; one of the poorest congressional districts in the United States, I've experienced the physical and psychological harms of police violence, as well as, the violence of historical disinvestment.

**Growing up, my safety** was dependent on essential services like youth programs, community centers, and public libraries; institutions and organizations that nurture neighborhoods back to health, not the NYPD.

I was repulsed to learn that the consequences of **Mayor Adams mismanagement of city funds**, and refusal to generate revenue from the rich, leaves low-income **Black, Latinx and other New Yorkers of color stuck with the bill**.

The **NYPD's budget increased** by close to \$135M in the Mayors Financial plan (at least a 2.3% increase).

NYPD wastes millions on expenses like over \$1,600 per month for a robot cop (that also costs 2 cops to protect the robot), \$75K each for robot dogs, \$500M to hide radio transmissions from the public (despite it being fine for 87 years).

Moreover, NYC will payout **\$121 Million in police misconduct settlements** this year. This doesn't even include the personnel costs of keeping cops who kill, brutalize and sexually assault on payroll when the NYPD obstructs discipline and refuses to fire them. Despite this, the NYPD is already reported to not face cuts in January.

Claims that reducing police numbers will increase violence lacks evidence. Clear eyed research supports that real safety is achieved through investments in core infrastructure and services like affordable housing, childcare, healthcare, and youth programs.

We need a City Council and Mayor to prioritize New Yorkers' well-being, over further bloating the police force.

I urge the mayor and city council to stop giving the NYPD preferential treatment and invest in services that all new yorkers need to thrive.