



## NEW YORK STATE BLACK, PUERTO RICAN, HISPANIC AND ASIAN LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

ROOM 442-A, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
ALBANY, NY 12248  
(518) 455-5347 • FAX: (518) 455-4535

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Benita L. Lewis

May 14, 2012

Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr.  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Holder,

We, the undersigned members of the Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Legislative Caucus, ask that you examine a distressing trend in law enforcement. The number of stop-and-frisks at the hands of the NYPD is at their highest recorded levels. Since the agency started releasing their internal records of the practice in 2002, millions of people have been stopped, questioned, and frisked. Disturbingly, a disproportionate number of those continue to be Black and Hispanic males (87 percent). As such, we are calling on the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate police practices and civil rights in New York City during the next fiscal year. Caucus members have also introduced legislation in both the Senate and Assembly to create an independent inspector general to monitor the NYPD, thereby increasing accountability and restoring integrity to that department.

Last year alone, New York City officers stopped 684,330 people under the stop-and-frisk policy. This amounted to a 14 percent jump from the previous year. Even more shocking is the 600 percent increase in stops made since the data collection began in 2002. Most of those who are stopped are not arrested or even issued a summons, further igniting concern that the policy amounts to nothing more than racial profiling and harassment.

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights has already agreed with this assessment. In their 2000 report outlining the legal and constitutional questions regarding the policy, they noted "racial profiling plays some role in the stop and frisk practices of the overall department." The Commission also expressed concern, however, the data the NYPD provided them at the time hindered their ability to provide a complete assessment of the stop-and-frisk policy. Based on their evaluation, we urge you to consider investigating this issue further.

Some 4.3 million people have already been subject to this policy since 2002 and it needs to end. More than 10 years later, it is time for the attorney general to take a look at this increasingly troubling trend and we are hopeful that your schedule would permit us the opportunity to meet and discuss this issue and evaluate a serious civil rights concern. Please feel free to contact my office at (518) 455-5347.

Sincerely,

Chairman  
Assemblyman Karim Camara

cc:

New York Congressional Delegation, Charles B. Rangel

Congressional Black Caucus, Rep. Emmanuel Cleaver, Chairman

Congressional Hispanic Caucus, Rep. Charles A. Gonzalez, Chairman

Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, Rep. Judy Chu, Chairwoman