



PUBLIC ADVOCATE FOR THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Letitia James

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Press Release

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Public Advocate Letitia James, Legal Aid Attorneys Outline Efforts To Unseal Grand Jury Minutes In Garner Case

Court Hearing Adjourned A Week; All Parties Scheduled To Return To Court On Thurs, Feb 5th

(New York, NY)— On Wednesday, January 28, 2015, New York City Public Advocate Letitia James was joined at the offices of Legal Services NY by attorneys representing the Public Advocate's office as well as the Legal Aid Society and the New York Civil Liberties Union to discuss legal efforts to unseal the grand jury proceedings related to the death of Eric Garner on July 17, 2014.

The Public Advocate has argued that there is no logical reason to maintain grand jury secrecy as the video tape that shows the circumstances of Mr. Garner's death has been made public, and the identities of those involved are not hidden. The Garner family has additionally joined the co-petitioners in asking the court to unseal the grand jury proceedings.

Though the Public Advocate, the Legal Aid Society, the New York Civil Liberties Union, and other parties submitted separate petitions, they are expected to be heard by the court collectively. Oral arguments for the special proceeding were originally scheduled for January 29th, but have been **postponed until Thursday, February 5, 2015** in Staten Island.

“Every New Yorker has seen the video, and the Garner family has the right to understand why there was no indictment. The debate over unsealing the Garner Grand Jury minutes is not about one incident, one death, one police officer or even one borough of New York City— it is about reform, transparency, and justice. I am disappointed by today's adjournment, but I know that sunlight is the best disinfectant. Justice delayed is not— in this case— justice denied,” said **New York City Public Advocate Letitia James**.

Public Advocate James noted that Staten Island District Attorney Donovan himself successfully petitioned for a partial release of grand jury information in the Garner case.

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