



THE COUNCIL  
OF  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

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November 22, 2024

Hon. Jessica Tisch  
Commissioner  
New York Police Department  
1 Police Plaza  
New York, NY 10038

Dear Commissioner Tisch:

I write on behalf of residents on the Upper West Side expressing public safety concerns throughout the neighborhood amid a reduction in police officers assigned to local precincts.

During this past year, crime reports and violent incidents in areas encompassing Council District 6 – served by the NYPD’s 24, 20, Central Park and Midtown North Precincts – have increased dramatically. I echo community members and organizations, such as the Upper West Side Coalition of Block Associations, advocating for heightened police presence. For example, at September’s Community Council meeting, the number of officers in the 20 Police Precinct was cited to have decreased significantly from 120 to 79. This reduction is felt across the community and intensifies public safety concerns.

Violence like this week’s slashing on West 86th Street near Columbus Ave are happening too often. It is awful and people are frightened. On October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024, a shooting occurred at the intersection of West 72<sup>nd</sup> Street and Broadway. Another violent incident followed days later with a nearby shooting occurring at West 68<sup>th</sup> Street and Columbus Avenue on November 7.

Prior to these incidents, regular police presence had been requested in high traffic corridors like 71<sup>st</sup> Street and Broadway. Until the shooting, patrols were assigned intermittently and residents reported being told that there aren’t enough officers available to maintain a consistent placement. I appreciate 20 Precinct Deputy Inspector Pun-Sullivan’s engagement with the community on these issues and placing officers in the area on a regular basis since the shooting.

We need more police patrols to support their fellow officers and we need more investment in mental health treatment. I credit Mayor Eric Adams for restoring two NYPD classes and appointing you as Police Commissioner this week. NYPD must treat mental health as key to public safety, and the Administration must allocate funding and implement more psychiatric beds.

To remedy these concerns, I strongly urge the addition of more police officers assigned to the NYPD’s

24, 20, Central Park, and Midtown North Precincts to remedy public safety concerns and improve quality of life for residents of the Upper West Side.

Thank you for your attention to these issues. I look forward to your response and to working together on critical community concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gale A. Brewer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gale A. Brewer

cc: Deputy Inspector Candida Pun-Sullivan, Commanding Officer, NYPD 20<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct, 120 West 82nd Street New York, NY 10024

Deputy Inspector Noreen Lazarus, Commanding Officer, NYPD 24<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct, 151 West 100 Street, New York, NY 10025

Captain Timothy V. Magliente, Commanding Officer, Central Park Precinct, 86<sup>th</sup> and Transverse Road, New York, NY 10024

Assistant Chief Ruel Stephenson, Commanding Officer, NYPD Patrol Borough Manhattan North, 151 West 100 Street, New York, NY 10025