

Brooklyn (BDS) Defenders

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*****For Immediate Release*****

Brooklyn Defender Services Statement on Brooklyn DA's Vacatur of Over 375 Convictions Involving 13 NYPD Officers Guilty of Misconduct

(BROOKLYN, NY) – Yung-Mi Lee, Legal Director of Brooklyn Defender Services' Criminal Defense Practice released the following statement in response to [reports](#) that Brooklyn DA will dismiss over 375 cases handled by 13 NYPD officers who committed serious misconduct:

“Brooklyn DA Eric Gonzalez’s decision to dismiss hundreds of cases involving 13 corrupt former NYPD officers was the right one. We commend these dismissals as one important step towards accountability, but we must also recognize the many lives that were upended based on the work of dishonest and abusive NYPD officers. Hundreds of people endured time in jail and prison and faced years of barriers to housing, benefits and employment, disruptions to their families, amid other difficulties stemming from a criminal conviction.

We urge DA Gonzalez and district attorneys across the city to continue to conduct full and transparent reviews of convictions involving officers who are known to have committed misconduct.

Eliminating a conviction that has long been on someone’s record, while critical, cannot alone remedy rampant police misconduct. The misconduct committed by these 13 officers is not an anomaly, but part of a larger system of intentional, neglectful and abusive disregard for people. More must be done to stop abuse before it happens, ultimately by reducing the scope and power of law enforcement.”

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Brooklyn Defender Services is a public defense office whose mission is to provide outstanding representation and advocacy free of cost to people facing loss of freedom, family separation and other serious legal harms by the government. We believe in a client-centered approach and work, in and out of court, to uphold the rights, freedom and dignity of people threatened by unjust, racist and harmful legal systems.