



7th January 2010

BERMUDA DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE

NYPD – Are they coming or not? Statement by Michael M. Fahy JP

Press Release

"There appears to be a terrible amount of confusion regarding whether or not the NYPD's gang unit is coming to Bermuda. Senator Burch's comments implied that assistance from the NYPD was to be in the form of officers on the ground undertaking forensics work, and the PLP website said on 5th January 2010 that "experts from the New York Police Department (NYPD) Gang Unit will soon be on island providing assistance". It would now seem, based on the comments from the NYPD, that there was no offer made or agreed to send NYPD personnel to Bermuda. In the midst of a serious criminal crisis it is important to get the facts straight. Was an offer made by the NYPD or Mayor Bloomberg or not? Is the NYPD coming or not? If they don't come will the Bermuda Police have the resources or was the NYPD a central plank relating to the gathering of forensic evidence? The people of Bermuda need answers and leadership, not spin. This kind of confusion simply plays into the hands of the gangsters."

"Given the circumstances we find ourselves in, it is certainly a shame that the Government felt it was prudent to cut the Police budget last year by approximately 10%. Let's remember that the Government said themselves in their Throne Speech in 2008 that "Bermuda has recently experienced a period of lawlessness never witnessed before" and "In order to maintain current operational levels of policing – short term outside assistance is being contemplated in consultation with Government House." Well, the pigeons are coming home to roost in respect of the budget cut. The Alliance certainly will be watching closely come budget day at the resources made available to the Police. The Alliance believes the resources must be increased to previous levels at the very least to ensure adequate operational coverage and avoid a repeat of the Commissioner of Police going cap in hand to the Cabinet in a time of national crisis."
