

The Hon. Bill De Blasio
Mayor
City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

February 12, 2020

The Honorable Mayor Bill De Blasio:

As the Presidents of the largest labor unions representing Police Detectives, Lieutenants, and Captains in the United States — The Detectives' Endowment Association, Inc., the Lieutenants Benevolent Association, and the Captains Endowment Association of the Police Department of the City of New York — we ask you to publicly urge New York State Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie to immediately bring law enforcement officials from New York City and across the state to Albany for discussions on how to repair and enact new, **successful** criminal justice reforms, as well as address the extreme dangers associated with current parole board decisions.

This past week, New Yorkers and the world were left shaken by the violent acts of a cowardly parolee who twice attempted to assassinate New York City Police Officers in the Bronx. The known criminal responsible had a violent past, including murder, robbery, and a shoot-out with police. This individual should not, however, have been on our streets. His release from prison by the New York State Parole Board was irresponsible, lacked common sense, endangered our way of life – and nearly cost us all the lives of Officers who are committed to keeping us safe.

Over the past few months, the lawless, violent acts of emboldened criminals in New York City and State have been evident for the world to see. Our City has seen a recent spate of anti-Semitic attacks, including three committed by a woman arrested and released without bail, only to assault another person. In another case, a man was released without bail into our community after he committed two unprovoked attacks in which he punched two women in their heads, knocking out the teeth of one victim. Another very disturbing incident took place when a 20-year-old repeat offender was released from jail due to bail reform legislation, rearrested on a robbery charge and released again before sexually assaulting a woman while he awaited trial. These terrible incidents are in no way “non-violent” and highlight the dangerous flaws in New York’s criminal justice reforms.

In the first month of 2020, there was a 17% increase in reported violent crime. It is our position that this increase is very likely even higher as crime victims fear coming forward due to criminal justice reform evidence discovery mandates that quickly make their personal information available to those arrested.

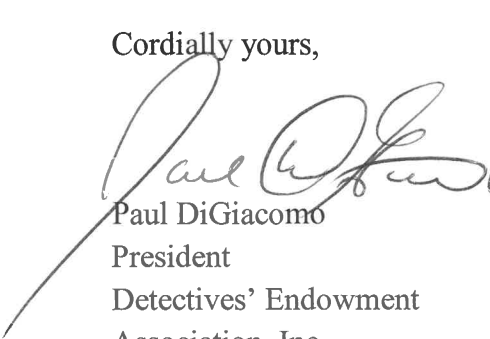
For years, angry rhetoric, media distortions, repeated untruths, and political opportunists have painted New York City's police — more than 35,000 individual, hardworking, blue collar men and women of all ranks — with broad and disturbing brush strokes. This rhetoric promoting community distrust and fear, coupled with ill-advised criminal justice reforms, are fueling the lawless, dangerous, and disgraceful disregard for police and their safety. Our communities, and those who have sworn to protect them, are now in mortal peril. Perpetrators of crimes are emboldened to commit acts as impetuous as dousing cops with water and as despicable and deranged as outright murder.

In 2014, millions across the nation watched as so-called protestors on the streets of our great City chanted for the killing of Police Officers. These tense times culminated in the assassination of two of New York's Finest – Detectives Wen Jian Liu and Rafael Ramos. We then went on to see the tragic murders of Detectives Brian Moore and Randolph Holder in 2015, and the assassination of Detective Miosotis Familia in 2017. These are but five incidents where men and women who dedicated their lives to the service of others were shot and killed for wearing a blue uniform or during the commission of a crime, because criminals who either should have been in custody, or willingly acquiesced to being arrested, felt emboldened to kill in cold blood. For every tragic murder of an Officer, those we serve suffer as well.


After three decades of a decrease in crime in New York City due to the hard work of the New York City Police Department, criminal justice reforms and false anti-police rhetoric have begun to reverse our historic gains. Elected officials who coddle criminals and cop-haters have demonstrated they do not care about victims and law-abiding New Yorkers.

We have now reached a tipping point in our City and State. We MUST work together to stop this rise in violent crime, disorder, and lawlessness in our communities – and stop the people we all serve from becoming victims.


Cordially yours,



Paul DiGiacomo
President
Detectives' Endowment
Association, Inc.



Lou Turco
President
Lieutenants Benevolent
Association, Inc.



Chris Monahan
President
Captains' Endowment
Association, Inc.