Every year police officers detain hundreds of thousands of people in the city, mostly young Black and Latino males, the vast majority of whom are completely innocent of any crime.

On Labor Day (Sept. 5), City Councilmember Jumaane Williams was grabbed by police, handcuffed – then released without charges. “If you have more melanin in your skin, you’re more likely to be stopped,” he said after the incident.

Panelists:

Jumaane Williams, City Councilmember, who holds bachelor’s (‘01) and master’s (‘05) degrees from Brooklyn College, where he was president of the graduate student body.

Nahal Zamani, Advocacy Associate for the Center Constitutional Rights. The CCR is aggressively challenging the legality of the city’s stop and frisk policy.

Eric Adams, State Senator, who is also a retired city police captain and co-founder of 100 Blacks in Law Enforcement Who Care.

Dan Halloran, City Councilmember, who is a member of the Council Committee on Public Safety, which oversees the police. He is a former police officer and an attorney.

Harry G. Levine, Queens College Sociology Professor, whose work on race-biased marijuana arrests has been cited in magazines and newspapers over the past two years.

Moderator:

Ron Howell, Brooklyn College Journalism Professor.

Journalist questioners:

Leslie Anselme, Editor-in-Chief of Excelsior; Yelena Mandenberg, Editor-in-Chief of The Kingsman.