

Dismantling Vice in NYC:

a human rights cause even police can get behind

Why should we dismantle vice?

- It is inherently corrupt, its work is profoundly racist, and it costs a lot of money that could be used for human services that actually support communities
- **Corruption:**
 - Police in vice receive monetary incentives, in the form of overtime pay, to arrest people.
 - One particular officer is notorious for “cases...replete with allegations of false arrest and sexual misconduct that were never aired in court.”
 - In arresting people for non-trafficking-related sex work, vice police violate fundamental human rights of people engaged in a consensual transaction.
 - Vice arrests set in motion both the deaths of Song Yang in 2018 and Layleen Polanco in 2019
- **Racism:**
 - To quote a recent ProPublica article, “of dozens of cops, lawyers, and other experts interviewed...not a single one believes arrest figures for patronizing a prostitute accurately reflect the racial makeup of those who buy sex in New York City.”
 - The same piece found “that in majority Black and Latino areas, police have arrested over three times as many alleged sex buyers as in whiter neighborhoods despite comparable complaints about prostitution and arrests of alleged sex workers in each.”
- **We should spend over \$18m on human rights needs**
 - According to information from NYC Open Data, the [NYPD Vice Enforcement Division costs the City \\$18.2 million](#),¹ exclusive of the overtime that pushes officers to arrest so many vulnerable people.
 - Funding Vice is not an effective means to protect the human rights of sex workers or other community members. Instead, we urge that Vice funding be reallocated to fund human services that can actually support and improve the lives of sex workers and low-income communities.

*“When people are screaming, ‘Defund the police,’ I got no problems with that because they are wasting f**king money,” said Sgt. Steven Lee, who briefly worked as an interpreter during prostitution arrests....”*
-from Kaplan and Sapien, “NYPD Cops Cash In on Sex Trade Arrests With Little Evidence, While Black and Brown New Yorkers Pay the Price,” ProPublica, December 7, 2020.

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¹ See <https://bit.ly/3j3m4YV> (current as of January 27, 2020)