



NYCLU

NEW YORK CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

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The following statement is attributable to Stephen Cruz:

My name is Stephen Cruz, and I am an 11th grade student at Robert F. Kennedy Community High School in Flushing, Queens. I have been a student at the RFK complex since 5th grade, and I've always felt safe and comfortable there. I am on the baseball and bowling teams. I work hard in the classroom and treat my teachers and fellow students with dignity and respect.

Students should be able to trust those assigned to protect them. This incident has hurt me, and made me question the ability of the educators and police personnel at my school to keep me safe. It has made school a less welcoming and less comfortable place, which saddens me. When students act recklessly and endanger others, they are held accountable for it. That same accountability should extend to the adults entrusted to keep us safe.

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