The Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR)\(^1\) has long been active in the movement to address racial profiling, particularly in New York City.\(^2\) CCR filed Floyd, et al. v. City of New York, et al., a federal class action lawsuit against the New York City Police Department (NYPD) and the City of New York that challenges the NYPD’s practices of racial profiling and unconstitutional stops-and-frisks.\(^3\) Stop-and-frisk is the practice by which an NYPD officer initiates a stop of an individual on the street allegedly based on so-called reasonable suspicion of criminal activity. Stop-and-frisks occur at an alarming rate in communities of color, who often feel under siege and harassed by the police.

In 2009, a record 576,394 people were stopped, 84 percent of whom were Black and Latino residents — although they comprise only about 26 percent and 27 percent of New York City’s total population respectively.\(^4\) The year 2009 was not an anomaly. Ten years of raw data from the NYPD reveal that stops-and-frisks result in a minimal weapons and/or contraband yield. Moreover, the practice contributes to continued mistrust, doubt and fear of police officers in communities of color that are already scarred by systemic racial profiling and major incidents of police brutality and torture. There is a clear need for accountability, independent oversight and reform in the NYPD’s use of stops-and-frisks.

The NYPD’s use of stops-and-frisks is still on the rise. In 2008, the number of people stopped and frisked was 540,302. In 2009, it was 576,394. This is a 6.7% increase in one year and almost a 600% increase since 2002.

Blacks and Latinos are disproportionately stopped. In 2009, Blacks and Latinos represented 84% of those stopped. Blacks and Latinos compromise only 26% and 27% of the NYC population, respectively.

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The information contained in this document does not necessarily reflect any of the conclusions, evidence or arguments that will be presented by plaintiffs in the lawsuit Floyd v. City of New York, 08 Civ. 1034 (SAS) (SDNY)
In a report issued in October 2010, renowned policing expert Jeffrey Fagan of Columbia University confirmed that the NYPD stopped-and-frisked New Yorkers without reasonable suspicion and engaged in a pattern of unconstitutional stops that disproportionally affected Black and Latino New Yorkers. The report also concluded that most stops occur in Black and Hispanic neighborhoods, and the main factor for determining who gets stopped, even after controlling for crime rates, is race. Additionally, Black and Latino New Yorkers are treated more harshly, more likely to be arrested rather than issued a summons and more likely to have force used against them than White suspects.

**Contraband yielded during NYPD stops during first half of 2010 and 2009**

**Stops resulted in extremely low weapons yields.** Weapons were recovered in 7,201 stops in all of 2009 — which represented only 1.25% of all stops. One of the NYPD’s primary talking points regarding their stop-and-frisk policy has been that it keeps weapons off the street. These numbers clearly contradict that claim.

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1 CCR works to advance and protect the rights guaranteed by the United States Constitution and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Founded in 1966 by attorneys who represented civil rights movements in the South, CCR is a non-profit legal and educational organization committed to the creative use of law as a positive force for social change. Learn more about CCR at: http://ccrjustice.org.

2 CCR is currently working with a wide range of community groups to develop a comprehensive Police Accountability and Transparency Project, which will advocate for city-wide police-reform efforts. Because of the city’s enormous influence, we believe that police reform in New York City has the potential to set a standard for police departments nationwide.

3 The plaintiffs in this case represent the thousands of African American and Latino New Yorkers who have been illegally stopped on their way to work, in front of their homes or just walking down the street, primarily because of their race or ethnicity.

4 Census Bureau (http://censtats.census.gov/cgi-bin/pct/pctProfile.pl), Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000, Geographic area: New York City, New York.