



THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
BRONX COUNTY

DARCEL D. CLARK

April 1, 2026

Shou Zi Chew  
Chief Executive Officer  
TikTok

Neal Mohan  
Chief Executive Officer  
YouTube

Evan Spiegel  
Chief Executive Officer  
Snapchat

Adam Mosseri  
Chief Executive Officer  
Instagram

Dear TikTok, Snapchat, Instagram, and YouTube:

As the District Attorney of Bronx, New York, I have an urgent request. Last month, during the President's Day school recess, as many as 300 teenagers were summoned on social media platforms to a "takeover" of the Mall at Bay Plaza, a major shopping center in the Bronx. The massive group of minors spread the word to meet, riot, and share the recordings of their actions through social media platforms. In the end, the violent takeover resulted in dozens of arrests and significant property damage to businesses. These takeovers are a growing national trend, from Florida to Virginia to Chicago and Washington DC, with videos posted of incidents that turned violent.

Social media platforms have tremendous influence over how young people communicate, coordinate, and share content. While these platforms provide valuable ways to connect, they also can be misused to incite violence, encourage illegal activity, or put communities at risk. In this case, content posted online directly facilitated the organization of a large-scale, unsafe event that endangered youth, employees, and members of the public. Indeed, it happened in light of a civil case which found that Meta, which owns Instagram, Facebook and WhatsApp; and Google, owner of YouTube, built addictive social media platforms that harmed a woman's mental health.

In anticipation of the upcoming spring break (April 2 through April 10), I and my fellow elected officials and business leaders urge your companies to take proactive measures to prevent the spread of content that encourages takeovers, riots, or other unsafe gatherings. Specifically, we ask that your platforms:

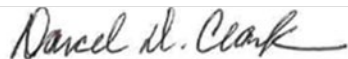
1. Monitor and remove posts that actively encourage or organize mall takeovers or similar gatherings.
2. Work with local law enforcement and community organizations to identify trends in youth-driven events that pose public safety risks.
3. Educate users, especially minors, on the legal consequences and safety risks of organizing or participating in mass takeovers.

These actions are essential to protecting the well-being of young people, the safety of community members, and the integrity of local businesses. Allowing posts that facilitate large-scale, unlawful gatherings undermines the very communities your platforms serve and can lead to serious harm, as demonstrated by the recent Bay Plaza Mall incident. In the days that followed, additional takeovers were planned and circulated online, raising significant concern among community members and law enforcement. Fortunately, those events did not ultimately materialize, but the risk remains real and imminent.

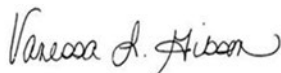
Please act now to prevent another unsafe takeover. Social media has the power to inform, connect, and inspire—but it also carries the responsibility to ensure your platforms are not used to endanger youth or the public.

We request a meeting with your representatives at your earliest convenience to discuss this issue further and plan future collaboration. Thank you for your attention and prompt action on this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Darcel D. Clark  
Bronx District Attorney



Vanessa Gibson  
Bronx Borough President



Jamaal T. Bailey  
NYS Senator



Michael Benedetto  
NYS Assembly Member



Kevin Riley  
NYC Council Member



Althea Stevens  
NYC Council Member



Eric Shalem  
VP Prestige Properties  
and Development Co. Inc.  
Mall at Bay Plaza