



COMMUNITIES UNITED FOR POLICE REFORM

Thursday, March 31st, 2022

Mayor Eric Adams
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

NYPD Commissioner Keechant Sewell
1 Police Plaza
New York, NY 10038

Dear Mayor Adams and Commissioner Sewell,

Nearly six years have passed since NYPD Officer Wayne Isaacs killed Delrawn Small, yet Officer Isaacs remains a full-time NYPD officer, his salary paid by New York City taxpayers. Last week, the family of Delrawn Small learned that Officer Isaacs and his PBA lawyers are attempting to stop the Civilian Complaint Review Board's (CCRB) prosecution of Isaacs for killing Mr. Small. **We are writing today to request that you, as the Mayor and the NYPD Commissioner, stop any attempt by Officer Isaacs, his lawyers, or the Police Benevolent Association (PBA) to interfere with the CCRB's investigation and prosecution of this case.**

On July 4th, 2016, Officer Isaacs rolled down the window of his car, shot Mr. Small in front of his 4-month-old baby, teenage stepdaughter, and girlfriend, on the street in Brooklyn. Officer Isaacs called 911 and falsely reported that he was assaulted, [never communicating that he had just shot Mr. Small or that Mr. Small required immediate medical attention.](#) The NYPD parroted Isaacs' false accounts, which were later disproven by surveillance video released days after Isaacs' and the NYPD's false claims saturated media coverage of the killing. The footage showed that Isaacs shot Mr. Small, who was unarmed, within seconds and [left him to bleed to death on the street, offering no emergency aid.](#) Isaacs also never sought to check on Mr. Small's health and well-being after firing his weapon.

The CCRB substantiated charges against Isaacs in October 2020 after years of inaction by the NYPD. After months of delay, the NYPD finally served charges on Officer Isaacs in January 2021. The CCRB is preparing to prosecute Isaacs in an NYPD disciplinary trial, however, Isaacs and his lawyers are seeking to have the NYPD commissioner remove this case from CCRB jurisdiction.

If Officer Isaacs and his police union lawyers are successful at their most recent attempt to strike what is akin to a backroom deal with the NYPD to remove the case from the CCRB's jurisdiction, it could prevent Officer Isaacs from standing a discipline trial and being fired for killing Mr. Small.

The family of Delrawn Small, the Justice Committee, Communities United for Police Reform (CPR) and other CPR members and partners have been fighting for

accountability for nearly six years since Mr. Small was killed. The 45 organizations that have signed on to this letter are demanding the following:

1. **Publicly commit to allowing the CCRB to continue and conduct its prosecution of Wayne Isaacs, free from interference by the NYPD or the City.** The CCRB is a non-NYPD entity authorized to investigate police misconduct and abuse. To interfere with its prosecution years after charges have been substantiated against Officer Isaacs and before a disciplinary trial would deepen distrust in the NYPD's disciplinary process.
2. Reject any attempts by the PBA and Wayne Isaacs to strike a backroom deal that helps Isaacs escape discipline.
3. **Listen to the family of Delrawn Small, schedule the discipline trial and fire Wayne Isaacs without a “good guy letter” and without non-mandatory benefits.** Victoria Davis and Victor Dempsey have been fighting for years to hold Isaacs accountable for the killing of their brother. Their fight for accountability cannot and must not end with a backroom deal between Officer Isaacs and the NYPD that would allow him to further escape consequences for killing an unarmed New Yorker. As you have said many times, Mayor Adams, New York City needs safety and justice. Allowing Officer Isaacs to walk free without any consequences would not be safe or just and would signal to other NYPD officers that they too are above the law.

Officer Isaacs' killing of Delrawn Small was on video, he and the NYPD lied about what happened to the public in the days following, and the NYPD never disciplined or fired him for this killing. Officer Isaacs' status as a member of the NYPD has protected him from facing the consequences and it must end. We urge you to allow the CCRB's prosecution to continue, schedule the discipline trial, and fire Officer Wayne Isaacs for the killing of Delrawn Small.

Sincerely,

Communities United for Police Reform

The Justice Committee

Alliance for Quality Education

Arab American Association of New York

Audre Lorde Project

Brooklyn Movement Center

Center for Constitutional Rights

Center for Law and Social Justice at Medgar
Evers College

Citizen Action of New York

Color of Change

Churches United for Fair Housing

Defending Rights & Dissent

Drug Policy Alliance

DRUM- Desis Rising Up & Moving

Equality for Flatbush(E4F)
Faith in New York
Families for Freedom
Gangs Coalition
Immigrant Defense Project
Jews For Racial & Economic Justice
Jim Owles Liberal Democratic Club
Justice League NYC
Justice Strategies
LatinoJustice PRLDEF
Legal Action Center
Long Island Progressive Coalition
Make the Road New York
Malcolm X Grassroots Movement
NAACP Legal Defense and Educational
Fund, Inc
New Kings Democrats (NKD)

New York City Anti-Violence Project
New York Communities for Change
Policing & Social Justice Project at Brooklyn
College
Public Science Project
Red Hook Initiative
Surveillance Technology Oversight Project
(S.T.O.P)
Street Vendor Project
SURJ New York City
St. James Presbyterian Church, New York
Take Root Justice
The Gathering for Justice
Theatre of the Oppressed NYC
Transgender Law Center
VOCAL NY
Youth Represent