



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
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STATEMENT FROM MAYOR BILL DE BLASIO AND FIRST LADY CHIRLANE MCCRAY

“News of the three infants' deaths at the hands of their mothers is heartbreaking and seemingly inexplicable. Yet these incidents show us, once again, the consequences of mental illness if left untreated. That's why we've committed more than \$350 million in additional mental health funding over the next three years. We've expanded mental health services to hundreds of families in Brooklyn and Queens, created the first system to identify and support those who have a history of violence or who might be at risk of violence, and expanded mental health support in our homeless shelters and for victims of domestic violence. Next year we'll start training community organizations to help them better spot signs of mental illness.

But these increased services won't be enough unless all New Yorkers come together to change the way we, as a city, think about mental health. Because we can't help someone we don't know about. The NYPD reports the mothers had no public record or criminal history of erratic behavior that would have signaled such desperate acts. When someone is physically injured we call 911. We must learn to pick up the phone and seek help for a neighbor or relative struggling with depression or any other mental disorder. We may not be able to eliminate tragedy, but we can do our best to avoid such senseless loss of life.

The mental health roadmap we will unveil later this fall will propose an array of solutions to ensure that mental illness is addressed as the public health issue it is, and New Yorkers have more tools and better understand what to do when the next mother in distress needs our help.”

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