



PRESS RELEASE
March 23, 2018

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**New York Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights
Releases Report on "Broken Windows" Policing in New York City and
General NYPD Accountability to the Public**

New York, NY – The New York Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights has released a [report](#), “The Civil Rights Implications of ‘Broken Windows’ Policing in New York City and General NYPD Accountability to the Public,” which recommends that the New York Police Department abandon “broken windows” policing as a policy, in order to minimize the potential for discrimination against individuals of color; ensure line officers are not incentivized to punish low-level, nonviolent offenses; and reduce the path to prison for individuals of color.

In 2016, blacks and Hispanics made up 75.6-83% of arrests for each misdemeanor category on which the NYPD reports statistics. During the fourth quarter of 2017, 67% of summonses were issued to people of color, while only 11.2% were issued to whites, with the remaining 21.6% issued to persons of “unknown” race.

The report calls for NYC to invest in community service or restorative justice programs as alternatives to criminal and civil summonses for all low-level, nonviolent crimes and violations, particularly for youth and those who are not repeat offenders. It also recommends that the NYPD rigorously enforce its recent “no quotas” directive.

Among recommendations for city public schools, the report calls on authorities move away from “broken windows” policing, and to focus instead on preventative measures and restorative disciplinary practices. In addition, the report calls for adoption of a new Memorandum of Understanding governing police officers and school safety officers that makes clear when they, rather than school authorities, should be involved in discipline; and that provides school administrators the sole authority to address lower-level offenses and normative child and adolescent behavior without the student being arrested, issued a summons, or handcuffed.

The Committee reviewed the oversight structures governing the NYPD, and recommends several changes to increase its accountability, including: eliminate legal barriers that prohibit the release of officer disciplinary records, increase Civilian Complaint Review Board authority and independence, and make changes to the recently-adopted NYPD body-worn cameras policy.

Committee Chair Alexandra Korry said: “Broken windows” as a policy is broken. Beginning with the *Floyd*-mandated stop-and-frisk reforms, and accelerating in the last

two years with neighborhood policing, precision policing, revamped officer training and use-of-force reforms, the NYPD has leapfrogged into 21st century policing. However, arresting or providing summonses to New Yorkers, particularly black and Hispanic youth, for low-level non-violent offenses, disproportionately affects those communities least able to endure the consequences of that enforcement, and should not be part of enlightened governance or policing.”

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The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, established by the Civil Rights Act of 1957, is the only independent, bipartisan agency charged with advising the President and Congress on civil rights and reporting annually on federal civil rights enforcement. Our 51 state Advisory Committees offer a broad perspective on civil rights concerns at state and local levels. The Commission: in our 7th decade, a continuing legacy of influence in civil rights. For information about the Commission, please visit <http://www.usccr.gov> and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).