



*THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
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****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

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COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN CALLS FOR LENIENCY FOR PETER LIANG

CITY HALL – Council Member Margaret Chin (D-Lower Manhattan) released the following statement regarding the sentencing of Peter Liang, who was convicted last week by a Brooklyn jury on the top charge of Manslaughter in the 2nd Degree in the tragic death of Akai Gurley in November 2014:

“Today, I have asked my Council colleagues to join me to ask for leniency in the case involving Peter Liang. As a mother, my heart goes out to Peter Liang and his family, who are facing the possibility of Peter going to prison for up to 15 years. There are two main factors that I am asking Judge Chun to consider when he gives out his sentence. First, I believe that the NYPD’s policy and training utterly failed Akai Gurley, as well as Peter Liang and his partner, on the tragic night of Nov. 20, 2014. Two rookie police officers should never have been placed on a vertical patrol in an unfamiliar, darkened stairwell. Second, and just as important, is the culture of neglect that darkened that stairwell, and many others just like it in public housing projects across our City. Lack of funding and decades of indifference have turned hundreds of stairwells, elevators, and courtyards into danger zones that inspire fear – and often, terror – in both officers and the residents they are sworn to protect. What happened on Nov. 20 was a tragedy for both families. I ask that Judge Chun give the many factors that made that tragedy happen due consideration in the sentencing of Peter Liang.”

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