

# NYPD EXECUTIVE BRIEFING MEMO

**To:** Commissioner Jessica S. Tisch, First Deputy Commissioner, Chiefs, Borough Commanders, Transit Bureau Leadership, Community Affairs Bureau  
**From:** Street Chaplains of New York City (SCNYC) — Founding Office  
**Subject:** Operational Overview & Partnership Pathways for Civilian Street Chaplains in NYC

## 1. Purpose

This memo outlines the proposed structure, scope, and operational integration plan for **Street Chaplains of New York City (SCNYC)** — a non-enforcement, interfaith civilian program designed to complement NYPD quality-of-life efforts and align with the incoming **Department of Community Safety (DCS)**.

SCNYC chaplains provide early-stage emotional de-escalation, grounding presence, and non-clinical support in public spaces, freeing officers to focus on crime suppression, serious offenses, and higher-risk response.

This briefing is intended to support high-level decision-making regarding NYPD partnership, pilot zone coordination, and potential procedural interfaces.

## 2. Rationale for NYPD Partnership: Quick Table View

NYPD Core Priorities	SCNYC Contributions
Maintain low crime & visible safety	Chaplains reduce emotional volatility in public settings, preventing small incidents from escalating to criminality.
Improve quality of life citywide	Public presence + relational care improves how New Yorkers <i>feel</i> on streets and subways.
Support NYPD officers	Chaplains absorb non-criminal emotional labor and offer on-scene or post-scene spiritual care when requested.
Address disorder without unnecessary enforcement	Civilian chaplains offer a low-heat alternative response where enforcement is not yet required.

SCNYC is designed to work **with**, not against, enforcement. Chaplains have strict non-interference boundaries, always coordinate when escalation requires law enforcement, and never attempt to direct or obstruct police activity.

## 3. Pilot Deployment Model

Two-zone launch, scalable after evaluation:

**Zone A — One borough neighborhood (approx. one square mile)**  
**Zone B — One Manhattan transit “bridge zone”**

- Each zone includes:
- 2 part-time professional chaplains

- 2–4 CPE interns
- 2–4 CPE-trained volunteer clergy
- 1 storefront drop-in office (public-facing front, private documentation rear room)

Hours: 20/week max for professionals; interns add coverage.

## 4. When SCNYC Supports NYPD

### SCNYC engages when:

- A person appears emotionally overwhelmed, confused, distressed, or disoriented.
- A situation is tense but not violent or criminal.
- A bystander or commuter expresses fear, agitation, grief, or helplessness.
- Officers request quiet civilian presence to calm individuals or crowds.
- A scene concludes, and bystanders or victims need grounding, listening, or prayer upon request.

### SCNYC steps back and defers immediately when:

- Violence or threats are present.
- Weapons are suspected.
- A person is actively committing a crime.
- NYPD scene control takes precedence.

In such cases, chaplains withdraw and notify police or EMS.

## 5. Results Expected

- Fewer unnecessary 911 interactions
- Reduced emotional escalation in subways and public areas
- Increased trust between residents and NYPD
- Improved experience for commuters and business districts
- More officer time for critical enforcement rather than emotional triage
- Support for traumatized officers or civilians after difficult calls

Over time, data can indicate where civilian presence measurably reduces disorder and improves environmental calm.

## 6. Next steps

### SCNYC requests:

1. Identification of two pilot zones with NYPD input.
2. Introductory alignment meeting with Community Affairs + Patrol Borough leadership.
3. Approval to draft communications protocol for escalations + hand-offs.
4. Co-briefing with Department of Community Safety transition staff.

The program is ready to implement with a 6-month rollout.