



December 20, 2023

Contact:

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

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

## ***Legal Aid Urges Mayor Adams to Sign the How Many Stops Act, Bill Package to Increase Transparency Around Rise in NYPD Encounters with New Yorkers***

(NEW YORK, NY) – The Legal Aid Society, in response to the New York City Council passing the [How Many Stops Act](#), called on Mayor Eric Adams to immediately sign this needed legislation into law.

The Act will require the New York City Police Department (NYPD) to record and report data from all executed street stops, investigative encounters, and consent searches. Police officers are already mandated to report certain kinds of stops and fill out stop reports directly on their department issued smartphones. But officers are not required to report so-called low-level encounters, which include approaching and asking New Yorkers about who they are, where they're going, and what they're doing in a particular part of town or asking for consent to search their bags or person.

The limited data available now shows that police stops are at their highest level since 2015, and 89% of reported stops in 2022 were of Black and Hispanic New Yorkers. The Act will improve much needed transparency, a prerequisite for public safety and building community trust.

“The How Many Stops Act is a critical bill package that will close a major loophole in NYPD oversight. Under current law, NYPD officers interrogate and search New Yorkers who are simply going about their business without reporting these encounters,” said **Lindsey Smith, Staff Attorney with the Cop Accountability Project at The Legal Aid Society**. “This legislation will advance transparency around racially disproportionate police encounters, deter unjustified searches and questioning, and hold the NYPD to a higher standard for the benefit of all New Yorkers. We urge Mayor Adams to sign this commonsense bill package into law immediately.”

### **Background:**

[Intro. 586](#) will require the NYPD to report on all levels of police street stops and investigative encounters, including where they happen, demographic information on the person stopped, the reason for the encounter, and whether the encounter leads to any use of force or enforcement action.

[Intro. 538](#) will provide New Yorkers will a full picture of the NYPD's use of consent searches in our communities and shed light on whether or not the NYPD is adhering to Right to Know Act requirements by:

- guaranteeing that the NYPD cannot go back on its promise to report on declined searches by explicitly codifying a requirement for the NYPD to report data on all requests for consent to search, including all requests for consent that are refused and all consent searches that actually take place;
- requiring the NYPD to report on officers' use of consent searches to collect DNA samples from New Yorkers;
- requiring the NYPD to report on its officers' use of interpretation services when seeking consent to search from people with limited English proficiency.

###