



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

James Sanders Jr.

## Sanders Hosts Stop Violence Meeting in Wake of Civilian and Police Shootings

JAMES SANDERS JR. July 9, 2016




Senator James Sanders Jr. (D-Rochdale Village) hosted a community meeting on Saturday evening in Jamaica to discuss the recent civilian shootings by police which took place in Minnesota and Louisiana as well as the assassination of five police officers in Dallas, whom were allegedly targeted in retaliation. The event was aimed at bringing the community together, allowing residents to vent their frustrations and giving attendees the opportunity to propose changes that they would like to see implemented.

“All across the country, people are having these conversations,” Sanders said. “There are no easy solutions. Unity is process. It’s not something that can be turned on and off like a light switch. I have committed myself to this long struggle.”

Sanders also said that violent incidents between the police and communities of color are not new, but the cameras are new, alluding to the fact that the killings of Philando Castile and Alton Sterling were both captured on video. The same is also true of other recent incidents including the deaths of Eric Garner and Walter Scott.

While Sanders condemned the killings of the police officers in Dallas, he said he was not shocked by what had taken place.

“If you take a pot, fill it with water, put it on the stove, turn the heat on, put a lid on that pot and don’t do anything about it, that pot will explode,” Sanders explained. “It’s science, it’s not craziness. That type of shooting does not aid our struggle, however I don’t understand why anyone would be surprised by it. We cannot ask these youth to be humiliated and expect them not to do anything. They may do the wrong thing, but they are going to do something. It falls upon us as leaders to show them a better way.”

Sanders called for the police to clean up their ranks and out those among them who are racist.

