

# COMMUNITIES UNITED FOR POLICE REFORM

## COMMUNITIES UNITED FOR POLICE REFORM *SUPPORTS THE COMMUNITY SAFETY ACT - LEGISLATION TO COMBAT DISCRIMINATION IN POLICING -*

Communities United for Police Reform (CPR) is proud to support the *Community Safety Act* – a package of legislation in the City Council that would:

- **Protect New Yorkers against profiling by the NYPD (Intro. 800)**

This legislation would ban profiling by the NYPD. It would prohibit the NYPD from relying, to any degree, on race, ethnicity, religion, or other protected categories when engaging in law enforcement activities, with few exceptions. The legislation would also, for the first time in New York City law, make the NYPD accountable for practices such as stop and frisk that have a disproportionate impact on communities of color and other New Yorkers. Finally, it would broaden the communities protected against profiling by including a prohibition on discrimination based on race, religion, age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, immigration status, housing status, or other characteristics. *Similar laws exist in Illinois, W. Virginia & Arkansas. This bill is also similar to the federal End Racial Profiling Act.*

- **Protect New Yorkers against unlawful searches (Intro. 799)**

This bill would end the practice of the NYPD pressuring New Yorkers into consenting to wrongful searches (for example, searches that lead to the disproportionate arrest of black and Latino New Yorkers for possession of minor amounts of marijuana). Police officers would have to explain to New Yorkers that they have the right to refuse a search when there is no warrant or probable cause. The NYPD would have to obtain proof of the consent given. *Similar laws exist in Colorado & W. Virginia.*

- **Require officers to identify and explain themselves to the public (Intro. 801)**

This bill would require that NYPD officers provide their name to the subjects of law enforcement activity, such as New Yorkers being stopped and frisked. The officer would also have to provide the specific reason for the stop, and a business card to the person being stopped that includes information on how to file a complaint. *Similar laws exist in Arkansas, Minnesota and Colorado.*

- **Establish an NYPD Inspector General Office**

An Inspector General would ensure that NYPD policies operate effectively and are consistent with the law. Inspectors General provide oversight of the FBI, CIA, LAPD, as well as every significant New York City government agency (including the Departments of Education, Correction, and the FDNY). An Inspector General would have the authority to review NYPD policies, recommend changes to make the Department more effective, and make regular reports to the Police Commissioner, Mayor, City Council, and public about its findings. The Inspector General would also have subpoena power.

CPR also supports legislation to be introduced that would **Improve police reporting practices.**