



LINDA B. ROSENTHAL
Assemblymember 67th District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

CHAIR
Committee on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse

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Agriculture
Codes
Health
Housing

MEMBER
Task Force on Women's Issues
Legislative Women's Caucus

October 22, 2019

James P. O' Neill
Commissioner
New York Police Department
One Police Plaza
New York, NY 10038

Dear Commissioner O'Neill:

In light of the alarming increase in violent crime in the 20th Precinct in my Assembly district, I am writing to request that One Police Plaza prioritize the restoration of 25 law enforcement officers that the 20th Precinct lost over the course of the last year. Deputy Inspector Timothy Malin and his team of dedicated law enforcement professionals have fostered a close sense of community between the police and the people they serve, but recent incidents make clear that the loss of these 25 officers is being acutely experienced by the communities who rely on them most.

Most recently, on October 21, 2019 a shooting occurred in broad daylight at Bennerson Playground at West 64 Street between Amsterdam and West End Avenue in NYCHA's Amsterdam Houses development. This incident took place at 4 pm while children and families from Amsterdam Houses and the surrounding community were using the playground. On October 17, 2019, a 57-year-old woman was assaulted and sustained physical injuries during an attempted robbery while walking through the sidewalk shed in front of 200 Amsterdam Avenue. And on October 12, 2019, an 85-year-old woman was violently mugged midafternoon on West 74 Street and Broadway in front of her building.

In light of the recent incidents, it is apparent that there is a significant need for more officers to be assigned to patrol specific areas in the precinct. The loss of 25 officers assigned to the 20th Precinct, or 10 percent of its force, over the past year, makes it difficult for DI Malin to effectively allocate crime prevention resources throughout the district. The precinct's force is spread too thin, and as a result there are only two officers to patrol the Amsterdam Houses. There is no one to replace these officers on their days off, so Amsterdam Houses and the playground is not patrolled by dedicated officers two days a week or between the hours of midnight and 4pm.

Many constituents, including the residents of Amsterdam Houses, have reached out to me to express their fear and anger about increased crime in the area and the subsequent insufficient response by the city. They are worried about their safety and the safety of their children. The proliferation of illegal guns throughout society and the frequency with which shootings occur has everyone on high alert. The fact that this shooting took place in the middle of the day in an area with many nearby schools and daycare facilities has only deepened the community's sense of distress. As the threat of mass shootings holds communities across the nation hostage, it is

critical that the City reassure members of every community that it is taking every step possible to prevent violent crime.

The NYPD must ensure that each police precinct has the staff and resources it needs to properly protect the communities it serves. The 20th Precinct does not currently have adequate resources to prevent crime on the West Side, and the NYPD must expeditiously address this situation by immediately filling the positions of the 25 officers who were lost within the last year.

I look forward to your swift response to this letter and the situation, and to continuing to work together with the dedicated women and men of the local precincts who keep the communities I represent safe.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda B. Rosenthal". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Linda B. Rosenthal
Member of Assembly – 67th AD



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