

## Street Chaplains of NYC + NYPD — How We Can Work Together

**Street chaplains are** civilian, interfaith, non-enforcement personnel trained in:

- Trauma-informed communication
- De-escalation through presence and grounding
- Interfaith spiritual care (*on request only*)
- Boundary discipline + safety awareness
- Brief documentation (not public-facing)

### What Chaplains Do and Don't Do

Chaplains Do	Chaplains Do Not
Calm distress & confusion	Enforce laws or restrain
Engage early before escalation	Diagnose or treat clinically
Offer grounding & conversation	Proselytize or preach
Support commuters & bystanders	Interfere with police action
Refer to services when needed	Argue with officers on scene

### When Officers May Find Us Useful

- Someone is upset, disoriented, confused, lonely, or afraid
- A situation is tense but not criminal
- Crowd needs reassurance or grounding
- A person is recently discharged from hospital, intoxicated but cooperative, or struggling emotionally
- After difficult scenes (if officer requests presence or support)

### When SCNYC Steps Back Immediately

- Violence or threats emerge
- Weapons suspected
- Crime underway
- Scene command is active
- NYPD requests clearance

### Why This Helps NYPD

- Reduces preventable 911 calls
- Offloads non-criminal emotional labor
- Reduces escalation in public spaces
- Builds community trust in NYPD presence
- Supports quality-of-life goals citywide