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March 25, 2026

RE: Opposition to Int. 001-B and Int. 175-B

Dear Speaker Menin and Members of the New York City Council:

I am writing on behalf of the Center for Constitutional Rights to **urge you to oppose security perimeter bills Int. 001-B (Menin) and Int. 175-B (Dinowitz)**, because policing must not be the primary policy response to constitutionally-protected First Amendment activities. New York City should be creating policies that protect our communities instead of policies that increase police presence at protests and demonstrations.

The Center for Constitutional Rights is a national, not-for-profit legal, educational, and advocacy organization based in New York City that is dedicated to protecting and advancing rights guaranteed by the United States Constitution and international law. Since 1966, we have taken on oppressive systems of power, including structural racism, gender oppression, economic inequity, and governmental overreach.

We challenge discriminatory policing recognizing that discrimination and police violence do not arise as isolated incidents but are deeply embedded within our criminal legal system. In 2008, the Center for Constitutional Rights filed the landmark federal class action lawsuit [Floyd, et al. v. City of New York, et al.](#) against the City of New York to challenge the New York Police Department's practices of racial profiling and unconstitutional stop and frisks of New York City residents. In a historic ruling in 2013, following a nine-week trial, a federal judge found the New York City Police Department liable for a pattern and practice of racial profiling and unconstitutional stops.

We also challenge repression against Palestine solidarity activists and partner with Palestine Legal to [document and expose](#) efforts to silence advocates for Palestinian human rights. Most recently, the Center for Constitutional Rights represents [Mahmoud Khalil](#) who was illegally arrested and detained by the Trump administration for his advocacy in support of Palestinian rights and targeted based solely on dissenting speech.

Since October 2023, there has been an upsurge in attempts to crack down on advocacy for Palestine in the United States, including demands to [weaponize terrorism laws](#) against student activists. It is shameful that these security perimeter bills arise directly in this context where anti-Palestinian racism has resulted in constitutionally protected First Amendment activity in support of Palestinian human rights being treated as a security concern. These efforts are a dangerous attack on constitutionally protected speech and association for all New Yorkers.

JUSTICE TAKES A FIGHT.

We know these security perimeter policies will undoubtedly result in the chilling and criminalization of First Amendment protected protest, ensure over-policing of communities of color, Muslims, LGBTQIA+ people, and immigrant communities, and perpetuate constitutional violations against individuals with a disfavored viewpoint.

We strongly oppose the New York City Council's security perimeter bills, Int. 001-B (Menin) and Int. 175-B (Dinowitz), and urge you to publicly affirm the constitutional rights of Palestine advocates and reject malicious efforts to undermine them.

If you have any questions, you can contact the Center for Constitutional Rights at policy@ccrjustice.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Parker", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brad Parker
Associate Director of Policy
Center for Constitutional Rights
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