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**SENATOR
ANDREW S. GOUNARDES**

22ND SENATORIAL DISTRICT
STATE OF NEW YORK

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February 3rd, 2020

Mayor Bill de Blasio
New York City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor de Blasio,

We are writing you today to ask that you commit to significantly raising the salaries of New York City police officers.

The men and women who ensure the safety of our great city deserve more than below market-rate wages. NYPD officers earn an average of 40% less than the MTA Police, Port Authority Police, and State Troopers, and almost 50% less when factoring in the police departments of Westchester, Nassau, Suffolk and Yonkers. This leads to increasingly severe attrition, as officers flee in droves to take jobs in other municipal or state-level forces that pay more. With only a single month remaining in 2019, in fact, the department has seen the greatest number of pre-retirement separations in over a decade. And wage justice will never truly be achieved until we take pension and healthcare cuts off the table - or any salary wins will be negated by an increase in required employee contributions.

These pay inequities are particularly unjust given the increase in responsibilities that police officers have taken on. They have, time and again, risen to the occasion when asked to counter terrorism, battle the opioid epidemic, respond to active shooters, and a variety of other crises that arise in the modern era, working all the while alongside other cops in New York City and comparable jurisdictions making tens of thousands of dollars more. The NYPD's top patrol officer salary of \$85,292 pales in comparison to state troopers' \$103,159, or Suffolk County's \$139,233, and is not nearly enough to sustain a family or purchase a home in the New York City metropolitan area within which officers are required to live. Any offers to raise wages incrementally to levels that track or fall below inflation, in exchange for givebacks elsewhere,

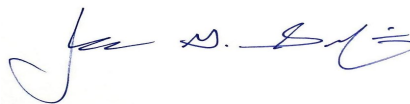
will do nothing to close this gap. It is unreasonable and unfair to expect the men and women of the NYPD to continue putting their lives on the line day after day for such subpar pay.

Despite all of the challenges they face, we rest easy at night knowing that the brave men and women of the NYPD will not fail in their duty to protect us and our families. We urge you to honor this service by providing long-awaited fair market pay to New York City police officers.

Sincerely,



Senator Andrew S. Gounardes
District 22



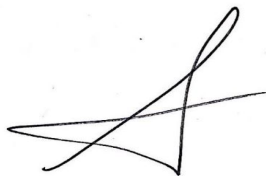
Senator James Skoufis
District 39



Senator Leroy Comrie
District 14



Senator Anna M. Kaplan
District 7



Senator Kevin Thomas
District 6



Senator Alessandra Biaggi
District 34



Senator Timothy M. Kennedy
District 63



Senator Todd Kaminsky
District 9



Senator Roxanne J. Persaud
District 19



Senator Julia Salazar
District 18



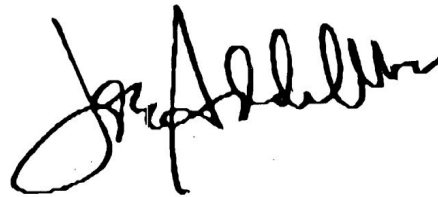
Senator Kevin Parker
District 21



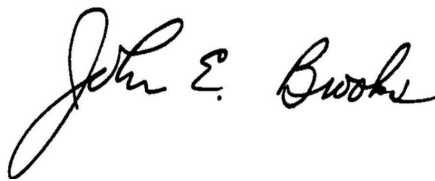
Senator Robert Jackson
District 31



Senator James F. Gaughran
District 5



Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr.
District 15



Senator John E. Brooks
District 8



Senator Simcha Felder
District 17



Senator Diane Savino
District 23



Senator Jessica Ramos
District 13



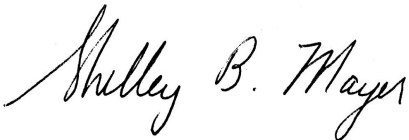
Senator Monica Martinez
District 3

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Toby Ann Stavisky". The letters are cursive and fluid, with a large, sweeping "S" at the end.

Senator Toby Ann Stavisky
District 16

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Zellnor Myrie". The signature is highly stylized and cursive, with a large, prominent "Z" at the beginning.

Senator Zellnor Myrie
District 20

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Shelley B. Mayer". The signature is cursive and elegant, with a large, flowing "S" at the start.

Senator Shelley B. Mayer
District 37

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jamaal T. Bailey". The signature is cursive and bold, with a large, sweeping "J" at the beginning.

Senator Jamaal T. Bailey
District 36