



January 19, 2024

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

Legal Aid Condemns Mayor Adam for Vetoing the How Many Stops Act, Critical Legislation to Enhance NYPD Accountability

Attorneys, Advocates Call on City Council to Hold Immediate Override Vote

(NEW YORK, NY) – **The Legal Aid Society** today condemned Mayor Eric Adams for vetoing the [How Many Stops Act](#) and called on the City Council to hold an immediate override vote to codify this needed package of legislation into law.

“Police stops are at their highest level in nearly a decade, with the overwhelming majority of reported stops impacting Black and Latinx New Yorkers,” said **Jennvine Wong, Staff Attorney with the Cop Accountability Project at The Legal Aid Society**. “Current laws allowing NYPD officers to interrogate and search any New Yorker without reporting the encounter have allowed these inequalities to flourish, and City Hall must take action to protect their vulnerable constituents and hold the NYPD to a higher standard of accountability. We are grateful to Speaker Adams for bringing this legislation forward and to the supermajority who voted for its passage. We condemn Mayor Adams’ veto of this critical, common-sense legislation and urge the City Council to hold an immediate override vote to ensure that this Act, which will keep all New Yorkers safer and more informed, becomes law.”

Background:

The How Many Stops Act is a package of two bills that 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.

[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.

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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 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