***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

Statement in Response to Reporting that the NYPD Subway Robot Will No Longer Patrol Times Square Subway Station

(NEW YORK, NY) – Shane Ferro, Staff Attorney with the Digital Forensics Unit at The Legal Aid Society, released the following statement in response to reporting that the New York City Police Department (NYPD) subway robot will no longer patrol the Times Square subway station:

“The Adams’ Administration continues to be distracted by false claims of high-tech solutions to age-old issues. The NYPD subway robot is an unnecessary expense and public gimmick that serves no legitimate safety purpose.

“The Public Oversight of Surveillance Technology (POST) Act, enacted law, requires transparency over the NYPD’s proposed use of invasive technologies. The NYPD failed to seek feedback from community members regarding the Times Square autonomous robot, among other new surveillance expenditures, as the law mandates. We will continue to fight to ensure that the NYPD complies with the Act’s basic disclosure and reporting requirements.”

Background
Last June, Legal Aid called on the New York City Department of Investigation, Office of the Inspector General for the NYPD to investigate the Adams Administration’s rollout of these surveillance technologies - including the subway robot, DigiDog and others - that violated the Police Oversight of Surveillance Technology (POST) Act.

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