

Al-Hassan Kanu, Candidate for New York City Council District 27, Announces Police Reform Policies

Al-Hassan Kanu will seek to implement policies that allows for true community policing, holds bad cops accountable, and better training for officers so they understand how to work in the communities they serve

Continuing a string of policy announcements for communities in Southeast Queens, Al-Hassan Kanu, community advocate and candidate for the 27th Councilmatic District, outlined his plans to improve safety once elected to the City Council.

“People of color should not be afraid every time they see a police officer – period” said **Al-Hassan Kanu**. “The policies I have outlined today would improve community-police relations, changes the law so that it is clear when people’s rights are being violated, and takes steps to change the culture of the NYPD so those working in the department understand they are not just a department for safety, but justice as well.”

Policies Al-Hassan Kanu announced are:

- To create a less combative culture within the NYPD Al will call for certain titles within the Department to be civilian ones, who will be hired to replace police officers performing non-police functions.
- Al will also support policies that increase people of color being recruited into the NYPD by announcing when employment opportunities are available and hosting informational seminars within his office, and in partnership with faith-based and community organizations.
- Work with his colleagues in government to pass state legislation that would make the Police Commissioner an elected position instead of appointed, which will give residents a more powerful voice in how the Department is run.
- Al will call for police cadets to be required to do an internship as part of their training at a non-profit, or another local organization, in the community where they will be serving. This will help build relationships in the area before they become officers.
- Introduce legislation that would create Civilian Review Panels so community boards would be able to vote on who becomes a commander in their police precincts.
- Legislation will also be introduced to strengthen the way the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) functions, so it can become fully empowered as an independent NYPD monitor with the ability to subpoena and prosecute police officers as they deem necessary. These policies can be covered and protected by mandating the CCRB budget be statutorily proportionate to the NYPD budget, as it is with the Independent Budget Office and Office of Management and Budget.

- Work with his colleagues in government to pass legislation to revise the existing racial profile ban so it conforms with the original 2001 version, which includes training and reporting requirements so the City Council and public can hold the NYPD accountable. In 2004, Mayor Michael Bloomberg signed legislation that watered down the definition of what racial profiling is, at the same time it was reported that the Muslim community was being secretly investigated by the NYPD in their efforts to fight domestic terrorism.

These announcements come on the heels of Mayor Bill de Blasio announcing that he restored funding to create the 116th Police Precinct, which will include a dedicated community space.

“The new precinct coming to Eastern Queens will not only help keep our communities safe but become a beacon and pilot for a new public safety strategy that will not only build trust between the officers in the precinct and the residents they serve, but allow for full implementation of new violence reduction and crisis management systems. The policies I propose today will build on this progress,” **Al-Hassan Kanu** continued.

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