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Legal Aid Lauds NYC Council for Overriding Mayor Adams' Veto of the How Many Stops Act

Attorneys Threatens Litigation Should Admin Refuse to Implement the New Laws

(NEW YORK, NY) – **The Legal Aid Society** today lauded the New York City Council for overriding Mayor Eric Adams' veto of the [How Many Stops Act](#) (HMSA) and threatened litigation should the Administration refuse to implement the new laws.

“Now codified into law, the How Many Stops Act will bring much needed transparency and accountability over the NYPD by providing New Yorkers a complete picture of all NYPD street stops and investigative encounters,” said **Tina Luongo, Chief Attorney of the Criminal Defense Practice at The Legal Aid Society**. “We laud City Council Speaker Adrienne Adams and Council Members for taking this necessary step to override Mayor Adams' veto. We hope that this finally settles this issue, and that the Administration will fully implement the laws. However, should the Administration refuse to do so, we will consider judicial intervention to ensure that the How Many Stops Act lives up to its full intended promise.”

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