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City Data: 2023 Payouts on NYPD Misconduct Lawsuits Already Total Over \$50 Million

At this Rate, Payouts Could Balloon to Roughly \$100 Million and Surpass Total Payouts for Calendar Years 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021

(NEW YORK, NY) – The Legal Aid Society released an analysis of [data](#) revealing that the City paid out [\\$50,523,914 million in lawsuits](#) alleging police misconduct from January 1, 2023, to July 28, 2023. At this rate, payouts for the entirety of 2023 could balloon to roughly \$100 million, and surpass payout amounts for calendar years 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021.

Median payouts in 2023 have already exceeded that of calendar years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022.

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.

Disposal Year	#Lawsuits disposed	Total payout \$	Mean payout \$	Median payout \$
2018	1579	\$76,492,742	\$48,444	\$10,500
2019	1283	\$71,918,243	\$56,055	\$17,500
2020	932	\$62,111,492	\$66,643	\$20,000
2021	756	\$87,558,227	\$115,818	\$20,000
2022	969	\$135,361,214	\$139,692	\$22,500
1/1/2023 - 7/28/2023	461	\$50,523,914	\$109,596	\$25,000

One of the most notable lawsuits settled for \$415,002. Two New York lawmakers who attended a racial justice protest in May 2020 [alleged](#) that officers kettled them, repeatedly rammed them with bicycles, and pepper sprayed them. [Photos of the incident](#) show that officers then arrested and detained one of the officials, while pepper spray continued to stream down his face.

Another lawsuit challenging protest-related police abuse settled for \$349,012. A group of legal observers — trained volunteers who observe and monitor protests for civil rights violations — say that officers violently arrested them at a June 2020 protest.

Though [video footage](#) showed that Sgt. Kenneth Rice ordered officers to target the legal observers, but [the Department declined to discipline him](#).

While many 2023 settlements concerned police brutality during the 2020 racial justice protests, many others were unrelated to the protests. For instance, the city reached a \$75,000 settlement for allegations that officers Nicholas Gigante, Patrick O'Brien, Christopher Alikhan, and Vincent Tulipano pulled a man from his car and punched and kicked him repeatedly before arresting him without cause. According to the [complaint](#), the man later lost consciousness when Officer Gigante and others smashed him against a wall.

Most of the officers named in this lawsuit already had a history of misconduct allegations. An earlier lawsuit, which settled for \$20,000, [accused](#) Officers Alikhan and Gigante of together falsely arresting and assaulting another civilian. Officers Alikhan and Tulipano were also previously disciplined by the department for other incidents.

“In only seven months, the City has shelled out over \$50 million to compensate New Yorkers who were brutalized by the NYPD, wrongfully arrested and detained, and more,” said **Jennvine Wong, staff attorney with the Cop Accountability Project at The Legal Aid Society**. “This culture of impunity cannot continue, and we implore recently appointed Commissioner Edward Caban to prove to New Yorkers that NYPD will finally take the steps needed to truly hold officers accountable who infringe on the rights of our clients. Anything less will only perpetuate this suffering with taxpayers footing the bill.”

To learn more about law enforcement misconduct records, Legal Aid’s [Law Enforcement Lookup \(LELU\)](#) continues to update and add various new records on a continuing basis available to the general public.

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