

September 2 , 2015

The Honorable Bill DeBlasio
Mayor, City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor De Blasio,

The undersigned human rights, civil liberties, and community-based organizations write to express our grave concerns about attempts to institute programs under the banner of "Community Violence Epidemiology" (CVE) in New York City. The Department of Justice has established CVE

Muslims are part of New York

means of measuring effectiveness,⁷ the U.K. effort has morphed into outright censorship⁸ and seriously threatens both religious and academic freedom.⁹

Furthermore, outreach programs that form the core of many CVE efforts have frequently been used as a means to gather intelligence on the very groups and organizations that participate in them.¹⁰ Documents obtained through Freedom of Information Act requests show that even mundane and routine observations of Federal Bureau of Investigation

Adding the current crop of CVE programs to the mix without consulting with affected communities and civil society runs the risk of undermining these ongoing efforts. We request a meeting with you in the very near term in order to discuss the concerns set forth in this letter.

Signed,

American Civil Liberties Union
Arab-American Association of
New York
Association of Muslim American Lawyers
Brennan Center for Justice at
NYU School of Law
Center on Constitutional Rights
CLEAR Project at CUNY Law School
Council on American-

cc: Pkujc"Cictycn."Eqo okuukqpgt."Oc{qtøu"Qhhkeg"hqt Immigrant Affairs
Penny Abeywardena, Commissioner, Mc{qtøu"Qhhkeg"hqt"Kpvgtpcvkqpcn"Affairs
Maya Wiley, Counsel to the Mayor
Marco A. Carrion, Commissioner, NYC Community Affairs Unit