Committee on Public Safety:

Daniel Ades, *Senior Legislative Counsel*

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**THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

**COMMITTEE REPORT OF THE**

**JUSTICE DIVISION**

**Jeffrey Baker, Legislative Director**

**Brian Crow, Deputy Director, Justice Division**

**COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY**

**Hon. Donovan Richards, Chair**

**June 18, 2020**

**PROP. INT. NO. 487-A** By Council Members Gibson, Rosenthal, Levine, Reynoso, Cumbo, Dromm, Kallos, the Public Advocate (Mr. Williams), Chin, Lander, Miller, Lancman, Rivera, Adams, Moya, Levin, Barron, Ayala, Cornegy, Powers, Louis, Brannan, Menchaca, Perkins, Rose, Ampry-Samuel, Treyger, Torres, Van Bramer, Rodriguez, Richards, Gjonaj, Constantinides, Salamanca, Cabrera, Vallone, Cohen and the Speaker (Council Member Johnson)

**TITLE:** A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to creating comprehensive reporting and oversight of New York city police department surveillance technologies

**ADMINISTRATIVE CODE:** Adds section 14-188

**PROP. INT. NO. 536-B** By Council Members Lancman, the Public Advocate (Mr. Williams), Cornegy, Rosenthal, Constantinides, Levin, Cumbo, Dromm, King, Koo, Reynoso, Chin, Barron, Adams, Rose, Menchaca, Ayala, Ampry-Samuel, Miller, Perkins, Rivera, Kallos, Levine, Torres, Van Bramer, Moya, Lander, Salamanca, Richards, Louis, Treyger, Koslowitz, Brannan, Powers, Gjonaj and the Speaker (Council Member Johnson)

**TITLE:** A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to chokeholds and other such restraints

**ADMINISTRATIVE CODE:** Adds section 10-181

**PROP. INT. NO. 721-B** By the Public Advocate (Mr. Williams) and Council Members Rosenthal, Ampry-Samuel, Reynoso, Rivera, Kallos, Lander, Perkins, Menchaca, Lancman, Chin, Richards, Adams, Rose, Van Bramer, Constantinides, Cumbo, Louis, Moya, Ayala, Brannan, Cornegy, Vallone and Cohen

**TITLE:** A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to respecting the right to record police activities

**ADMINISTRATIVE CODE:** Adds section 14-189

**PROP INT. NO. 760-B** By Council Members Gibson, Torres, the Public Advocate (Mr. Williams), Cumbo, Ampry-Samuel, Lander, Constantinides, Kallos, Van Bramer, Rosenthal, Menchaca, Louis, Moya, Adams Brannan, Rivera, Lancman, Ayala, Reynoso, Cornegy, Vallone, Cabrera, Chin and Cohen

**TITLE:** A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to an early intervention system

**ADMINISTRATIVE CODE:** Adds section 14-190

**PROP INT. NO. 1309-B** By Council Members Richards, Adams, Lander, Rosenthal, Cumbo, Miller, Salamanca, Van Bramer, Kallos, Chin, Brannan, Rivera, Ampry-Samuel, Louis, Ayala, Rose, Cornegy, Vallone and Cohen

**TITLE:** A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring the police department to develop an internal disciplinary matrix

**ADMINISTRATIVE CODE:** Adds section 14-186

**PRECONSIDERED INT.** By Council Members Ampry-Samuel, The Public Advocate

**(RELATING TO SHIELDS)** (Mr. Williams), Council Members Rivera, Cumbo, Levin, Chin, Kallos, Van Bramer, Rosenthal, Menchaca, Louis, Moya, Ayala, Brannan, Adams, Lancman, Reynoso, Vallone, Cabrera and Cohen

**TITLE:** A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to requiring visible shield numbers and rank designations

**ADMINISTRATIVE CODE:** Adds section 14-187

**PROP. RES. NO. 27-A** By Council Members Cabrera, Koslowitz, Van Bramer, Constantinides and Chin

**TITLE:** Resolution calling on the New York State legislature to pass and the Governor to sign A.6144 and S.6670A, legislation that would establish the crime of strangulation in the first degree; disregard of banned employment procedures.

**PRECONSIDERED RES.** By Council Members Rivera, Ampry-Samuel, **(RELATING TO** Constantinides,  Kallos, Van Bramer, Rosenthal Menchaca,

**CHOKEHOLDS)** Louis, Ayala, Brannan, Adams, Reynoso, Rose, Moya, Cabrera and Cohen

**TITLE:** Resolution calling upon the United States Congress to pass, and the President to sign, the Eric Garner Excessive Use of Force Prevention Act of 2019 (H.R. 4408), which would prohibit police chokeholds and other tactics that result in asphyxiation.

1. **INTRODUCTION**

On June 18, 2020, the Committee on Public Safety, chaired by Council Member Donovan Richards, held a vote on Proposed Introduction Number 487-A (“Prop. Int. No. 487-A”), a local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to creating comprehensive reporting and oversight of New York city police department surveillance technologies; Proposed Introduction Number 536-B (“Prop. Int. No. 536-B”), a local law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to chokeholds; Prop. Int. No. 721-B, a local law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to respecting the right to record police activities; Prop. Int. No. 760-B, a local law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to an early intervention system; Preconsidered Int. (Relating to Shields), a local law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to requiring visible shield numbers and rank designations; Proposed Introduction Number 1309-A, a local law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring the police department to develop an internal disciplinary matrix; and Preconsidered Resolution (relating to chokeholds), calling upon the United States Congress to pass, and the President to sign, the Eric Garner Excessive Use of Force Prevention Act of 2019 (H.R. 4408), which would prohibit police chokeholds and other tactics that result in asphyxiation. The Committee previously heard Prop. Int. No. 536-B, Prop. Int. No. 721-B, Prop. Int. No 760-B, Preconsidered Int. (Relating to Shields), and Preconsidered Resolution (relating to chokeholds) on June 9, 2020. The committee previously heard Prop. Int. No. 1309-A on February 7, 2019. The committee previously heard Prop. Int. No. 487-A on December 18, 2019.

The bills were voted out of committee by a vote of 12-1.

1. **BACKGROUND**

On July 17, 2014, Staten Island resident Eric Garner was killed after an interaction with NYPD Officer Daniel Pantaleo related to an arrest for selling untaxed cigarettes. During this interaction, Officer Pantaleo used what is commonly known as a “chokehold” on Mr. Garner, and a video of Pantaleo using this “chokehold” filmed by a bystander, while Mr. Garner repeatedly stated “I can’t breathe,” was widely distributed in mainstream and social media.[[1]](#footnote-1) A Staten Island Grand Jury declined to indict officer Pantaleo for any criminal charges.[[2]](#footnote-2) Over five years after Mr. Garner’s death, Officer Pantaleo was fired by the New York Police Department.[[3]](#footnote-3)

On May 25 2020, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, George Floyd was killed by Minneapolis police officers who knelt on his back and neck while he was face down on the ground for over 8 minutes while he repeatedly told them he could not breathe.[[4]](#footnote-4) The officers, who were arresting Mr. Floyd in relation to a counterfeit $20 bill[[5]](#footnote-5), were fired the day after the incident.[[6]](#footnote-6) One of the four officers stands charged with second degree murder, and the other three are charged with aiding in Mr. Floyd’s death.[[7]](#footnote-7)

These incidents, as well as many others, and a history of tension between police departments and communities of color have prompted widespread protests across the country and in New York City.[[8]](#footnote-8) Some media outlets and advocates have reported that during these protests, officers have been covering their badges in violation of NYPD policy.[[9]](#footnote-9)

On January 25, 2019, an independent panel commissioned by the NYPD to conduct a review of the department’s disciplinary practices and issue recommendations published its report.[[10]](#footnote-10) One of its recommendations was to study and consider adopting an internal disciplinary matrix.[[11]](#footnote-11) The department accepted this recommendation, and has stated that it has begun work on its development, but to date has not created such a matrix.[[12]](#footnote-12)

The NYPD’s Patrol Guide prohibits the use of chokeholds and other tactics that risk impeding respiration of an individual subject to arrest or detention. Patrol Guide section 221-01 broadly outlines NYPD policies regarding Use of Force, which explicitly prohibits officers from using chokeholds, defined as “any pressure to the throat or windpipe, which may prevent or hinder breathing or reduce intake of air.”[[13]](#footnote-13) Additionally, Patrol Guide §221-02 (11.a) advises officers to “[a]pply no more than the reasonable force necessary to gain control,” and “[a]void actions which may result in chest compression, such as sitting, kneeling, or standing on a subject’s chest or back, thereby reducing the subject’s ability to breathe.”[[14]](#footnote-14) During the recent protests, and repeatedly in the past, there have been reports of NYPD officers restricting bystander from filing police-involved activities, including numerous lawsuits based on NYPD attempts to suppress such filming.[[15]](#footnote-15) The federal constitution protects the right to film police activities generally,[[16]](#footnote-16) and the NYPD has issued a message to its officers generally guiding them not to prevent such filming with certain exceptions.[[17]](#footnote-17) Civilians in New York may only be arrested for recording police encounters when their activity amounts to obstruction or interference with a police officer’s duties. Pursuant to the New York State Penal Law, if a person obstructs or interferes with a police officer’s duties they can be arrested and charged with “obstructing governmental administration”[[18]](#footnote-18) or “disorderly conduct”.[[19]](#footnote-19)

Notwithstanding the NYPD’s directive and case law, according to the New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) officers have been found to interfere with such recordings. According to the CCRB report “*Worth a Thousand Words: Examining Officer Interference with Civilian Recordings of Police,[[20]](#footnote-20)”* published in June 2017, from January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2016 the CCRB closed 257 complaints, covering 346 allegations, in which civilians reported that officers interfered with their ability to record.[[21]](#footnote-21) Police interference included but was not limited to officers instructing civilians to stop recording, searching civilians’ phones for recordings of activity, deleting such footage, and damaging recording devices.[[22]](#footnote-22) In 58% of these complaints, civilians were recording their own interaction with police officers, and the remaining 42% were bystanders recording or attempting to record an encounter with a third party.[[23]](#footnote-23)Several of the officers involved in high profile incidents that have been viewed as examples of misconduct appear to have been the subject of prior disciplinary action[[24]](#footnote-24) or civil litigation alleging misconduct.[[25]](#footnote-25) In addition, the use of force by police officers has been increasing even as crime has decreased.[[26]](#footnote-26) In 2015, the NYPD created a Force Investigations Division, which is designed to centralize and standardize the way the NYPD investigates whether a use of force was appropriate.[[27]](#footnote-27)

However, it is unclear whether the results of those investigations, as well as allegations included in lawsuits against officers, CCRB complaints and investigations, judicial determinations on the lawfulness of arrests and adverse credibility findings are assessed in a centralized fashion in order to monitor, retrain, or reassign individual officers who have been found to have used excessive force or engaged in the alleged misconduct.

 Over the last several years, there has been growing concern and attention regarding law enforcement’s acquisition and use of new and invasive surveillance technologies.[[28]](#footnote-28) These technologies include devices such as military grade X-Ray vans, license plate readers and cell site simulators that can capture cell phone information from surrounding cell phone users,[[29]](#footnote-29) and more recently, facial recognition technology.[[30]](#footnote-30) At the local level, there is little to no public comment or legislative input in the acquisition and use of these technologies. Law enforcement’s use of such technologies is only revealed through litigation, if at all. Privacy rights advocates have testified previously before the Council that there is a need for greater police transparency regarding the use of surveillance technology.[[31]](#footnote-31)

1. **ANALYSIS OF PROP. INT. NO. 487-A**

Section 1 of Int. No. 487 adds a new administrative code section that creates comprehensive reporting and oversight of NYPD surveillance technologies. The first subdivision defines “surveillance technology” and the “surveillance technology impact and use policy” (IUP). The IUP is a document that requires the NYPD to report on the: 1. capabilities of the surveillance technology; 2. rules processes and guidelines regulating access to it, including whether the department obtains a court authorization for each use of the equipment; 3. security measures to protect the information collected by the technology; 4. policies and practices related to the data retention; 5. policies and practices related to access or use of data by members of the public; 6. whether other entities outside the Department have access to the data collected by the surveillance technology; 7. whether training is required prior to use of the surveillance technology; 8. a description of internal audit or oversight mechanisms to comply with the IUP; 9. any tests or reports regarding the health and safety effects of the surveillance technology; and, 10. any potentially disparate impacts of the surveillance technology impact and use policy on any protected groups as defined in the New York city human rights law. The bill requires the Department to propose an IUP and post it on the website prior to the use of new surveillance technology. For existing technology, the bill requires the NYPD to propose an IUP within 180 days of the effective date of the bill. When the Department seeks to acquire or acquires enhancements to the surveillance technology that has not previously been disclosed in an IUP, the NYPD must publish an addendum to the existing IUP. Upon the publication of any proposed IUP, the public is given 45 days to submit comments to the NYPD Police Commissioner. The Police Commissioner must consider the public comments and provide the final IUP to the Council and the Mayor, and post it to the Department’s website within 45 days after the close of the public comment period.

Section 2 of the bill requires the Department of Investigation’s Inspector General for the Police Department (NYPD-IG) to prepare an annual audit to assess NYPD’s compliance with the terms of the IUP. In addition, the bill requires the NYPD-IG to describe any known or reasonably suspected violations of the IUP and publish recommendations.

Section 3 would have the bill take effect immediately.

1. **AMENDMENTS TO PROP. INT. NO. 487-A**

 This bill has been amended since it was heard. The bill now requires the department to report whether the IUP has the potential for disparate impact on any protected groups as defined under the New York City Human Rights Law.

1. **ANALYSIS OF PROP. INT. NO. 536-A**

Section 1 of the bill makes it a misdemeanor to restrain an individual in a manner that restricts the flow of air or blood by compressing the windpipe, diaphragm, or the carotid arteries on each side of the neck in the course of effecting or attempting to effect an arrest.

Section 2 of the bill would have it take effect immediately.

1. **AMENDMENTS TO PROP. INT. NO. 536-A**

 This bill has been amended since it was introduced. The current version of the bill prohibits a broader range of acts, whereas the original version prohibited chokeholds, defined as wrapping an arm around or gripping the neck in a manner that limits or cuts off either the flow of air by compressing the windpipe, or the flow of blood through the carotid arteries on each side of the neck.

1. **ANALYSIS OF PROP. INT. NO. 721-A**

Section 1 of the bill creates an affirmative right of an individual to record police activities and maintain custody and control of any such recording. It further establishes a private right of action in any court of competent jurisdiction when an individual demonstrates that he or she recorded to attempted to record police activities and an officer interfered with that person’s recording by, for example, preventing or attempting to prevent the recording of police activities, threatening or making any effort to intimidate a person recording police activities, stopping, seizing, searching, using any summons, or arresting any individual because such individual recorded police activities or seizing property or instruments used by any individual to record police activities.

The bill establishes an affirmative defense that a reasonable officer would have probable cause to believe that the person recording police activities physically interfered with an official and lawful police function or that the officer’s actions were otherwise authorized by law.

In addition, the bill requires the commissioner to submit a quarterly report of the number of arrests and summonses in which the person arrested or summonsed was recording police activities, disaggregated by the patrol precinct, the offense charge, and the race, ethnicity and gender of the person arrested or summonsed.

Section 2 of the bill states that a finding that portions of the law were invalid would not invalidate the other portions of the law.

Section 3 would have the bill take effect 30 days after it becomes law, except that the first report would be due within 20 days of January 1, 2021.

1. **AMENDMENTS TO PROP. INT. NO. 721-A**

 This bill has been amended since it was introduced. The original version indicated that a court may allow a prevailing plaintiff reasonable attorney’s fees as part of the costs, whereas the current version states that the court shall allow such fees.

1. **ANALYSIS OF PROP. INT. NO. 760-A**

An early intervention system (EIS) is a management tool for law enforcement that utilizes data to help identify troubling patterns in policing and officers that are experiencing issues with performance.[[32]](#footnote-32) EIS, also known as early warning systems, are notable for their ability to identify officers before their behavior requires formal discipline and to illustrate the areas in which a department could improve its practices.[[33]](#footnote-33) Use of an EIS typically involves four steps: 1) collection and review of officer performance indicators; 2) identification of officers whose performance raises concerns; 3) intervention with identified officers; and 4) ongoing monitoring of such officers to ensure improvement.[[34]](#footnote-34)

Similar to NYPD’s CompStat program, EIS rely on the analysis of regularly updated data.[[35]](#footnote-35) The data utilized in an EIS will primarily consist of officer performance indicators. There is no set number of metrics that must be used—some contain as few as five, while others have more than 25 indicators.[[36]](#footnote-36) For example, a model utilized during the early 2000s by the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) included 16 metrics, including those related to use of force, complaints and compliments, stops made, arrests made and citations issued, training and evaluation history, and personal leave used.[[37]](#footnote-37) While there is no recommended minimum number, a broader range of indicators will help to mitigate the impact of possibly flawed data and provide supervisors with a more comprehensive view of an officer’s work.[[38]](#footnote-38)

EIS are valuable both to individual officers and departments on the whole. Effective EIS use not only allows a department to tailor its training and policies to help its officers avoid incidents that cause complaints, but also to “save” the careers of officers by identifying problems early in their careers.[[39]](#footnote-39) Individual officers can also benefit through easier identification of those with excellent records.[[40]](#footnote-40) An EIS is most effective when it is utilized not to punish officers, but to identify and help those in need before major issues arise.[[41]](#footnote-41)

Further, identifying officers with performance issues can improve the reputation of the department as a whole. Research shows that a small subset of officers is often responsible for a disproportionate number of complaints and misconduct incidents.[[42]](#footnote-42) This is true both generally and in New York City. CCRB found that just 10 percent of officers were responsible for 78 percent of misconduct claims.[[43]](#footnote-43) Utilization of an EIS helps a department target its resources where most needed, leading to an overall decline in misconduct.[[44]](#footnote-44) Indeed, following the implementation of an EIS by the LASD, officer shootings, use of force, and civilian complaints declined while officer performance improved.[[45]](#footnote-45) Departments can also save time and money through reduced complaints and lawsuits if they are successful in identifying patterns and conducting interventions, as well as improve their relations with the community.[[46]](#footnote-46)

Since their development in the 1980s, officer performance monitoring systems have been linked to improving police accountability.[[47]](#footnote-47) Establishment and regular use of an EIS is one of the three principal reforms required by the DOJ in consent decrees or memoranda of agreement reached with police departments accused of systemically depriving individuals of civil rights.[[48]](#footnote-48) Cities that have implemented EIS as part of DOJ oversight see a decrease in complaints and create a better climate of accountability.[[49]](#footnote-49) Some have suggested that use of an EIS could result in a “chill” in enforcement as officers become more hesitant to perform their duties; however, a number of cities that created EIS under federal oversight saw crime rates decline and in some cases, an increase in arrests.[[50]](#footnote-50)

The proposed legislation would require the creation of an EIS. Section 1 of the bill requires the department to maintain a centralized system that is used to record, track, review, and evaluate officer activity and to identify officers that may be in need of enhanced training monitoring, or reassignment based on: information reported by corporation counsel based on civil actions regarding the police department, complaints received and results of investigations conducted by the civilian complaint review board (“CCRB”) and the police department, complaints received by the department of investigation, use of force incidents and incidents of excessive force, arrests and summonses for disorderly conduct, obstructing governmental administration, and resisting arrest, judicial or departmental determinations that detentions of individuals were not legally justified, criminal arrests of investigations of an officer known to the department, judicial determinations that an officer’s testimony is not credible, vehicle pursuits and collisions involving department equipment, violations of the department’s patrol guide, disciplinary actions and ongoing disciplinary proceedings, non-disciplinary corrective actions, awards and commendations, and training records.

The bill further requires the department to post on its website and submit to the mayor and speaker of the council a report on the department’s use of the early intervention system.

Section 2 of the bill would have it take effect on September 1, 2020

1. **AMENDMENTS TO PROP. INT. NO. 760-A**

 This bill has been amended since it was introduced.

The original version required an early intervention system to be maintained by a department or office designated by the mayor that would allow for electronic information sharing by the department with the law department, the comptroller, the CCRB, and the individual responsible for implementing the system.

The original version required the department to provide the law department, the comptroller, the CCRB, and the NYPD Inspector General with information related to pending or resolved civil actions or claims filed against individual police officers, including precinct affiliation, rank, and employment date, on a bi-weekly basis. The bill further required the department to notify, upon request, the law department, the comptroller, the CCRB, and the NYPD-IG as to whether the subject officer of a given claim was on duty or wearing a department uniform at the time of the incident. The bill further exempted any information considered confidential pursuant to Civil Rights Law section 50-a.

 The original version also required the department to share with the department that would maintain the early intervention system the following information regarding civil actions filed in state or federal court regarding allegations of improper police conduct including claims involving the use of force, assault and battery, malicious prosecution, or false arrest or imprisonment: the court in which the action was filed; the name of the law firm representing the plaintiff; the name of the law firm or agency representing each defendant; the date the action was filed; the allegation of improper police conduct; and if an action has been resolved, the date it was resolved, the manner in which it was resolved, and whether the resolution included a payment to the plaintiff by the city and the amount of such payment. Finally, the effective date of the bill has been updated.

1. **ANALYSIS OF PRECONSIDERED INT. (RELATED TO SHIELDS)**

Section 1 of the bill requires an officer’s shield number or rank designation to be visible at all times while such officer is in uniform and performing any activity under the color of law. The bill further establishes a claim for refusal to make a shield number or rank designation visible when an individual demonstrates that they requested that an officer make their shield number or rank designation visible and the officer did not comply. The bill further creates a right of action in any court of competent jurisdiction for an individual subject to a refusal to make a shield number or rank designation visible, and requires a court to award a prevailing plaintiff reasonable attorney’s fees and court costs.

Section 2 of the bill would have it take effect immediately.

Proposed Int. No. 536-B

By Council Members Lancman, the Public Advocate (Mr. Williams), Cornegy, Rosenthal, Constantinides, Levin, Cumbo, Dromm, King, Koo, Reynoso, Chin, Barron, Adams, Rose, Menchaca, Ayala, Ampry-Samuel, Miller, Perkins, Rivera, Kallos, Levine, Torres, Van Bramer, Moya, Lander, Salamanca, Richards, Louis, Treyger, Koslowitz, Brannan, Powers, Gjonaj, Gibson, Eugene, Cohen and the Speaker (Council Member Johnson)

..Title

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to chokeholds and other such restraints

..Body

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1.  The administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding a new section 10-181 to read as follows:

§ 10-181 Unlawful methods of restraint. a. Unlawful methods of restraint. No person shall restrain an individual in a manner that restricts the flow of air or blood by compressing the windpipe or the carotid arteries on each side of the neck, or sitting, kneeling, or standing on the chest or back in a manner that compresses the diaphragm, in the course of effecting or attempting to effect an arrest.

b. Penalties. Any person who violates subdivision a of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment of not more than one year or a fine of not more than $2,500, or both.

                     c. Any penalties resulting from a violation of subdivision a of this section shall not limit or preclude any cause of action available to any person or entity injured or aggrieved by such violation.

§ 2.  This local law takes effect immediately.

LS # 2203/LS 2271/LS 2680/Int. 540-2014

LS 181

CJG/BG/RC/BC

6/10/20 10:01PM

Proposed Int. No. 721-B

By the Public Advocate (Mr. Williams) and Council Members Rosenthal, Ampry-Samuel, Reynoso, Rivera, Kallos, Lander, Perkins, Menchaca, Lancman, Chin, Richards, Adams, Rose, Van Bramer, Constantinides, Cumbo, Louis, Moya, Ayala, Brannan, Cornegy, Vallone and Cohen

..Title

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to the right to record police activities

..Body

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 1 of title 14 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding a new section 14-189 to read as follows:

§ 14-189 Right to record police activities. a. Definitions. For the purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

Officer. The term “officer” means any peace officer or police officer as defined in the criminal procedure law who is employed by the city of New York, or any special patrolman appointed by the police commissioner pursuant to section 14-106.

Police activities. The term “police activities” means any activity of an officer acting under the color of law.

Record. The term “record” means to capture or attempt to capture any moving or still image, sound, or impression through the use of any recording device, camera, or any other device capable of capturing audio, moving or still images, or by way of written notes or observations.

b. Right to record police activities. A person may record police activities and maintain custody and control of any such recording and of any property or instruments used in such recording. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to permit a person to engage in actions that physically interfere with an official and lawful police function, or to prevent the seizure of any property or instruments used in a recording of police activities where the seizure is otherwise authorized by law, or to prohibit any officer from enforcing any other provision of law.

c. Private right of action.

1. A claim of unlawful interference with recording police activities is established under this section when an individual demonstrates that he or she recorded or attempted to record police activities in accordance with subdivision b and an officer interfered with such person’s recording of police activities. Such interference includes but is not limited to the following actions:

(a) preventing or attempting to prevent the recording of police activities;

(b) threatening or making any effort to intimidate a person recording police activities;

(c) stopping, seizing, searching, issuing any summons, or arresting any individual because such individual recorded police activities; or

(d) seizing property or instruments used by any individual to record police activities.

2. It shall be an affirmative defense that (i) a reasonable officer in the position of such officer would have had probable cause to believe that the person recording police activities physically interfered with an official and lawful police function, or that such officer’s actions were otherwise authorized by law or (ii) such officer did not know, and a reasonable officer in the position of such officer would not know, that such person was recording or attempting to record police activities.

3. A person subject to unlawful interference with recording police activities as described in subdivision b of this section may bring an action in any court of competent jurisdiction for any damages, including punitive damages, and for declaratory and injunctive relief and such other remedies as may be appropriate.

4. In any action or proceeding to enforce this section, the court shall allow a prevailing plaintiff reasonable attorney's fees as part of the costs, and may include expert fees as part of the attorney's fees.

5. Any action or proceeding to enforce this section shall be commenced no later than one year and 90 days after the date on which the violation of this section is committed.

d. Preservation of rights. This section shall be in addition to all rights, procedures, and remedies available under the United States constitution, section 1983 of title 42 of the United States code, the constitution of the state of New York and all other federal laws, state laws, laws of the city of New York including the administrative code, and all pre-existing civil remedies, including monetary damages, created by statute, ordinance, regulation or common law.

e. Reporting. The commissioner shall submit to the speaker of the council, the public advocate and the mayor, and post on the department’s website, within 20 days after the beginning of the quarter that commences on January 1, 2021 and each quarter thereafter, a report containing the following information for the previous quarter: the number of arrests, criminal summonses, and civil summonses in which the person arrested or summonsed was recording police activities as defined in subdivision a of this section. Such report shall include this information in total and disaggregated by the following factors: the patrol precinct in which such arrest or summons occurred, the offense charged, and the apparent race, ethnicity, gender, and age of the person arrested or summonsed. The information to be reported pursuant to this section shall be compared with previous reporting periods, shall be permanently stored on the department’s website, and shall be stored in alphanumeric form that can be digitally transmitted or processed and not in portable document format or scanned copies of original documents.

§ 2. Severability. If any provision of this bill or any other provision of this local law, or any amendments thereto, shall be held invalid or ineffective in whole or in part or inapplicable to any person or situation, such holding shall not affect, impair or invalidate any portion of or the remainder of this local law, and all other provisions thereof shall nevertheless be separately and fully effective and the application of any such provision to other persons or situations shall not be affected.

§ 3.  This local law takes effect 30 days after it becomes law.

LS 2383.1/Int. 1235-2016

LS # 385

BC

6/10/20 11:09PM

Proposed Int. No. 760-B

By Council Members Gibson, Torres, the Public Advocate (Mr. Williams), Cumbo, Ampry-Samuel, Lander, Constantinides, Kallos, Van Bramer, Rosenthal, Menchaca, Louis, Moya, Adams Brannan, Rivera, Lancman, Ayala, Reynoso, Cornegy, Vallone, Cabrera, Chin and Cohen

..Title

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to an early intervention system

..Body

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 1 of title 14 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended to add a new section 14-190 to read as follows:

§ 14-190 Early intervention system. a. The department shall maintain a centralized system that is used to record, track, review, and evaluate officer activity and to identify officers who may be in need of enhanced training, monitoring, or reassignment. Such system shall collect and utilize, at a minimum, the following:

(i) information reported pursuant to section 7-114;

(ii) complaints received and results of investigations conducted by the civilian complaint review board;

(iii) complaints received and investigations conducted by the department, including but not limited to investigations conducted by the internal affairs bureau, and any disposition resulting from any such investigation;

(iv) complaints received pursuant to section 804 of the charter;

(v) use of force incidents and incidents of excessive force, as those terms are defined in section 14-158;

(vi) arrests and summonses for violations of sections 240.20, 195.05 and 205.30 of the penal law;

(vii) judicial or departmental determinations that detentions of individuals were not legally justified;

(viii) criminal arrests or investigations of an officer, to the extent known to the department;

(ix) judicial determinations that an officer’s testimony is not credible;

(x) vehicle pursuits and collisions involving department equipment;

(xi) violations of the department’s patrol guide;

(xii) disciplinary actions and ongoing disciplinary proceedings; and

(xiii) non-disciplinary corrective actions.

b. By January 31 of each year, the department shall post on its website and submit to the mayor and the speaker of the council a report on the department’s use of the early intervention system during the previous year, including, but not limited to (i) any additional information, other than the information required to be included in such system by subdivision a of this section, that is collected and utilized through such system; (ii) the process for identifying, through such system, officers who may be in need of enhanced training or monitoring; (iii) the interventions utilized by the department with such officers; (iv) procedures and systems for ongoing monitoring of such officers to ensure improvement; and (v) any information required to be included in such system by subdivision a of this section that the department believes should be eliminated and the reasons why.

§ 2. This local law takes effect on September 1, 2020.

LS 3591, 3592, 4917/Int. 927-2015

LS 5637

6/10/20 8:33PM

Proposed Int. No. 1309-B

By Council Members Richards, Adams, Lander, Rosenthal, Cumbo, Miller, Salamanca, Van Bramer, Kallos, Chin, Brannan, Rivera, Ampry-Samuel, Louis, Ayala, Rose, Cornegy, Vallone and Cohen

..Title

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring the police department to develop an internal disciplinary matrix

..Body

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Title 14 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding a new section 14-186 to read as follows:

§ 14-186 Internal disciplinary matrix. a. Internal disciplinary matrix. Within six months of the date this local law takes effect, the department shall post on its website a disciplinary matrix that sets forth an advisory schedule of violations, penalties, and mitigating and aggravating circumstances, or any other factors considered by the commissioner to be relevant to the process of determining the appropriate discipline for police department personnel for substantiated violations of department rules or other policies.

b. Disciplinary matrix development. Within three months of the date this local law takes effect, the department shall prepare and file with the mayor and the speaker of the council, and post on its website:

1. Factors relevant to developing the internal disciplinary matrix and steps undertaken by the department in developing the internal disciplinary matrix, including consultation with outside entities including stakeholders and community groups.

2. The proposed schedule of violations, penalties, and mitigating and aggravating circumstances, or any other factors considered by the commissioner to be relevant to the process of determining appropriate discipline.

c. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the discretion of the commissioner to impose discipline, and the commissioner may modify the disciplinary matrix at any time. A description of any such modifications shall be posted on the department website.

  d. No later than January 30, 2022, and by each January 30 in each year thereafter, the department shall post on its website and deliver to the speaker of the council a report that includes the number and percentage of instances within the preceding calendar year in which the commissioner imposed a discipline penalty that is different from the disciplinary matrix penalty.

§ 2. Section 14-181 of the administrative code of the city of New York, as added by local law number 220 for the year 2019, relating to the office of nightlife, is renumbered section 14-185.

§ 3. This local law takes effect immediately.

JG/ D.A.

LS # 8610

6/9/20 10:007PM

Preconsidered Int. No. -A

By Council Members Ampry-Samuel, the Public Advocate (Mr. Williams), Rivera, Cumbo, Levin, Chin, Kallos, Van Bramer, Rosenthal, Menchaca, Louis, Moya, Ayala, Brannan, Adams, Lancman, Reynoso, Vallone, Cabrera and Cohen

..Title

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring visible shield numbers and rank designations

..Body

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 1 of title 14 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended to add a new section 14-187 to read as follows:

§ 14-187 Shield numbers and rank designations. a. An officer’s shield number or rank designation shall be visible at all times while such officer is in uniform and performing any activity under the color of law.

b. 1. A claim of refusal to make a shield number or rank designation visible is established under this section when an individual demonstrates that they requested that an officer make their shield number or rank designation visible pursuant to subdivision a of this section and such officer did not comply.

2. An individual subject to refusal to make a shield number or rank designation visible as described in paragraph 1 of subdivision b of this section may bring an action in any court of competent jurisdiction for any damages, including punitive damages, and for declaratory and injunctive relief and such other remedies as may be appropriate.

3. In any action or proceeding to enforce this section, the court shall award a prevailing plaintiff reasonable attorney's fees and court costs, and may include expert fees as part of the attorney's fees.

4. Any action or proceeding to enforce this section shall be commenced no later than one year and 90 days after the date on which the violation of this section is committed.

c. This section does not limit or abrogate any claim or cause of action a person has under common law or by other law or rule. The provisions of this section are in addition to any other remedies that may be provided for under common law or by other law or rule.

§ 2.  This local law takes effect immediately.

LS 15282

6/10/20 9:40PM

Preconsidered Res. No.

..Title

Resolution calling upon the United States Congress to pass, and the President to sign, the Eric Garner Excessive Use of Force Prevention Act of 2019 (H.R. 4408), which would prohibit police chokeholds and other tactics that result in asphyxiation.

..Body

By Council Members Rivera and Ampry-Samuel

Whereas, On July 17, 2014, Eric Garner, an unarmed Black man, died after being choked by a New York City (“NYC” or “City”) Police Department (“NYPD” or “Department”) officer as a witness filmed him crying out “I can’t breathe” 11 times; and

Whereas, The death of Eric Garner launched protests across the City and the United States (U.S.); and

Whereas, These protests energized the #BlackLivesMatter movement, which grew rapidly after the fatal police shooting of Michael Brown, an unarmed Black teenager in Ferguson, Missouri; and

Whereas, Driven by those events and the deaths of numerous other Black men and women in police custody, this movement elevated a national discussion on police use of force and other law enforcement tactics that disproportionately impact communities of color; and

Whereas, Nearly six years later, on May 25, 2020, George Floyd, an unarmed Black man, died in the custody of Minneapolis police as witnesses filmed him repeatedly crying out “I can’t breathe” while an officer kneeled on his neck for eight minutes and 46 seconds; and

Whereas, This incident and other recent high profile cases of police killings of unarmed Black civilians has sparked days of protests in the City and across the country; and

Whereas, These protests have largely demanded, in part, accountability for officers such as those involved in the death of George Floyd, one of whom has been arrested and is being prosecuted by a local District Attorney; and

Whereas, However, historically local District Attorneys have failed to successfully prosecute and hold accountable officers involved in the killings of unarmed Black civilians, including the officer who choked Eric Garner; and

Whereas, Federal prosecutors have fewer ties to local law enforcement entities and should be given the power to use their greater independence to investigate, prosecute, and hold accountable police officers who kill unarmed civilians; and

Whereas, The Eric Garner Excessive Use of Force Prevention Act of 2019 (H.R. 4408), sponsored by U.S. Representative Hakeem Jeffries, would amend section 242 of title 18, U..S. Code, to forbid the use of chokeholds as a civil rights violation; and

Whereas, This law would enable federal authorities to hold accountable police officers involved in the killing of George Floyd and similar tragic incidents; and

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls upon the upon the United States Congress to pass, and the President to sign, the Eric Garner Excessive Use of Force Prevention Act of 2019 (H.R. 4408), which would prohibit police chokeholds and other tactics that result in asphyxiation.

LS #15250

6/1/2020

CGR

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2. “Grand Jury Declines to Indict NYPD Officer in Eric Garner Chokehold Death,” NBC, December 3, 2014, *available at:* <https://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/grand-jury-decision-eric-garner-staten-island-chokehold-death-nypd/1427980/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. “Daniel Pantaleo, Officer Who Held Eric Garner in Chokehold, Is Fired,” NYTimes, August 19, 2019, *available at:* <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/19/nyregion/daniel-pantaleo-fired.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. “8 Minutes and 46 Seconds: How George Floyd Was Killed in Police Custody,” NYTimes, May 31, 2020, *available at:* <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/31/us/george-floyd-investigation.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
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6. “’I Can’t Breathe’: 4 Minneapolis Officers Fired After Black Man Dies in Custody”, NYTimes, May 26, 2020,  *available at:* <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/26/us/minneapolis-police-man-died.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
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8. “Why the Killing of George Floyd Sparked an American Uprising, ” Time, June 4, 2020, *available at:* <https://time.com/5847967/george-floyd-protests-trump/> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. “NYPD cops accused by advocacy groups of covering shield numbers during George Floyd protests” Daily News, June 4, 2020, *available at*: <https://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/nyc-crime/ny-nypd-cops-accused-covering-shield-numbers-protests-20200604-rje2krqecfcrdcex2p2fdy3c5i-story.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. “The Report of the Independent Panel on the Disciplinary System of the New York City Police Department” January 25, 2019 *available at* <https://www.independentpanelreportnypd.net/> [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. “The Report of the Independent Panel on the Disciplinary System of the New York City Police Department” January 25, 2019 pg. 51 *available at* <https://www.independentpanelreportnypd.net/> [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. See Testimony of the NYPD, Hearing of the Committee on Public Safety, June 9, 2020, *available at:* <https://legistar.council.nyc.gov/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=791488&GUID=AF936D7B-EDE6-48C9-B856-C30B9E6672F9&Options=&Search=> [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. NYPD Patrol Guide §221-01; available at: <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/nypd/downloads/pdf/public_information/public-pguide3.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. NYPD Patrol Guide §221-02 (11.a); available at: <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/nypd/downloads/pdf/public_information/public-pguide3.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
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