

NYLPI News: NYLPI Releases Mental Health Crisis Report; Advocacy Groups Call for Congestion Pricing and MTA Open Data Act; Hayley Gorenberg Speaks on Gender Justice

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To: academy.virtual.community <academy.virtual.community@gmail.com>



Dear Rita,

Our big announcement this week has been the release of our Mental Health Crisis Response report: "[Saving Lives, Reducing Trauma.](#)" The report documents the results of a survey of New Yorkers who experienced mental health crises. We invite you to read more on our findings and to share the report with your networks.

Additionally, NYLPI supported transit and disability activists pushing for [congestion pricing](#) and the [Open Data Act](#), and Hayley Gorenberg, Legal Director at NYLPI, [spoke on a panel regarding Gender Justice.](#)

[ANNOUNCING: Saving Lives, Reducing Trauma: Removing Police from NYC's Mental Health Crisis Response](#)

New York Lawyers for the Public Interest (NYLPI) released *Saving Lives, Reducing Trauma: Removing Police from New York City's Mental Health Crisis Response*, a report documenting the results of a survey of New Yorkers who have experienced mental health crises. The report uncovers disturbing trends as a result of police response in these situations. The survey responses underscore that when police are deployed as first responders to the crises, individuals experience fear, trauma and deepening distrust of mental health systems and resources, deterring people from seeking further help.

Monday marked the five-year anniversary of the fatal police shooting of Deborah Danner, one of 18 people killed by police while experiencing a mental health crisis in New York City since 2015. In New York City, police are the longstanding de facto first responders to mental health crises, and the repeated violent encounters with people experiencing a crisis show that the police are not equipped to de-escalate and safely address mental health crises.

NYLPI, in collaboration with the National Alliance on Mental Illness of NYC (NAMI-NYC), Voices of Community Activists & Leaders (VOCAL-NY) and Correct Crisis Intervention Today - NYC (CCIT-NYC), formulated and conducted the [survey](#) in support of our work to [transform the City's mental health crisis response](#) system by shifting from a police-based

response to health professionals and trained peers (those with lived mental health experience).

Read the full report [here](#).

Activists Rally for Congestion Pricing to "Save Our Elevators"

On October 13, NYLPI joined **State Senator Andrew Gounardes**, [Riders Alliance](#), [Tri-State Transportation](#), [Rise and Resist NYC](#), community members and other transit and disability advocates for a rally to Save Our Elevators!

The rally emphasized the current inaccessibility of the MTA and the urgent need to implement Congestion Pricing to fund improvements to infrastructure and disability access, as outlined by the MTA's Capital Plan.

Christopher Schuyler, Senior Staff Attorney at NYLPI, detailed the ways in which MTA stations fail to provide equal access to people with disabilities:

"The Plan's proposal to make 70 stations accessible, and make improvements to 175 other stations, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, is long overdue. The subway system is inaccessible to scores of people with disabilities. Less than 30% of stations have elevators. Those that do are often out of service."

Read Schuyler's full comments on [our website](#). Watch the Facebook Livestream of the rally [here](#).

Find additional coverage of the rally at [Brooklyn Daily Eagle](#), [Bronx News 12](#), and [PIX 11](#).

NYLPI Joins Advocacy Groups to Sign MTA Open Data Act

On Thursday, October 14, NYLPI joined transit, transparency, and disability groups in a letter to Gov. Hochul, urging her to sign the MTA Open Data Act.

The letter noted that New York City has been a pioneer in open data and that a key contributor to NYC's success has been the legislative mandate and robust oversight undertaken by the City Council.

Read the full letter [here](#).

Hayley Gorenberg speaks on The Fight for Gender Justice

NYLPI's **Legal Director [Hayley Gorenberg](#)** spoke on a virtual panel this week for The Fight for Gender Justice. This first part of a three-part series hosted by the Birnbaum Women's Leadership Network, OUTLaw, and the Ms. Foundation for Women covered "Protecting Gender Identity and Expression for America's Youth."

Gorenberg was recently appointed a voting member of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Rights Committee by the New York City Bar Association. The Association's committees author reports on current legislation, host CLE programs and events with leading speakers, and file amicus briefs in groundbreaking legal cases to help shape policy and frame debate on pressing legal issues of the day.

Resources

[COVID-19 Resources & Information](#) — This list is updated regularly by members of NYLPI staff as new information becomes available.

[Excluded Workers Fund Application Resource Packet and Tips](#) — The Health Justice team is excited to share our new EWF Resource Packet, available in **[English](#)** and **[Spanish](#)**, to help New Yorkers apply for the Excluded Workers Fund.

[New Medical and Healthcare Rights Calendar for People Detained in Immigration Detention Centers or Jails](#) — NYLPI, in partnership with First Friends of New Jersey and New York, has created and distributed an easy-to-use resource and calendar so people can keep track of their healthcare needs, medications, and requests for medical care while they are detained. The calendar also provides information about people's rights while detained, as well as contact information for resources to provide support. The calendar is available in both English and Spanish.

[Special Education Remote Learning Information, Contacts, Resources, and Links](#) — This list of resources is updated weekly by our Disability Justice team. ***[Updated Oct. 21]***

[Know Your Rights Special Education Training](#) — Our Disability Justice team recently led two "know your rights" special education workshops in English and Spanish to explain the basics of special education rights and procedures. **[Click here to access the English presentation.](#)**

[Taller gratuito de educación especial](#) — El programa de educación especial presentó este taller para darle las herramientas necesarias para navegar con éxito el sistema de educación especial. **[El taller se puede acceder con este enlace.](#)**

[Vaccine Guidance for the Return to the Workplace](#) — The Pro Bono Clearinghouse created this guide to offer advice to employers who are seeking to bring back employees into physical workspaces, with key considerations such as vaccine reporting requirements and institutional mandates on vaccines. This guide was written by attorneys at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP.

Career Opportunities

Development Manager for Individual Giving — New York Lawyers for the Public Interest seeks a talented Development Manager for Individual Giving to join its team. The Development Manager will be charged with improving individual giving systems, supporting and performing direct fundraising by engaging, cultivating, and soliciting individual donors, and assisting in the overall efforts of the development department.

Internships — New York Lawyers for the Public Interest (NYLPI) invites second-year law students (2L's) with a demonstrated commitment to public interest work to apply for our Summer Legal Internship Program. We welcome summer legal interns in the three core program areas of Disability Justice, Environmental Justice, and Health Justice.

Thank you for joining the movement for change.



McGregor

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