



NYC Mayoral Race Survey

Thank you for participating in this survey, and sharing your justice priorities with New Yorkers. Please keep responses to 300 words per question, and do not release your individual responses in advance of our public release of all the candidates' responses. The deadline for the questionnaire is May 7, 2021 at 6:00PM ET.

1. What will you do within your first 100 days in office to dramatically transform New York's criminal justice system?

I would immediately re-allocate \$1.3 billion from the NYPD budget into outpatient mental health treatment services, demilitarize the NYPD in terms of its technological capability, disciplinary oversight, and budget.

We need to make a government that works for and not against New Yorkers and for too long our justice system has disproportionately criminalized Black, Brown, and immigrant communities, that needs to change.

Broadly, I plan to eliminate the punitive, bureaucratic aspects of New York's criminal justice system and replace them with accountability and transparency through technology and community involvement. Read my full plan at www.chang.nyc/policing.

2. As the mayor of New York City, how will you tackle the racism that has always been embedded in the justice system?

We know that the application of policing has been unequal and discriminatory, particularly with respect to black communities. We must be able to react to that, and in order to react appropriately we need appropriate, clear data. We know that black men are 2 1/2 times more likely to be killed by police during their lifetime. Black people fatally shot by police were twice as likely to be unarmed as white people. In

Candidate Name: Art Chang

order to change the way we keep people safe, we must have clear data that shows us where the problems lie. As Mayor, I'm committed to open and transparent distribution of data so that all of our City agencies are held accountable, especially the NYPD. The existing system is embedded with flaws that allow for abuses of power. We need to build new operating systems within our justice system with more explicit limitations on what officers can do.

We need to build a culture of accountability. That starts by prohibiting potentially abusive uses of technology by law enforcement. I'm proposing instituting two new offices: The Office of Police Accountability, and the Office of Police Discipline, to take sole disciplinary power out of the hands of the Police Chief and put it into the hands of an oversight body with community input.

I'll couple this with a clear message that the police need to embrace their role as public servants not hyper-vigilant, quasi-military opps. This is how we should demilitarize the NYPD and move towards a more community-focused justice system.

3. How will you ensure that your efforts to address rising crime rates during the pandemic (after decades of declining crime) do not disproportionately harm or discriminate against New York City's communities of color or immigrant populations?

The mission of the police is to ensure safety for all members of a community. And if the community believes that hate is permissible & accepted, then the community can no longer trust in its police.

One of the fundamental tenets of a democracy is the control of the armed forces by the civilian elected leadership. So I am pleased that the Biden administration promises to reinstate "pattern and practice" investigations into policing.

I am also supportive of the NY Attorney General's investigation into the NYPD practices during protests and her call for a Federal monitor to oversee policing of future protests.

To equitably address a disproportionate rise in hate crimes we must:

- * Restore funding to the Civilian Complaint Review Board to a minimum of the City Charter requirements and propose making it a semi-autonomous agency, much like the Campaign Finance Board;
- * Enact changes to the Code of Conduct, including Insubordination and Hateful Activities, that can result in disciplinary action including termination; and

Candidate Name: Art Chang

* Remove the NYPD Chief's sole discretion on disciplinary actions with Mayoral and community input.

Lastly, we need to focus on having healthy communities to prevent crime from happening in the first place. See www.chang.nyc/issues to read my plans on how to do this through education, housing, climate justice, disability rights, and more.

4. New York State has recently legalized recreational marijuana. As the mayor of New York City, will you expunge past convictions and/or release people for low-level drug offenses? How will you reduce the trauma New Yorkers — particularly Black and Latinx communities — have experienced from the War on Drugs?

I will work with lawmakers and the District Attorney's office to expunge the records of past convictions of low level drug offenses, and release people who have solely been convicted of low-level drug offenses. I also plan on cutting \$1.3 Billion from the NYPD moving towards community based Mental Health Crisis Intervention teams to deal with non-violent victimless crimes. Informed by community input and a bottom-up management structure, I will bring funding and the resources of City Hall to social workers, affordable housing, education, universal childcare, counselors, and mental health professionals. By providing transparent data and clear management, my plan will bring quality, accessible mental health services that work with multiple community partners with programs for routine assisted outpatient treatment; Mental health providers, schools, childcare centers, hospitals, jails, and community centers will all be provided resources and a direct line to City Hall.

We have a one-size-fits-all approach to criminal justice. First offenders, nonviolent crimes, and youth crimes need to be treated appropriately and with restorative justice. We must ensure that when cannabis is legalized, the first applications to establish businesses should come from those whose lives were harmed by the war on drugs. We must think about criminal justice in the context of a person's life with the goal of reintegrating people back into their communities? This means preserving the mental health of the prisoners, especially young people, and abolishing solitary confinement. Some are imprisoned because they're hardened criminals. But for too many, the process of being in jail actually makes people worse when they come out. I believe my plan offers a clear alternative.

Lastly, I have a plan to build a Marijuana Incubator program, where those with records of marijuana-based crimes will be the first to get licenses to start new Marijuana

Candidate Name: Art Chang

businesses, along with grants to cover startup costs and mentorship programs. Learn more at www.chang.nyc/marijuana.

5. What is your plan for ensuring members of police and corrections are held accountable for misconduct, including excessive use of force and violence? How will you promote more transparency around these incidents?

The current system allows for NYPD leadership and their politically-appointed allies to retain control over disciplinary action. The NYPD holds the rights to a significant amount of data which should be publicly available, including body camera footage and other relevant evidence in many cases of police misconduct. The Commissioner remains the final arbiter in misconduct cases, often resulting in a system of retraining officers who have exhibited biased misconduct rather than removing these officers from the force entirely.

To fix this problem, I propose that two new offices be created, autonomous from the NYPD, jointly appointed by the Mayor and Public Advocate and confirmed by the City Council:

An Office of Police Accountability, which would serve as an umbrella agency controlling many of the same functions as the CCRB and the Office of the Inspector General for the NYPD, but with a broader scope of jurisdiction. The OPA would fix many of the institutional blocks inherent in the operation of the CCRB and allow for increased accountability and enforcement of independent review.

An Office of Police Discipline, which would replace the Commissioner as the final authority and enforcer of disciplinary action in substantiated cases of misconduct (responding to cases already evaluated by the OPA). This office would control the release of data to promote transparency and accountability.

Police oversight should not give the NYPD, the mayor, or the CCRB more power—instead, policy must prioritize independent authority and non-politically-motivated appointments and elections. As cases of police misconduct and brutality continue to emerge in our city, we have a duty to institutionalize systems to evaluate them which will outlast any single mayor's term of office.

Candidate Name: Art Chang

6. What is your position on the use of facial recognition and predictive policing technology by the NYPD? What types of safeguards should be in place to protect New York City residents from intrusive and discriminatory surveillance?

I think we should prohibit facial recognition and predictive policing technology outright. I believe that the following capabilities should be prohibited:

Facial recognition and other biometric surveillance technology
NYPD Criminal Group Database and use of fake social media accounts
Purchases of geolocation data
Warrants for geofence and keyword searches
Drones and robots (especially robot dogs)
Data-sharing with ICE, including through intermediaries
Predictive policing technologies like PredPol

7. Closure of the Rikers Island jail complex is scheduled for 2025, and is projected based on continuing reductions in the jail population. Are you committed to Rikers closure, and how will you sustain the required population reductions over your first three years?

I am fully committed to closing and demolishing Riker's island. I am also committed to then utilizing Riker's Island to build something that actually benefits the community, with input from everyday New Yorkers.

8. What is your position on transferring responsibility for mental health crises from patrol officers to civilian mental health professionals and otherwise reducing police responses to non-emergency situations like traffic stops?

I believe that police officers lack the training and the bandwidth to continue to be asked to deal with all mental health crisis responses. I am in favor of creating rapid response teams alongside police that have training in crisis de-escalation, mental health issues and social work that operate 24-7-365 like the police.

9. Do you support a ban on data-sharing and all forms of collaboration between U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and New York City agencies — including NYPD?

Yes I do

Candidate Name: Art Chang

10. Will your administration support non-criminal justice strategies for community safety, and how much will you invest in such measures? Do you support shifting funding from NYPD and incarceration to building communities?

I am committed to shifting at least \$1.3 Billion in funding away from the NYPD towards supporting community based crisis intervention teams, bringing down incarceration and emphasizing restorative justice.

As a parent and member of the School Leadership Team at Brooklyn Tech, I've personally seen School Safety Officers prevent violent physical assaults of school faculty. This resource is important to keep our teachers and students safe in the case of physical altercations only.

We will remove all armed officers from schools, but keep unarmed School Safety Officers, whose exclusive duty is to ensure physical safety for students and teachers, and ensure unauthorized individuals do not enter our schools.

Additionally, we would at minimum double the number of guidance counselors in our schools, and mental health crises would fall exclusively under the purview of guidance counselors and mental health professionals — not the School Safety Officers.

Candidate Name: Art Chang



NYC Mayoral Race Survey
Criminal Justice Questionnaire
Ävatar Daví

Thank you for participating in this survey, and sharing your justice priorities with New Yorkers. Please keep responses to **300 words per question**, and do not release your individual responses in advance of our public release of all the candidates' responses. The deadline for the questionnaire is **May 7, 2021 at 6:00PM ET**.

1. What will you do within your first 100 days in office to dramatically transform New York's criminal justice system?

NEW YORK CITY-STATE CHARTER

With my election as Mayor, we will write a new charter that declares the statehood of New York City with 1 Governor-Mayor, 4 other Borough Mayors, 2 U.S. Senators and retaining 12 electoral college votes and 9 House Representatives from New York State. With a population larger than most states, we take this action so that we of New York City may have our own distinct voice in the United States of America's government, increasing efficiency of resource allocation, the city's economic self-determination and the nation's general fairness in representation. We do this so that no further generation of people will have their voice dimmed in national votes just because they choose to live in the most important city in the world.

NYC POLICE

The New York Police Department (NYPD) will transition to becoming The NYC POLICE: The New York City Patient Organized Loyal Integrous Community Enrichers. Their service will be known for its strong organization and counseling before any required physical interaction. Training will include tools for emotional therapy, meditation and concentration. A more-centered officer can make less frantic, clear-minded choices about the safety of the people in New York City.

Candidate Name: Ävatar Daví
Website: bydavi.com

The NYC POLICE squadron will be split into 2 Lines of Emergency: 1) Rescue and Assistance and 2) Counseling and Dispute Arbitration. Arbitration will include an Elder Council to utilize the wisdom of our city's senior citizens.

BREAKDOWN OF A 911 CALL

When someone calls 911 they can either ask for 1) Dispute Arbitration OR 2) Rescue and Assistance.

1) Dispute Arbitration

a. In this option, the individual can either request Immediate Dispute Arbitration or to schedule an Arbitration Date.

i. Immediate Arbitration

1. This process requires that the individuals involved agree to adhere to whatever determination is made by the officers prior to the officers being dispatched.
2. 3 officers are sent to the location.
3. Officers listen to all parties, recess and then issue determinations and possible sentences on-site (community service, rehabilitation, restraining orders, money owed, etc.)

ii. Scheduling an Arbitration Date

1. The individual (or group) may elect to schedule an arbitration date; if so, the 911 operator offers available dates and the individual (or group) selects an agreeable time.
2. The scheduled arbitrations are conducted by The NYC POLICE Elder Council:
 - a. The Elder Council is a team of senior citizens who are trained in the skills of discernment and placed in random groups of 3 to assess the cases presented.
 - b. There will be multiple councils operating at the same time allowing for efficiency in processing.
3. After parties have presented, the council deliberates and comes to a determination.

2) Rescue and Assistance

a. In this option, the 911 operator will determine the necessary response to any critical emergencies such as fire, injuries / abuse, flood, etc.

With this approach, we humanize the emergency. We provide tools for self-maintenance and human understanding for our officers. We allow the caller to determine a desired course of action in more specific terms for less chaos and confusion upon the officers' arrival. We provide and normalize a more comfortable way of accessing authority.

PRISONS

I will gradually close all prisons by 2026 if not sooner and increase rehabilitation centers - where inmates will spend the rest of their sentences so that they may be productive members of society upon their release.

2. As the mayor of New York City, how will you tackle the racism that has always been embedded in the justice system?

As we learn in the principles of balance, any force is only fully addressed by its polar opposite. A system of inequality is only addressed by a system of equality. In my mayoral campaign, I present Earth Order; Earth Order is the business and cryptocurrency system that offers true equality through equal salaries for all who choose to participate, working in a self-chosen or self-created Earth Order Business. Earth Order will also offer a health insurance option to workers and their families, eliminating the possibility of someone being uninsured without intent to be so. On a daily basis, Earth Order will feel like a banking app with heightened privacy as Earth Order pays salaries but will not have access to participants' accounts. This allows the work that the people find important to be done in the city, completely eliminates poverty, unemployment, underemployment and unfulfilled employment; completely eliminates the illusion of human uselessness. Furthermore, regardless of physical ability or description, with a lack of desperation for money, Earth Order allows people to live with pride and security and to use their own self-determination to work within the purpose of their life.

All of this to say, with my election, we will have the opportunity to build a fair city-state justice system from the ground up in a society where people are given a fair shot at life; in its design, I look forward to collaborating with innovative minds, new voices to shape the justice of 2022 such as yours in the Columbia Justice Lab.

3. How will you ensure that your efforts to address rising crime rates during the pandemic (after decades of declining crime) do not disproportionately harm or discriminate against New York City's communities of color or immigrant populations?

I do not intend to address rising crime rates, I intend to address the reason people commit crimes - in most cases crimes are committed in response to a lack of equality in some way, a lack of a fair shot at life in some way. I am addressing equality by presenting a system of equality called Earth Order (described in Question #2).

In addition, NYC POLICE Officers will be required to live in the borough that they patrol, adding another layer of oversight with our borough mayors and the community itself.

There will be a 3 strikes rule for officers who have complaints against their badge number. After the 3 strikes, the officer's employment will be reviewed by the Police Commissioner and the office of the corresponding mayor.

4. New York State has recently legalized recreational marijuana. As the mayor of New York City, will you expunge past convictions and/or release people for low-level drug offenses? How will you reduce the trauma New Yorkers — particularly Black and Latinx communities — have experienced from the War on Drugs?

As Governor-Mayor, I will decriminalize drugs and retroactively expunge drug offenses throughout the city-state. From all schools, I will remove police, School Resource Officers (SROs), ICE, probation, armed security and metal detectors.

The war on drugs will finally be concluded as all drugs will be legal under doctor supervision with NYC Healing Hospitals - these are hospitals where the doctors and practitioners are trained in multiple forms of healing practices from throughout the world (such as reiki, sound, herbal, light, physical and emotional therapy) to offer patients a variety of treatment options with the aim of being least invasive and holistic. Also as a byproduct, patients (especially those outside of schooling age) will have the opportunity to learn about other healing modalities.

In a general sense, currently, we have no expectation for each other's behavior and that is also what we experience. With the addition of tools for more-centered police training and public education, we will move into a culture where health, respect and order are communally managed, not governmentally forced and rebelled against.

5. What is your plan for ensuring members of police and corrections are held accountable for misconduct, including excessive use of force and violence? How will you promote more transparency around these incidents?

The motivation of The NYC POLICE will shift from protecting private property to protecting humanity first. Things can be replaced, people cannot. Any officer who incidentally kills anyone will have their employment immediately terminated,

regardless of investigation. Post-traumatic stress associated with a murder for any reason is enough to dramatically impair judgment and compound trauma in continued duty. Furthermore, this forces officers to think longer about using any deadly force as a first option.

Officers will be required to live in the borough that they patrol adding another layer of oversight with our Borough Mayors and the community itself.

There will be a 3 strikes rule for officers who have complaints against their badge number. After the 3 strikes, the officer's employment will be reviewed by the Police Commissioner and the office of the corresponding mayor.

6. What is your position on the use of facial recognition and predictive policing technology by the NYPD? What types of safeguards should be in place to protect New York City residents from intrusive and discriminatory surveillance?

You get what you prepare for. This is the time to really ask ourselves, what is the purpose of the police? Military equipment and extreme surveillance is preparation for war against the public and the development of outdoor prisons. Peace is afforded by the work necessary to create trust and respect throughout the society. The current administration is choosing the former, I choose the latter. The facial recognition and predictive policing technology initiative will be canceled with the transition of NYPD to NYC POLICE.

The last two words of the NYC POLICE acronym are: "Community Enrichers". I envision an NYC POLICE that is a trusted authority. No longer a dark presence of fear and not-knowing but a presence of respect and guidance. As a society, we need to learn how to trust each other. We need to learn how to trust ourselves. That does not happen with surveillance and scarier guns. It happens with a willingness to stop judging each other, accept each other and grow as a city-state.

7. Closure of the Rikers Island jail complex is scheduled for 2027, and is projected based on continuing reductions in the jail population. Are you committed to Rikers closure, and how will you sustain the required population reductions over your first three years?

Yes, I will close the Rikers Island jail complex as well as close all prisons by 2026 if not sooner, while increasing rehabilitation centers utilizing arts and general skills-building programs for those incarcerated.

Riker's Island will be the site of the city's new recycling plant.

Instead of the boredom, danger and punishment of prisons, those who are incarcerated will spend their time answering this question: "Who are you after this sentence?" This is the fuel needed to stop recidivism and create the ongoing tools that the individual needs to be a productive member of society.

8. What is your position on transferring responsibility for mental health crises from patrol officers to civilian mental health professionals and otherwise reducing police responses to non-emergency situations like traffic stops?

I do not like the idea of civilian mental health professionals addressing public mental health crises by themselves. There are too many variables when dealing with the emergencies of the public that could very possibly place the civilian mental health professional in unnecessary risk; there's no way to tell if a traffic stop, could turn into an assault and battery. To deal with any crisis, I rather professionals trained in both counseling and physical protection and in our city's case, I rather The NYC POLICE.

Police quotas will no longer measure effectiveness or success. The success of the police will be measured by the quality of life of the New York City-State and the review of its people, not the profits of the police department.

9. Do you support a ban on data-sharing and all forms of collaboration between U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and New York City agencies — including NYPD?

Yes.

10. Will your administration support non-criminal justice strategies for community safety, and how much will you invest in such measures? Do you support shifting funding from NYPD and incarceration to building communities?

To answer the question and to recap, with my election as Mayor, we will write a new charter that declares New York City as a City-State with 1 Governor-Mayor, 4 other Borough Mayors, 2 U.S. Senators and retaining 12 electoral college votes and 9 House

Representatives from New York State. The preliminary city-state budget can be found at bydavi.com.

All residents of New York City will have the opportunity to participate in Earth Order - the business and cryptocurrency system that offers true equality through equal salaries for all who choose to participate, working in a self-chosen or self-created Earth Order Business. This allows the work that the people find important to be done in the city, completely eliminates poverty, unemployment, underemployment and unfulfilled employment; completely eliminates the illusion of human uselessness.

The New York Police Department will transition to becoming the NYC POLICE: The New York City Patient Organized Loyal Integrous Community Enrichers. Their service will be known for its strong organization and counseling before any required physical interaction.

The war on drugs will finally be concluded in New York City as all drugs will be legal under doctor supervision with NYC Healing Hospitals - these are hospitals where the doctors and practitioners are trained in multiple forms of healing practices from throughout the world.

I will close the Rikers Island jail complex as well as close all prisons by 2026 if not sooner.

As shown by the over 4,000 calls to 911 per day, there is value in having one authority to call in time of crisis or emergency, so I do not support the complete expunging of a police department however, it is time to reconstruct how officers are trained and the purpose behind their work.

As we embrace our new identity as a city-state, the Earth Order cryptocurrency and the NYC POLICE, we embrace a new mentality and approach to life collectively; we will begin to feel and maintain a collective sense of health and safety which is foundational to a thriving society.

This moment in time is just as important as the 1960's movement for civil rights; or the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation; or the achievement of women's suffrage. In each moment of the past we see the great victory as well as the unresolved problems that those moments did not fully solve. This time we have the opportunity to get the solution right; to exact a path that defines the future we all are equally proud of. With

no more critiquing and no more complaining, New York City does not have to be a victim of anyone's bad economic deal. We are smarter than that.

It is up to each of us to change the conversation of our future from solely being about what we don't want; it is good information however, it's time to give thought, research and conversation to the future that we do want. This is the first time in the history of the United States of America that we will have the opportunity to vote for a real technology, a real system of equality and not just the concept. The most important question is: do you actually want equality?

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A leader should be actively inspiring you to love the land that is shared, more. I want to rebirth how you think about this city. For New York City's right to choose for itself, vote Ävatar Daví for Mayor and we will enrich this city, this land and this world!

-TO VOTE DAVÍ, WRITE [DAVÍ] ON THE BALLOT FOR MAYOR OF NEW YORK CITY-



NYC Mayoral Race Survey Criminal Justice Questionnaire

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1. What will you do within your first 100 days in office to dramatically transform New York's criminal justice system?

The first 100 days will be about **reimagining** a justice system that is community based and data driven. Shaun's administration believes that it is critical to **reduce** the footprint of the criminal legal system and to **reinvest** in services that provide safe and healthy communities for all New Yorkers, especially those that have been disproportionately impacted by over-policing and over-incarceration.

In my first budget, I will invest \$500 million annually in community-focused public safety and racial justice initiatives, funded in large part by redirecting monies currently allocated to law enforcement and corrections.

Recent incidents of police violence in New York City and across the country have put a spotlight on the fact that officers are often asked to address social and community issues that they are ill-equipped to handle such as mental health crises. We will immediately take steps to establish a comprehensive, citywide response system for mental health emergencies so that police are not asked to assume the role of a mental health professional or social worker.

We will also reduce over-policing and over-incarceration. We will prioritize community based anti-violence programs to effectively reduce and prevent crime while decreasing our reliance on the police. And by right sizing the criminal legal

Candidate Name: Shaun Donovan

system, we can stop cycles of arrest, prosecution and incarcerations that impact low-income communities and communities of color.

2. As the mayor of New York City, how will you tackle the racism that has always been embedded in the justice system?

Safety and justice can only be achieved when communities trust the public institutions that are charged with protecting them, and when these institutions are accountable, credible, effective, and racially-just.

Today, New York City is grappling with a crisis of legitimacy in our police department, including the decades-long legacy of over-policing in neighborhoods of color and the harsh police response to this summer's protests against racial injustice.

Enormous racial disparities are evident throughout our law enforcement system, from the rates at which people are subject to police stops to the rate at which they are arrested to the rate at which they are incarcerated. Spend an hour in a city arraignment court and you will see that the system almost exclusively impacts people of color.

The City's main jail complex on Rikers Island is a sprawling 400-acre penal colony that has become synonymous with brutality. Whether from the threat of violence, COVID-19, punitive segregation, or isolation from family and other visitors, people leave these jails worse off than when they entered.

We are committing to the following policies and programs:

Remake a police department that is accountable, transparent, and responsive to community needs

Ensure any surveillance technology is used responsibly and transparently

Track and publicize data on racial disparities, policing, and public perceptions of safety

Close the Rikers Island jails

3. How will you ensure that your efforts to address rising crime rates during the pandemic (after decades of declining crime) do not disproportionately harm or discriminate against New York City's communities of color or immigrant populations?

Crime and violence are caused primarily by cycles of trauma, systemic absence of opportunity, and lack of legitimacy of governing institutions. But for too long, responses have revolved primarily around arrest and prosecution and made matters worse with heavy-handed, racially-disproportionate enforcement. The dislocation of the COVID pandemic exacerbated the problems and has driven a tragic increase in certain types of serious crime over the past year, such as shootings.

While we will use law enforcement resources to focus on certain aspects of this problem by targeting the out-of-state gun pipeline and fast tracking gun cases, we will also invest in a broader view of public safety.

This begins with actively involving our neighborhoods in creating real public safety, as well as focusing on long-term solutions to the underlying causes of violence.

For example, we are committing to the following policies and programs:

- Investing in proven community-based anti-violence programs, including cure violence programs and hospital-based violence intervention programs
- Providing better and more accessible services for victims and communities, and in particular, making targeted investments in communities that have been most harmed by violence
- Focusing resources on meeting resident's needs in New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) developments to help build safety

4. New York State has recently legalized recreational marijuana. As the mayor of New York City, will you expunge past convictions and/or release people for low-level drug offenses? How will you reduce the trauma New Yorkers — particularly Black and Latinx communities — have experienced from the War on Drugs?

My administration will support expungement for past marijuana convictions and will work with DAs, courts, and other system players to get this done as soon as possible. We will not seek to incarcerate people for low-level drug offenses, and our policies towards incarceration are described in greater detail in the response to question 7.

5. What is your plan for ensuring members of police and corrections are held accountable for misconduct, including excessive use of force and violence? How will you promote more transparency around these incidents?

The NYPD faces a crisis of legitimacy triggered by brutality and over-policing, primarily in communities of color. This crisis is not just an issue of police accountability. It is also a problem of public safety, because police cannot do their job effectively when they lack the trust of victims, witnesses, and whole communities.

While reforms to the structure and culture of the police department alone cannot solve the challenges we face today, they are crucial.

Organizational culture is set at the top. To ensure that the NYPD's approach is fully aligned with the values of our administration, Shaun will:

- appoint a commissioner who shares his vision for public safety—one that is community-focused and racially just—and hold this individual accountable for the results;
- build a leadership team at the police department that represents the city's diversity and understands the imperative for cultural change;
- hold precinct commanders accountable for misconduct by officers under their command and replace leadership when necessary—officer behavior that threatens public safety or disrespects the communities they serve must be corrected, and if not, leadership must be replaced;
- hold individual officers responsible for bad acts that too often go unpunished today, including by following the determinations of the Civilian Complaint Review Board and by enforcing a clear, publicly-available set of disciplinary standards;
- eliminate the vice squad;
- adopt the recommendations set forth in the Department of Investigation's report on the police department's disproportionate and violent response to the protests against racial injustice following the killings of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, and
- consent to the appointment of a federal monitor to oversee the police department's practices with respect to public protests to ensure that these unacceptable responses to New Yorkers exercising their First Amendment rights are never repeated.

6. **What is your position on the use of facial recognition and predictive policing technology by the NYPD? What types of safeguards should be in place to protect New York City residents from intrusive and discriminatory surveillance?**

Advanced surveillance technologies can help deter and prevent the real threats from organized crime and terrorists that we face in New York City, but they can also pose serious risks--like recent cases in which facial recognition technology has led to false accusations against Black men.

To balance the need for security against the risk for abuse, advanced technologies have to be limited to uses that are truly needed for public safety, and they must always be deployed in ways that align with our values as a democratic city and our rights as New Yorkers. The police department cannot be the sole arbiter of these issues. The NY POST Act, passed earlier this year, is a good start.

To protect all New Yorkers, my Administration will be transparent about the use of surveillance technologies, ensure there is real civilian and judicial oversight so that these technologies are used properly, and disclose instances when they are misused.

7. **Closure of the Rikers Island jail complex is scheduled for 2027, and is projected based on continuing reductions in the jail population. Are you committed to Rikers closure, and how will you sustain the required population reductions over your first three years?**

Closing Rikers is the only acceptable path forward for our city. Our approach to incarceration is based on two premises:

First, the system of incarceration that we have is closely linked to racial injustice in our society, including the legacy of disinvestment and discrimination in these same neighborhoods. We need to **reinvest** in these communities. The numbers are shameful: 90% of the people at Rikers today are Black or Latinx.

Second, incarceration should be a last resort. That is why we need to **reduce** the number of people going into the system. Putting people in jail removes them from work, educational opportunities, and family, and subjects them to the chaos and brutality of Rikers.

My administration will **reimagine** a criminal justice system where jail is used only as a last resort, in situations where there are no other alternatives. We know from experience over the past two decades that we can do this and keep the City safe.

Here is the plan:

1. We will invest in communities to prevent violence and instability, work with the DAs and courts so that only the most serious cases result in incarceration, and build mental health treatment capacity.
2. We will recognize that nearly everyone who is locked up will ultimately return to their communities.
3. We will reorient the culture and operations of our jails. We will be committed to the safety, health, and welfare of staff and the people who are in custody.
4. We will prioritize removing all incarcerated people from Rikers before the end of 2027. Rikers contributes to the dysfunction, inhumanity, and incredible costs of today's system—nearly \$500,000 per incarcerated person per year.

A smaller, more humane, more accessible, more accountable jail system will ultimately save lives, as well as hundreds of millions of dollars each year, if not more.

8. What is your position on transferring responsibility for mental health crises from patrol officers to civilian mental health professionals and otherwise reducing police responses to non-emergency situations like traffic stops?

People with mental illness are 16 times more likely to die in a police encounter, and in New York City, at least 16 people with mental illness have been killed by the police in the last five years alone.

In order to ensure that New Yorkers are getting the help they need in moments of crisis, we must move mental health response entirely into the domain of public health and away from law enforcement, and we must adjust City resources accordingly.

This means creating a dedicated mental health crisis hotline to divert calls from 911 and investing in frontline mental health crisis resources to respond to these emergencies, including social workers, counselors, and emergency medical technicians. This effort would follow the example of successful, decades-old models like CAHOOTS in Oregon. This approach would expand and improve the city's mobile crisis teams as first steps toward a longer-term and holistic approach that goes beyond traditional crisis intervention. By the end of Shaun's first term, police will no longer be the default response to mental health emergencies.

We must also invest in community-based housing and support programs to build on crisis response. People in crisis often need transitional and supportive housing programs, primary health care, community-based mental health and social services like Fountain House, help with substance abuse challenges as a next step to help stabilize during and after a crisis, and the creation of on-ramps to longer-term

recovery. These programs must be sure to focus on those too often unheard and unseen, like the elderly, who have specific mental health needs.

We will also remove police from schools and establish a task force to determine other areas better served by non-police responses.

9. Do you support a ban on data-sharing and all forms of collaboration between U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and New York City agencies — including NYPD?

Yes - we will not coordinate with ICE.

10. Will your administration support non-criminal justice strategies for community safety, and how much will you invest in such measures? Do you support shifting funding from NYPD and incarceration to building communities?

Yes and yes! We will use police and incarceration as last resorts and will focus on solutions that get at the heart of New Yorkers' needs, empowering our residents instead of obstructing their paths toward better lives.

As a starting point, we will invest at least \$500 million annually in these solutions, including community- and health-based anti-violence efforts, reentry and supportive housing programs, and other initiatives aimed at providing communities with the resources to build safe neighborhoods. These investments will be funded primarily through savings from reduced corrections and police spending.

These initial commitments will set the floor for a broader effort to direct roughly \$3 billion—at least 20% of our City's public safety budget—to community-focused initiatives that advance public safety and racial justice, guided by a process of public input and an advisory committee that will include directly impacted people and community representatives.



NYC Mayoral Race Survey Criminal Justice Questionnaire

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1. What will you do within your first 100 days in office to dramatically transform New York's criminal justice system?

In the first 100 days in my administration, we will defund and decrease NYPD's power by removing them from schools, mental health response, homelessness outreach, and other responses that are not related to serious crime, such as traffic enforcement. We will also push to decriminalize sex work, and we will push to work with OMB to ensure that the next budget sees the NYPD defunded by at least \$3 billion.

2. As the mayor of New York City, how will you tackle the racism that has always been embedded in the justice system?

The systems of policing, criminalization, incarceration, and surveillance that have governed our city for years are clearly rooted in systemic racism. Data from the [NYCLU](#) and [Gothamist](#) show that when New York City was using stop-and-frisk, white New Yorkers made up only about 10 percent of police stops, but made up 45 percent of the city population. On the other hand, Black and Latinx New Yorkers made up more than 80 percent of the stops, despite making up over half of the city's population. These statistics prove things we have known for decades: policing disproportionately harms communities of color. I will move to decrease the power of the NYPD by decreasing both the size of the police force and cutting \$3 billion from the NYPD's budget. This will help decrease the adverse impacts that policing has on Black and brown communities by quite literally reducing the number of police officers that are conducting surveillance in communities of color.

Candidate Name: Dianne Morales

Additionally, it is beyond clear that our city's investment in incarceration has separated families, cost thousands of lives, and led to an incredible amount of trauma for so many Black and Brown New Yorkers. As Mayor, I will fight tooth and nail to divest from prisons. I support the No New Jails movement and ending mass incarceration. As Mayor I will invest in a bail-voucher system and divest from any proposal for new prisons, and pressure the District Attorneys to end cash bail. We need to examine the entire criminal code and repeal any laws that reinforce racial and gender-based targeting by law enforcement. I will also decriminalize non-violent behavior that is often used to unjustly target people of color, such as sex work and drug use.

3. How will you ensure that your efforts to address rising crime rates during the pandemic (after decades of declining crime) do not disproportionately harm or discriminate against New York City's communities of color or immigrant populations?

My goal is to cultivate a culture of care and invest in community health and human development, not punitive violence, abandonment, and prisons. I believe that we must get to the root cause of violence to be able to make meaningful progress that does not lead to more policing of Black, Brown, and immigrant communities, and to do this, we absolutely have to reduce poverty, racial violence, segregation in our city. This will require using non-police solutions to address violence and crime, like working with existing community organizations that specialize in violence interventions and community empowerment.

As mayor, I would expand the violence interrupters programs to address increasing gun violence and create a Community First Responders Department, which will be entirely separate from NYPD and be staffed for trained personnel with backgrounds in trauma-informed intervention to respond to mental health, wellness and social issues — areas NYPD is not trained to address. Furthermore, the city should expand nonviolent and conflict resolution training in schools and neighborhoods and expand community efforts in healthy, holistic education education. I will work with the Department of Education to train educators in restorative justice, so that we can teach nonviolent dispute resolution to children from an early age and end the school to prison pipeline.

4. New York State has recently legalized recreational marijuana. As the mayor of New York City, will you expunge past convictions and/or release people for

Candidate Name: ___Dianne Morales___

low-level drug offenses? How will you reduce the trauma New Yorkers — particularly Black and Latinx communities — have experienced from the War on Drugs?

New York State's move to decriminalize marijuana was a good first step towards ending the War on Drugs, but we need to do more to truly deal with the incredible impacts drug criminalization has had on Black and Latinx New Yorkers. I will move to decriminalize all drug use within the city and decriminalize the possession of limited amounts of drugs by instructing the NYPD to cease all arrests for this behavior and violation-level enforcement for drugs (e.g., cease issuing summonses for drug use). I will work with all city District Attorneys to ensure that we decline to prosecute drug charges. Further, I will advocate at the state level for all drug use to be decriminalized. I will also advocate to expunge the records of those who have been convicted of drug possession under racist criminalization laws.

5. What is your plan for ensuring members of police and corrections are held accountable for misconduct, including excessive use of force and violence? How will you promote more transparency around these incidents?

As Mayor of New York, I will move to end the long history of police brutality against communities of color, especially black people. We can now see, in real time, inexcusable acts of violence that have taken place for generations. We will not allow the NYPD or the Police Benevolent Association to protect their members from accountability for acts of misconduct. To create accountability, we will implement an Early Intervention System. Infractions by officers must be tracked, reviewed, be made public, and officers must be held accountable *by the public* they serve.

This system must identify patterns of inappropriate, violent behavior by officers, and report regularly to the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) and the District Attorney's office. The Civilian Complaint Review Board has been demonstrably inadequate in its ability to hold police accountable. It should become an elected body, and be given powers to investigate and discipline police officers. District Attorney's offices must create separate, independent divisions responsible solely for criminal prosecution of police.

Along with the CCRB, this system will build and maintain a comprehensive, verified list of police officers who are accused and found guilty of misconduct. When a police officer violates the public trust, they will be forced to forfeit any privileges afforded to

Candidate Name: ___Dianne Morales___

them by the public, including salaries, pensions and other benefits. We will end placard abuse, and officers will face the same consequences as any other person. Offending officers and their benevolent association will be held financially liable for any restitution owed to their victims

6. What is your position on the use of facial recognition and predictive policing technology by the NYPD? What types of safeguards should be in place to protect New York City residents from intrusive and discriminatory surveillance?

I would support a complete ban on facial recognition and predictive policing programs in New York City. Government-sanctioned predictive policing technology, like the NYPD's extensive use of facial recognition programs, are a breeding ground for racial profiling. Systems like these unjustly (and intentionally) target black and brown people and subjugate them to increased surveillance, arrests, traffic stops, and interrogations. It is my duty as mayor to put an end to this injustice that directly upholds white supremacy and oftentimes leads to an increased police presence in Black and Brown communities.

7. Closure of the Rikers Island jail complex is scheduled for 2027, and is projected based on continuing reductions in the jail population. Are you committed to Rikers closure, and how will you sustain the required population reductions over your first three years?

Yes, I believe that we need to close Rikers immediately. I also believe that we must halt the plans for the four new borough based jails that were proposed through the City Council's proposal to close Rikers Island. Spending billions of dollars on new jails will not do anything to solve our city's problem with mass incarceration. As Mayor I will lower the number of people who are held in our City jails by investing in a bail-voucher system, decriminalizing nonviolent behavior such as minor drug possession and sex work, and pressuring the District Attorneys to end cash bail. We need to examine the entire criminal code and repeal any laws that reinforce racial targeting by law enforcement.

8. What is your position on transferring responsibility for mental health crises from patrol officers to civilian mental health professionals and otherwise reducing police responses to non-emergency situations like traffic stops?

My administration would support moving responsibilities for mental health crises, homeless outreach, and other non-emergency situations away from the police and towards a Community First Response Department. The Community First Response

Candidate Name: ___Dianne Morales___

Department would serve as first responders to public safety issues related to non-criminal public safety issues: homelessness, mental health, substance abuse, emotional distress and other behavioral health issues. The department would be staffed by trained professional first responders including social workers, crisis response workers, medics, mental health counselors and others, all of whom would be trained in crisis intervention and de-escalation. They will connect people to healthcare, social services, mental health services and other critical supports. Police in schools will be replaced with counselors, nurses, and psychologists — professionals who can actually help students. And, rather than suspension or expulsion, I will encourage schools to use restorative justice, conflict resolution, and emotional intelligence practices to resolve disputes.

I would also remove police from traffic enforcement. Too often traffic stops are the cover for racial profiling, which leads to criminalization and violence against Black and Brown people. Previously, the city housed parking enforcement outside of the police department. These are unarmed, civil servants who keep drivers from abusing their privilege to leave their cars on our streets. We could have a civil-service corps with a similar strategy to enforcing moving violations, with a focus on overall safety, instead of the criminalization of community members. Similarly, street vending should not be regulated by the NYPD. Licensing and regulation should be done by agencies that are focused on the wares of a given vendor, and those licenses and regulations should be enforced equitably and communicated in the preferred language of any who seek permits.

9. Do you support a ban on data-sharing and all forms of collaboration between U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and New York City agencies — including NYPD?

Yes. ICE and the NYPD are both incredibly destructive forces that, by design, tear apart families and carry out incredible amounts of violence in communities of color. Providing these agencies with the opportunity to collaborate, whether that be by sharing data or sharing police power, is incredibly dangerous to immigrant communities of color across our city. As Mayor, I will fight to ensure that all city agencies, including (and especially) the NYPD are prevented from collaborating with ICE to protect our immigrant neighbors. This will be a major step towards truly making New York a sanctuary city; preventing our city government from working with immigration enforcement agencies will help hinder ICE's efforts and bolster true community safety by keeping families together.

Candidate Name: ___Dianne Morales___

10. Will your administration support non-criminal justice strategies for community safety, and how much will you invest in such measures? Do you support shifting funding from NYPD and incarceration to building communities?

Yes, absolutely, and I have plans to do this. To further divest from the harmful carceral approach that our city takes, I have proposed the establishment of a Community First Response Department that is separate from the NYPD. The Community First Response Department would serve as first responders to community public safety issues related to non-criminal public safety issues: homelessness, mental health, substance abuse, emotional distress, and other behavioral health issues. The department would be staffed by trained professional first responders including social workers, crisis response workers, medics, mental health counselors and others, all of whom would be trained in crisis intervention and de-escalation. They will connect people to healthcare, social services, mental health services, and other critical supports, rather than criminalize them.

Candidate Name: ___Dianne Morales___



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Responses in italics -

First I want to thank Andrea Sanchez along with the Justice Lab and JustLeadershipUSA for not only inviting me to participate in but taking the time to organize and release this questionnaire. I am incredibly proud to be included in this discussion and honored to work with organizations that have such noble missions as creating a community-centered future and decarcerating America. I cannot wait to see how far we can go on this critical issue when we go together and thank you so much for your efforts - this is what democracy looks like.

1. What will you do within your first 100 days in office to dramatically transform New York's criminal justice system? *My one and only campaign promise should I be elected mayor of New York would be to instantly and unconditionally decentralize all of my political power to the registered New York City voters. To me, the number one issue of our time is political corruption - until we fix our government it is too difficult to solve the other issues we are struggling with today. Over time the arc of democracy and justice has been bent towards the will of special interests as a result of systemic issues in our government like gerrymandering, lobbying, revolving doors, and bottomless corporate PAC donations; these are just the systemic issues in our government to say nothing of all the unjust legislation that result like racist drugs laws, inequitable schools, broken infrastructure, a tax code that no one understands, etc... The best way to stop corruption is to decentralize power in my opinion, so the second I am elected I will send everything on my desk to referendum and will not sign anything without the approval of 60% of New Yorkers. If there is something that I believe should be signed but did not receive 60% approval on a referendum, it should be my job to make the case to New Yorkers why we should change this law rather than just using the power of the mayor's office as I see fit. Politicians should be like prosecutors, they should present the evidence that they have and make the best case possible, but they should not have the ultimate authority to pass*

Candidate Name: Ira Seidman

laws that affect everyone. This process will be streamlined with the help of a secure online voting system that I call Athena. The most popular proposals from online voting will go to paper ballot as we might already have on a June Primary or November General Election Day. This massive shift in the way that we govern and the way the public participates will lead towards a system that can crowdsource the best ideas for criminal justice reform in New York (among many other areas) in a way that no one mayor ever could otherwise. While I do have many many ideas of my own which I will discuss below, I think decentralizing power in this way is the best first step. Decentralizing power is not just the biggest step I will take as mayor for empowering the discussion on criminal justice reform to bring about meaningful change, but I believe the biggest step any leader can take to fix any issue in 2021.

2. As the mayor of New York City, how will you tackle the racism that has always been embedded in the justice system? *Racism compared to hundreds of years ago is less about explicitly targeting certain groups with laws that do not apply to others and more often takes the form of laws that apply to everyone but disproportionately affect certain races. Stop and Frisk was one of the most egregious examples in recent New York history, but the ongoing ticketing along Select Bus Service (SBS) lines that disproportionately hurt black and brown communities is another example still in play among many many others. The key to solving issues like these is not to defund or abolish the enforcers, but rather to change the laws that enforcers are bound to enforce. To fix the disparate outcomes with SBS ticketing I think we should send more buses so that riders can pay as they would on non-SBS buses but with enough service that there should be a balance that neither overly targets minorities nor creates delays. In the long run, yes we might defund parts of police departments as certain enforcement is less necessary, but there is an order of operations - fix the issue upstream and then ease policing rather than the other way around. When we see outcomes that overly affect one race the question should be what can we change upstream to fix that? What is the root cause? Often times better schools, cheaper rents, safer communities, and more economic opportunities are answers that solve a lot of issues downstream; as mayor I will make it my priority to investigate the true root cause of why outcomes are as disparate as they are on a case by case basis. Then, rather than throwing money at the symptoms as is so often politically convenient, I promise to change laws and the budget to shift the rules of the game in favor of a more fair system. In general laws and the budget should err on the side of freedom with no perverse economic incentives to not work or for communities to not strive; in particular this looks like freer zoning laws, legalizing drugs, gambling, and sex work, sending criminal justice rehabilitation funds to a separate department committed to reducing recidivism rather than the Department of Corrections, more taxes on carbon and less taxes on income, and many many many other ideas that can be found on my [website](#).*
3. How will you ensure that your efforts to address rising crime rates during the pandemic (after decades of declining crime) do not disproportionately harm or discriminate against

New York City's communities of color or immigrant populations? *The tough truth is that by the time police and courts are getting involved, it is almost always too late for justice. No matter how unjust the laws are today and how much corruption riddles the government (which at times can make it seem like an insurmountable task to rise out of injustice), we must respect and enforce laws as they are written. If we lose respect for the law there is little hope of fixing it, much less asking for the benefits it can bestow. Unfortunately with higher crime rates, the laws will have to be enforced as written and all that we can do is commit unequivocally to fixing corruption in this election cycle so that we can change the laws as quickly as possible. Hopefully, we can expunge records for neighbors who get prosecuted for unjust laws during the pandemic as soon as possible, but today we will feel the devastating effects of years and years of influence being bought as our democracy was sold. This is why I'm running for mayor, to stop the injustice by mitigating the corruption in government as best I can; to me, that looks like the unconditional decentralizing of power through referenda, online voting, and more participation. Unfortunately, most of the other candidates do not even speak out against political corruption much less have a plan as bold as I do. I am convinced that if another candidate is elected not only will political corruption not be a priority for them, but they will not have the systemic solutions that I do to actually make all of our other dreams reality.*

4. New York State has recently legalized recreational marijuana. As the mayor of New York City, will you expunge past convictions and/or release people for low-level drug offenses? How will you reduce the trauma New Yorkers — particularly Black and Latinx communities — have experienced from the War on Drugs? *Yes, I support expunging all criminal records for low-level drug offenses, along with records of everyone else who has been incarcerated for breaking unjust laws. To me, unjust laws are laws that merely impose on our freedom and did little or nothing at all to protect the safety or best interests of the public. The War on Drugs is a perfect example of the government criminalizing something that was never their business to regulate to begin with - what we put in our bodies; this was and continues to be a needless imposition on liberty at a time when government has a lot of other work to do fixing the social safety net, strengthening the economy, and protecting the environment. The best way to make amends for the past is to fix the laws going forward so that these ills never repeat themselves. Furthermore, we have to create a floor on which we do not let anyone slip below, including ex-convicts; to me this looks like less welfare and more universal basic income, defending the right to vote for every citizen of age (especially ex-convicts), better spending of the education budget so the money goes to paying and hiring teachers rather than bureaucracies, mental health and preventive care for all, and all of the other ideas that New Yorkers will come together behind as we vote on referenda. Though this type of changing of the rules may never be able to truly heal the trauma of passed injustices, I firmly believe these are the right next steps. Once corruption is curbed in a major way, we will be able to go even further.*

5. What is your plan for ensuring members of police and corrections are held accountable for misconduct, including excessive use of force and violence? How will you promote more transparency around these incidents? *The best ways to promote accountability in the NYPD is to end or at least refine the scope of qualified immunity and create a new branch of the DA's office only designed to prosecute government officials. With regards to qualified immunity, equal treatment under the law does not mean equal treatment under the law except for those who work in government. Especially with so much corruption, we cannot be making exceptions in this way for government employees. While bringing civil cases against government employees without any restrictions may be an undue burden on civil servants at times, in an age where accountability is so broken qualified immunity must be narrower in scope to find the proper balance between these two concerns.*

My proposal for a new branch of the DA's office would be similar to the NYPD's Internal Affairs Bureau, but would structurally allow a separation between the prosecutors who work with police and those responsible for bringing charges against police. Right now many lawyers in the DA's office do not want to compromise their relationship with the officers they need to work with - there needs to be a structural change so that everyone can be held to account without impeding the responsibilities of these positions.

6. What is your position on the use of facial recognition and predictive policing technology by the NYPD? What types of safeguards should be in place to protect New York City residents from intrusive and discriminatory surveillance? *Preventative policing is called education, healthcare, affordable rent, public transit, and all of the other building blocks of community. The police's job is to enforce the law and protect the public in times of active threats, they are not the part of city government that we use to stop crime before it happens. While there may be tools that empower the police to solve cases, protect victims of assault, and most importantly keep our officers safe, I do not think facial recognition and predictive policing technology do this. While I am open to having the conversation about when exceptions can be made for these technologies, the intent of using tools like these should never be to infringe of someone's rights but rather catch an active threat. The line between these two uses should be clearly defined by our laws and enforced in our courts.*

With regards to surveillance, I am a huge proponent of freedom. With the exceptions of probable cause, police and government should never be spying on the public it is sworn to protect. Treating citizens like criminals is a self-fulfilling prophecy and I condemn any and all unconstitutional spying on New Yorkers and Americans alike. The abuses at the NSA are unconscionable and I will make it an utmost priority as mayor to restrict the scope of surveillance exclusively to catching active threats with probable cause.

7. Closure of the Rikers Island jail complex is scheduled for 2027, and is projected based on continuing reductions in the jail population. Are you committed to Rikers closure, and how will you sustain the required population reductions over your first three years? *Rikers Island is a disgraceful stain on New York and our quest for justice. I*

wholeheartedly commit to closing Rikers and I would consider any proposal coming through Athena (New York's online referendum system under my plan) to help expedite this date. The best way to sustain the required reductions in inmate populations to make closing Rikers a reality is to change the laws so that less people are considered criminals and creating a better social safety net so fewer people find themselves in times of desperation where they need to consider committing crimes. To me this looks like legalizing drugs, gambling, and sex work along with treating these conditions medically as needed. In addition, we need to implement universal basic income in New York and remove all city benefits that penalize working (ie benefits that are conditional on earning under a certain amount of money as this incentives poverty).

Beyond just these changes, we need to send a message to not just ourselves but the world that cruel incarceration is inhumane and never again will we let our neighbors be treated this way. That is why I'm proposing not just closing Rikers but a live-streamed controlled-demolition for the world to see. Afterwards, Rikers Island will be rededicated as an island for restorative justice serving as a center for mental health services, GED programs, parks, and all of the other ingredients for justice and reentry.

8. What is your position on transferring responsibility for mental health crises from patrol officers to civilian mental health professionals and otherwise reducing police responses to non-emergency situations like traffic stops? *I am in 100% support of dispatching social workers for 911 calls effective immediately. Eugene Oregon has been doing this for 30 years and considers the program indispensable, there is no reason we cannot and should not do it here in New York as well. The police are critical to ensuring public safety, but at a time when so many black and brown people do not feel safe calling the police there must be an option for them too. A primary element of my police reform plan is to never disconnect from another 911 call without offering to dispatch a social worker and/or a police officer; if there is an active threat there will be times when dispatching an armed officer will not be a choice, but this should be the exception and not the rule. Police should no longer be expected to clean up the injustice that every other system failed to stop, and these injustices present in many ways. Sometimes the best person to fix the problem will be a social worker, sometimes a teacher, sometimes a community leader, and sometimes a police officer, but our system must be built to accommodate these various cases.*
9. Do you support a ban on data-sharing and all forms of collaboration between U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and New York City agencies — including NYPD? *As a data scientist I firmly believe that data can set us free and fix any problem if the right questions are being asked. Unfortunately, there is so much corruption in our democracy that the government's interests have been corrupted to serve special interests rather than the public's. To me the issue is not who is sharing data with whom because I think all data should be public data, especially the government's. The issue is the laws that these data are being used to enforce are corrupt rather than the data itself.*

There may be exceptions to this that I am willing to consider, but I would always err on the side of more interchange of data not just between agencies, but with the public itself.

10. Will your administration support non-criminal justice strategies for community safety, and how much will you invest in such measures? Do you support shifting funding from NYPD and incarceration to building communities? *I 100% support non-criminal justice strategies for community safety. Almost always when looking at inequitable outcomes, these disparate results come from very interrelated issues - education is inequitable because of wealth inequality which is exacerbated by too many fathers being in jail while incarceration is often a result of not enough economic opportunities which was just one symptom of broken schools... An investment, but more importantly a shift in laws and regulations, anywhere in this broken cycle is a help to every other part of the cycle. To get the outcomes that we want to see in the criminal justice system we need systemic changes like making sure recidivism funds do not go to the same department in charge of incarceration while also making changes in every other part of the stream that leads up these outcomes.*

With that being said, I do not support defunding the police and incarceration. I think in fact we should be paying these officers more to actually get the best people in uniform that we can. The funds themselves should be better spent, but just the way I will not defund public schools for having such inequitable outcomes I will not defund the police (unless 60% of New Yorkers mandate it by referendum). Building a just society is not so simple as defunding the outcomes that we do not like, we need to think one or two moves ahead and actually change the laws that are leading to these unacceptable outcomes. I do wholeheartedly agree with the idea that funds could be best spent when spent upstream, but for me I would rather defund gerrymandering and corrupt government contracts than the police.

In closing, criminal justice reform is an issue of our time, and I thank everyone who has made it part of their life's work to speak out. To me, tackling this issue without tackling political corruption first will be like Sisyphus pushing the rock. Just maybe though, if we decentralize power to mitigate corruption we will have the tool of democracy back in our toolbox. It is then that I am certain we will be equipped with everything we need to fix the problems that have been broken for far so long, and fix them together.

Finally, I would like to share a link to a [poem](#) I wrote before running for mayor that I think well-supplements my ideas on criminal justice reform. Thank you to everyone who made this discussion possible and read my responses, I cannot wait to hear your thoughts. The cooperative sum of our thoughts is what will get us to work decentralizing power, fixing root causes, making amends for the past, and loving our neighbor in the future.



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1. What will you do within your first 100 days in office to dramatically transform New York's criminal justice system?

First and foremost, dramatically transforming our criminal justice system requires transforming our social services and infrastructure, and investing in our communities. My education platform, for instance, has proposed that we re-allocate the \$450 million NYPD budget for school policing to support the mental health and social-emotional needs of NYC's students by funding student support teams and expanded mental health services through community schools. This exemplifies the approach I will take toward criminal justice, recentring it around a holistic approach to safety, instead of an overreliance on discipline and police intervention.

As part of this reorientation, I will take immediate steps to bring the NYPD budget in line with our values and priorities, and invest in our communities by cutting at least \$1 billion from the NYPD budget. This will fund investments in alternatives to policing, including the elimination of the vice squad, a community-based participatory justice fund to address gun violence, payment for low-income caregivers, and cuts associated with removing several functions from the NYPD and freezing incoming cadet classes for the next two years. My administration will conduct a full audit of the NYPD's budget to assess how funding is currently distributed and make additional necessary cuts, including to the number of uniformed officers.

Candidate Name: Maya Wiley

In addition, I will kick start the process of closing Rikers and connecting those released from Rikers to shelters, affordable housing, and the relevant mental health providers. I will seriously pursue efforts to ensure accountability measures are in place to make sure all low-level marijuana charges are expunged as promised by the current administration. This will ease our ability to connect the formerly incarcerated to employment opportunities.

2. As the mayor of New York City, how will you tackle the racism that has always been embedded in the justice system?

New York State's legalization of marijuana is one major opportunity to tackle the systemic racism from the War on Drugs and mass incarceration of Black and brown New Yorkers. We must ensure that legalization revenue includes investment in BIPOC communities most harmed by the criminalization of marijuana, as promised by recent legislation. These communities have been harmed by generations of punitive policies and it is incumbent upon the government to fix past wrongs in a way that provides direct benefits to communities.

Tackling the racism embedded in the criminal justice system also requires that we end the current system of cash bail, which disproportionately impacts people of color. As Mayor, I will work with state lawmakers to end the practice of cash bail entirely. In addition, my administration will invest in wraparound holistic services such as domestic violence programs, mental health services, and workforce development training, so that restorative sentencing options are widely available and accessible to arrested individuals. My Universal Community Care plan will build community care centers in high-needs neighborhoods and connect these centers and partner with CBOs to the criminal justice system in order to create a pipeline away from incarceration toward social services.

3. How will you ensure that your efforts to address rising crime rates during the pandemic (after decades of declining crime) do not disproportionately harm or discriminate against New York City's communities of color or immigrant populations?

My Gun Violence Prevention Plan was released early in my campaign because its purpose is to ensure that as we address rising crime due to the

Candidate Name: Maya Wiley

pandemic, we do so in a way that does not disproportionately discriminate against communities of color and immigrant populations. The centerpiece of this plan is the creation of an \$18 million participatory justice fund.

Communities suffering from high levels of gun violence will be owners of this fund, and they will be able to spend money on programs that their specific communities need. Ownership of spending is critical because it ensures funding is spent on the programs that have a demonstrated history of reducing violent crime. As Mayor, I will immediately double the number of spaces open in the Summer Youth Employment Program. Investing in employment opportunities and comprehensive internship opportunities for students is an effective way to reduce crime. Simply put, my administration will invest in the social services that are proven to reduce crime; employment, education, healthcare, and housing.

Transforming our policing system is a priority as well. As Mayor, I will ensure that local immigration laws are enforced and non-violent immigrants – targeted for minor infractions – feel safe in their communities and safe from deportation. This includes enforcing the ban of ICE agents in courthouses and limiting interaction between NYPD and ICE.

- 4. New York State has recently legalized recreational marijuana. As the mayor of New York City, will you expunge past convictions and/or release people for low-level drug offenses? How will you reduce the trauma New Yorkers — particularly Black and Latinx communities — have experienced from the War on Drugs?**

Any legalization effort must include benefits to BIPOC communities most harmed by the criminalization of marijuana, as promised by the New York State Legislature. These communities have been harmed by generations of punitive policies and it's incumbent upon the government to fix past wrongs in a way that provides direct benefits to communities.

As Mayor, I plan to support and enforce the new law, which promises to expunge past convictions and release anyone for low-level marijuana possession offenses. Additionally, I will invest in communities hardest hit by the criminalization of marijuana through a community reinvestment fund for community projects and other economic benefits like job training, educational opportunities, and re-entry programs. Lastly, I will support the enforcement of fair chance policies, including a ban on employers asking about criminal history of job applicants related to marijuana.

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- 5. What is your plan for ensuring members of police and corrections are held accountable for misconduct, including excessive use of force and violence? How will you promote more transparency around these incidents?**

The policing of Black and brown New Yorkers is inequitable and unsafe, and yet, after decades of attempts at reform, the NYPD is still largely accountable only to itself in setting the course of how it polices the country's largest city. A Wiley Administration will end that. We will make the NYPD accountable to the communities it serves by creating an oversight structure that gives those communities genuine say in determining the NYPD's policies and procedures.

Police violence will not be addressed until there are mechanisms for real and meaningful accountability, and this includes being able to hold officers criminally and civilly liable for misconduct. This means we must end qualified immunity. I support legislation that would end this practice and make room for real accountability.

A centerpiece of my police accountability plan is the collection and distribution of robust data in order to promote public transparency and ground accountability in accurate measurements and information. This will strengthen real oversight mechanisms to address police violence at its root, and before it happens.

- 6. What is your position on the use of facial recognition and predictive policing technology by the NYPD? What types of safeguards should be in place to protect New York City residents from intrusive and discriminatory surveillance?**

I am opposed to the use of facial recognition and predictive policing technology. Studies demonstrate that facial recognition and predictive policing technology are racist and disproportionately biased against people of color, and specifically Black Americans. As stated in question 5, I believe the best protection against intrusive and discriminatory surveillance is transparent accountability grounded in data.

- 7. Closure of the Rikers Island jail complex is scheduled for 2025, and is projected based on continuing reductions in the jail population. Are you committed to Rikers closure, and how will you sustain the required population reductions over your first three years?**

Yes. I am committed to closing Rikers and implementing the Sustainable Rikers proposal. My administration will sustain the required population reductions over my first three years by ensuring there are safe and effective housing options open for

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newly released individuals from Rikers. I will enforce the development of a comprehensive pipeline from Rikers to various infrastructure and social services in order to ensure a smooth transition during population reductions.

8. What is your position on transferring responsibility for mental health crises from patrol officers to civilian mental health professionals and otherwise reducing police responses to non-emergency situations like traffic stops?

As Mayor, I will ensure that the NYPD and all patrol officers are no longer involved in mental health emergency calls and crises. My administration will implement a mental health emergency agency, influenced by the CAHOOTS model, which transfers emergency mental health calls to civilian mental health professionals. We will also explore creating a new hotline separate from 911, that is just meant for non-violent emergencies. As stated previously, we will also remove the NYPD from schools and remove them from student and school-related mental health crises as well.

9. Do you support a ban on data-sharing and all forms of collaboration between U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and New York City agencies — including NYPD?

Yes. I support a ban on data-sharing and all forms of collaboration between the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and New York City agencies, including the NYPD.

Hailed as a sanctuary city, New York still struggles to live up to its reputation, with NYPD continuing to share information on unauthorized immigrants with ICE after non-violent arrests. This was the case for Javier Castillo Maradiaga, a 27-year-old DACA recipient, who was arrested by NYPD in December 2019 for jaywalking. Javier was immediately turned over to ICE authorities, spent 15 months in immigration detention, and faced the threat of deportation three times while in custody. Although Javier was finally released in March 2021, this should have never happened. NYPD violated the 2014 local detainer law that made clear that police can only turn over undocumented immigrants with violent or serious criminal convictions on their records to immigration authorities. As Mayor, I will ensure that local immigration laws are enforced and non-violent immigrants – targeted for minor infractions – feel safe in their communities and safe from deportation. This includes enforcing the ban of ICE agents in courthouses and limiting interaction between NYPD and ICE.

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10. Will your administration support non-criminal justice strategies for community safety, and how much will you invest in such measures? Do you support shifting funding from NYPD and incarceration to building communities?

Yes. My administration is committed to cutting at least \$1 billion from the NYPD budget to fund investments in alternatives to policing, including the elimination of the vice squad, a community-based participatory justice fund to address gun violence, payment for low-income caregivers, and cuts associated with removing several functions from the NYPD and freezing incoming cadet classes for the next two years.

The payment for low-income caregivers is outlined in my Universal Community Care Plan. This model will redirect \$300 million in diverted resources from incoming NYPD and DOCCS cadet classes for 2 years to give 100,000 primary caregivers an annual \$5,000 stipend to compensate them for their labor. Using the Universal Community Care Model, I will also build community centers providing free childcare, eldercare, and other services in each neighborhood. This plan demonstrates my commitment to ending the criminalization of poverty and investing in people not policing.

My economic recovery platform, New Deal New York is a comprehensive \$10 billion capital spending program that will create jobs, rebuild critical infrastructure in our City, and kickstart our economic recovery. It is the largest investment in community safety that does not involve the institution of policing and criminal justice. As part of New Deal New York, \$2 billion will be allocated to NYCHA and to develop holistic and affordable community housing for New Yorkers, and \$2 billion will be invested in both physical and digital infrastructure and technology.

Investments in education are also essential for building safe and healthy communities. I will reallocate the \$450 million NYPD budget for school policing to support the mental health and social-emotional needs of NYC's students by funding student support teams and expanded mental health services through community schools.

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