



**ADVANCING OUR**  
**COMMUNITY**

**Chinese-American Planning Council, Inc.  
MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF S1991/A4331**

**SPONSOR:** Senator Robert Jackson & Assemblymember Pamela Hunter

**TITLE OF BILL:** An act to amend the civil rights law, in relation to providing a civil action for deprivation of rights

**STATEMENT OF SUPPORT:**

The mission of the Chinese-American Planning Council, Inc. (CPC) is to promote social and economic empowerment of Chinese American, immigrant, and low-income communities. CPC is the largest Asian American social service organization in the U.S., providing vital resources to more than 60,000 people per year in all five boroughs, through more than 50 programs at over 30 sites across Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Queens. With the firm belief that social service can incite social change, CPC strives to empower our constituents as agents of social justice, with the overarching goal of advancing and transforming communities.

On behalf of CPC, we strongly support the Qualified Immunity Act (S1991/A4331) that would end the defense of qualified immunity for law enforcement officials in cases where they deprive the rights of New Yorkers and allow for civil action to be taken by the injured individuals and/or Attorney General. Our Black and Brown New Yorkers have been disproportionately targeted and murdered at the hands of law enforcement for decades. Victims and families of victims of police brutality have been unable to receive the justice and relief that they deserve because our court system has protected officers from liability. We must continue to remember that where there is power, there is always an abuse of power. Police departments are not exempt from this notion and in fact, we have seen the vicious cycle of misconduct and abuse because of protections offered like qualified immunity.

We must pass the Qualified Immunity Act to not only empower our marginalized communities to report incidents of police brutality and hold those accountable but to end a cycle of police violence. In March of 2021, the City Council passed a landmark qualified immunity reform bill that would apply on the city-level in making sure that the NYPD is held accountable for their actions and to make sure that our Fourth Amendment rights are fully protected. This measure must be passed on the State level to ensure the same protections to every single New Yorker in the state.

We urge the State legislature to immediately pass S1991/A4331 that would end the immunity blanket for law enforcement.