As a professor at CUNY Lehman College, I teach my school an clinical mental health counseling students to be abolitionists. We spend way too much money on police, prsions, and war—all punitive solutions to problems that the research shows would be much better solved in nonpunitive, nonviolent ways. NYPD has a decades-long history of not being held accountable for harming and often killing poor and working class people of color while protecting the property and interests of wealthy White people. This new discipline report contains 51 excellent strategies to make NYPD accountable and I support all 51.

“In 2013, a federal court found the NYPD’s use of stop-

and-frisk was unconstitutional and the NYPD had an

illegal policy of racially profiling Black and Latinx New

Yorkers. The Court ordered the NYPD to reform many

policies and practices, including improvements to “its

procedures for imposing discipline.” The new Discipline

Report details the many ways in which the NYPD fails

to hold its officers accountable for misconduct during

pedestrian stops, frisks, and searches. It concludes that

officers who engage in unconstitutional stops and frisks

“rarely, if ever” receive any discipline, even when

an independent agency, the Civilian Complaint Review

Board (“CCRB”), determines that the officer committed

misconduct. The Discipline Report also provides

51 recommendations to improve the NYPD’s discipline

system and increase accountability for officers who

make illegal pedestrian stops.”

While I would prefer we completely defund NYPD, especially in light of constant corrupt cops from the mayor on down in his leadership team, I’ll take these 51 recommendations as a great place to start.

-Stuart Chen-Hayes, Ph.D.

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