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Department of Investigation

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DEPARTMENT OF INVESTIGATION STATEMENT ON THE NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE TO REPORT ON QUALITY-OF-LIFE SUMMONSES

DOI stands by its Report. That Report produced objective statistical evidence that certain specific NYPD strategies do not have a measurable link to a reduction in violent crime. The NYPD, in its response, provides no similar data or analysis to refute this finding. This is no small point: The tactics at issue -- summonses for several quality of life offenses -- have been a source of complaint and tension in many of New York's communities and thus require careful review of the type we provided to avoid overuse.

Last year, the NYPD expressly stated that quality of life summonses could be used as a tactic to directly reduce violent crime. The fact that it now acknowledges for the first time, after the issuance of our report, that such a relationship is more complex, is an important first step in improving the use of this tactic and its impact on the communities we all serve.

Finally, while the NYPD's response cites two academic reviews of our Report, the NYPD fails to call attention to the full summary of their accounts. Specifically, the NYPD fails to note that one of the reviews stated that: "The report reflects a very positive approach to assessing criminal justice practices. It seeks to identify relevant data to use to understand what is going on in the field. Its recommendation that the NYPD should rely on a 'more data-driven approach to determine the relative impact of quality of life summonses and misdemeanor arrests on the reduction of crime' is certainly a very good one."

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