

# Release of cop disciplinary records blocked

A federal judge has halted the public release of police officer disciplinary records in New York, temporarily turning back a state transparency reform enacted in the wake of the police killing of George Floyd.

Judge Katherine Polk Failla granted a temporary restraining order late Wednesday barring police departments and other entities in the state from disclosing discipline records until at least

Aug. 18, when she'll hear arguments in a union lawsuit challenging their release.

Failla took over the case when it was transferred from state court, extending and expanding an existing stay that paused public disclosure of records concerning unsubstantiated and nonfinalized allegations or settlement agreements.

The Police Benevolent Association, representing New York

City police officers and other public safety unions, sued the city on July 15 to block Mayor Bill de Blasio from making good on a promise to post a database of misconduct complaints online. The unions argued that posting unproven or false complaints could sully officers' reputations and compromise their safety.

"The battle to protect the safety and due process right of

public safety officers and police goes forward," said Hank Sheinkopf, a spokesperson for the union coalition.

A lawyer for the city's police watchdog agency, the Civilian Complaint Review Board, said the ruling is blocking the agency from "making the public aware of complaints against the people who are supposed to be protecting them."

In issuing the temporary re-

straining order, Failla also barred the New York chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union from publicly releasing records it had already obtained in the wake of last month's repeal of the law keeping them secret.

— AP

**Coalition calls for  
civilian police  
review boards**

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