

Activists call on city to reactivate task force on mental health and policing on anniversary of fatal shooting

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Activists are calling for change one year after the fatal police shooting of an emotionally disturbed Bronx woman.

The mental health advocates say improvements need to be made in the way emergency responders deal with emotionally disturbed persons. Three more incidents since then have resulted in fatalities. They are calling for the Mayor's Task Force on Behavioral Health and Criminal justice to reconvene, and for police to explore new ways for officers to respond to EDP calls.

“We need a task force of experts,” said lawyer Sandford Rubenstein, who is representing Danner’s family. “There was one already created that is not active. It must be activated because the NYPD on its own is not solving this problem. How many more people have to be killed in this city, emotionally disturbed people, before there is a proper response by government in terms of how to deal with the issue?”

At least one local official agrees.

“That is call for the re-institution of this behavioral task force, as well as the continued conversations around this issue,” said Bronx City Councilwoman Vanessa Gibson.

66-year old Deborah Danner was fatally shot by a police officer while having a mental health crisis October 18, 2016.

