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## **Civil Rights Advocates Sue Buffalo Police Department for Information about Checkpoints**

**BUFFALO, NY** – In response to community complaints of discriminatory policing, the **Western New York Law Center (WNYLC)** and the **National Center for Law and Economic Justice (NCLEJ)** have been actively investigating the Buffalo Police Department’s use of alleged traffic safety checkpoints. These checkpoints, located predominantly in low-income communities of color, raise serious concerns, as documented in a [civil rights complaint filed with the New York Attorney General on behalf of Black Lives Matter-Buffalo by Anjana Malhotra](#). Today, WNYLC and NCLEJ sued the Buffalo Police Department (BPD) to force it to turn over information about its checkpoint program.

Months ago, NCLEJ submitted a Freedom of Information Request to the BPD, seeking records, reports, and data regarding BPD’s operation of vehicle checkpoints in Buffalo. Despite numerous requests, BPD failed to produce any records or respond in any meaningful way.

“For too long, BPD has been shielding its checkpoints program from public scrutiny,” said **Claudia Wilner, Senior Attorney at NCLEJ**. “BPD must search its records and provide responsive documents as soon as possible.”

“These checkpoints are directly harming Buffalo’s low-income communities of color,” said **Keisha Williams, Attorney at Western New York Law Center**. “How many people have lost their licenses because they couldn’t afford to pay the tickets issued at these checkpoints?”

“The release of this data is critical for transparency and public accountability,” added **Anjana Malhotra**, author of the two-year study by Cornell and SUNY Buffalo Law Schools submitted to the Attorney General, who also works with WNYLC and NCLEJ on the investigation.

As part of the investigation, NCLEJ has established a telephone number that people can call to share their personal experiences with BPD checkpoints. That number is 646-680-8906. “We encourage people to share their checkpoint stories with us,” added Wilner. “All calls are confidential. The more we know about these checkpoints, the more we can work together to stop them.”

The lawsuit, brought in Erie County Supreme Court, raises claims under New York’s Freedom of Information Law.

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