

Written Testimony of Iris Baez, Mother of Anthony Baez

**Submitted to the Public Safety Committee of the New York City Council
For March 3, 2015 Hearing on Community Policing**

My name is Iris Baez. I'm the mother of Anthony Baez. Anthony was placed in a chokehold and killed by NYPD Officer Francis Livoti on December 22, 1994. The idea of police-community relations is very close to my heart. It was a community police officer parked on my block that killed my son because Anthony's football accidentally hit his patrol car.

Unless you have lost a loved one to abusive police, you cannot begin to understand the pain a mother or other family member feels. We are told police officers are supposed to "protect and serve" and instead they kill our children.

If we're going to talk about improving police-community relations, we need to start by fixing the problems that exist.

When police officers do something wrong they have to be held accountable. When officers unjustly kill people they get a slap on the wrist or nothing at all happens. There are killer cops still on the streets. Brutal officers should be fired and not receive their pensions. They should be prosecuted and put in jail.

Right now NYPD officers come into our communities and treat us like criminals. They stop-and-frisk our young people for no reason and harass and abuse us. This has to end.

These officers don't know us and they don't look like us. Officers should live in the communities they work in and they should treat us with dignity and respect

We do not need another 1000 cops in low-income Black and Latino neighborhoods. This will just lead to more discrimination and brutality. If we want our communities to be safe and healthy, we need opportunities for youth. We need jobs, services and housing. We don't need more aggressive and abusive officers.