



THE POLICE COMMISSIONER
CITY OF NEW YORK

April 8, 2015

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the New York City Police Department, I would like to congratulate you on the 24th Bangla Festival and Book Fair. This event reflects a commitment to diversity that I have tried hard to foster in the New York City Police Department.

As a reader and a writer, I know well the importance of books. When I was a young boy, I picked up a copy of George Zaffo's picture book "Your Police" at the Boston Library. It changed the course of my life. Books can shape minds. They can help us imagine the future, or recall the past. They can contain worlds. There is no better medium for promoting all the diversity of a multi-cultural city, in business, education, and the arts.

Or, for that matter, in the police department. The NYPD has members from countries around the world. They speak dozens of languages and represent cultures and traditions from every continent. This wealth of diversity is a true asset to the city and allows us to serve all communities fairly and efficiently, and our Bengali members are an important part of that.

This is why events like the Bangla Festival are so valuable. By promoting a strong sense of Bengali heritage here in New York City, the festival and the Muktadhara Foundation help Bengali immigrants make new homes here, while remembering their other home across the sea.

Please allow me to commend you on your work, and offer you wishes for continued success.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William J. Bratton". The signature is stylized and fluid, with a large loop at the end.

William J. Bratton
Police Commissioner