



New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Public Advocate to Hold Press Conference in Response to the Recent College Sexual Assault Investigations

[New York] On Monday May 12, 2014, the NYC Public Advocate will hold a press conference in response to the recent news that 55 colleges and universities nationwide are under investigations for the mishandling of sexual assault cases. The event will take place on the steps of City Hall at 10 am. The New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault (the Alliance) will join elected officials and advocates in support of addressing this important issue.

The Public Advocate, Hon. Letitia James, will call for the following changes:

- Calling on the NYPD to establish a department liaison to college/ university campuses located within the City to improve response and training on programs to combat sexual assault.
- Requiring all colleges and universities to report to the NYPD liaison on a monthly basis the number and nature of sexual assaults that occur on college campuses
- Requiring all colleges and universities to work with a local rape crisis center to ensure that victims are provided with appropriate and up-to-date care and resources on a continuing basis.

The Department of Education recently published a full list of colleges under federal investigation for their handling of sexual assaults. Mary Haviland, Executive Director of the Alliance states “Between 20 and 25% of women on college campuses have been raped or sexually assaulted over the course of their time on campus. This is a profoundly disturbing statistic. I am heartened to see more attention and resources go to this issue. I applaud the Public Advocate for taking this issue seriously and calling for concrete improvements in assistance for students who suffer sexual violence. ”

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The mission of the New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault is to prevent sexual violence and reduce the harm it causes through education, research and advocacy.