

Justice in Every Borough.

February 2, 2023

Contact:

**Redmond Haskins** Director of Media Relations The Legal Aid Society rhaskins@legal-aid.org (929) 441-2384

## \*\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\*\*

## City Data: Payouts on NYPD Misconduct Lawsuits for 2022 Balloon to Over \$121 Million, Highest in at Least Five Years

(NEW YORK, NY) – The Legal Aid Society released an analysis of data revealing that the City paid out over \$121 million in lawsuits alleging police misconduct for 2022, the highest payout in at least five years, and almost \$34 million more than 2021.

Total payouts for police misconduct are likely to be substantially higher because these data do not account for matters that were settled with the New York City Comptroller's office prior to formal litigation.

| Period             | <b>Total Lawsuits Disposed</b> | Payout        |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Calendar Year 2018 | 1579                           | \$76,492,742  |
| Calendar Year 2019 | 1282                           | \$71,918,243  |
| Calendar Year 2020 | 932                            | \$62,111,492  |
| Calendar Year 2021 | 753                            | \$87,558,227  |
| Calendar Year 2022 | 939                            | \$121,376,712 |

One of the most notable payouts in 2022 was a \$135,000 settlement involving NYPD officers Adonis Long and Shimul Saha. Body worn camera footage secured and released by Legal Aid showed the officers punching and pepper spraying a homeless man in the face and dragging him from a subway car. According to the lawsuit, the officers then made false claims to have the man charged with felony assault.

Both Long and Saha remain employed with the NYPD. A complaint is pending against Long for the incident described in the lawsuit, but former Police Commissioner Dermot Shea said that the NYPD would not impose discipline.

Before attacking the plaintiff in this case, <u>Long had five previous civilian complaints against him</u>, a total of nine allegations, including an allegation of excessive force from eight months before. The CCRB substantiated the allegation and recommended discipline, but the NYPD declined to impose any penalty.

"Rampant NYPD misconduct continues to cost New Yorkers tens of millions of dollars each year, and Commissioner Keechant Sewell's entrenched resistance to meaningful accountability means many of the officers involved in these lawsuits likely received a mere slap on the wrist, if any discipline at all," said **Maggie Hadley, legal fellow with the Criminal Defense Practice's Special Litigation Unit at The Legal Aid Society**. "Officers who commit egregious or persistent acts of misconduct should not wear a badge or carry a gun, and the Department's continued refusal to hold problematic officers accountable only perpetuates the culture of impunity that thrives at precincts throughout New York City."

###

The Legal Aid Society exists for one simple yet powerful reason: to ensure that New Yorkers are not denied their right to equal justice because of poverty. For over 145 years, we have protected, defended, and advocated for those who have struggled in silence for far too long. Every day, in every borough, The Legal Aid Society changes the lives of our clients and helps improve our communities. www.legalaidnyc.org