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Gale A. Brewer, Borough President

August 19, 2020

Dermot Shea
Commissioner
New York City Police Department
1 Police Plaza
New York, NY 10038

Re: August 7 Attempted Arrest in Hell's Kitchen

Dear Commissioner Shea:

I write regarding a disturbing incident which occurred on West 45th Street in Hell's Kitchen on Friday, August 7, when a massive NYPD presence arrived in the vicinity of the apartment of Derrick Ingram.

During the ensuing five hours as reported by the *New York Times*, Mr. Ingram livestreamed himself inside the apartment as police officers pounded on his door and tried to arrest him.

1. NYPD did not provide a warrant when asked, and none had been issued;
2. NYPD falsely claimed that Mr. Ingram's counsel was with them (when he was not); and
3. NYPD attempted to interrogate Mr. Shea, loudly and aggressively, through his apartment's front door.

Meanwhile, outside the apartment building, an NYPD helicopter, K9 units, members of the Strategic Response Group, and multiple officers in tactical gear closed the block to traffic, as reported in the *New York Times*; in effect, falsely creating an impression of immediate and grave danger to the community.

Mr. Ingram, whom I do not know, is my constituent. The allegation that the NYPD attempted to detain or arrest him and *did not provide a warrant when asked* is outrageous. More significantly, it was an unacceptable abrogation of Mr. Ingram's constitutional rights and a disturbingly authoritarian move by your department.

According to the *Times*, the NYPD alleges that Mr. Ingram committed an assault against an officer by deploying a loudspeaker directly in the officer's ear during a protest in June; if that is true, the scale of the attempted arrest is completely out of proportion to the alleged offense.

It was also revealed in an August 11 press conference with Mayor de Blasio that you were unaware that the operation was taking place until well after it had begun. This raises significant questions regarding your oversight of police operations, and given the scope and scale of this incident, doubt about the reliability of the department's command and control structure.

I request that you provide my office with an explanation of these events. I especially request that you clarify whether a warrant was obtained – or had been sought – and if not, why the department acted as if this was an appropriate way to attempt an arrest of Mr. Ingram.

I look forward to your response. Please contact Brian Lewis, my office's Community Liaison for Community Board 4, at 212-669-8774 or blewis@manhattanbp.nyc.gov with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gale A. Brewer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "G" and "B".

Gale A. Brewer