



Legal Aid & NYCLU Preparing Litigation to Challenge Mayor Adams and the MTA’s Unconstitutional Subway Surveillance Program

The scanners are in violation of New Yorkers’ Fourth Amendment rights

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 26, 2024

MEDIA CONTACT:

Kaye Dyja, 212-607-3360, kdyja@nyclu.org

Audrey Martin, 774-266-5233, amartin@legal-aid.org

NEW YORK CITY, NY – In response to Mayor Eric Adams and the New York City Police Department (NYPD) today deploying invasive, error-prone, and time-consuming scanners in New York City’s subway stations, the Legal Aid Society (LAS) and the New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU) released the following joint statement:

“With this misguided, fraught, and invasive technology now in effect, we are in the process of preparing litigation to protect the constitutional rights of all New Yorkers. New Yorkers did not consent to give up their rights or be NYPD guinea pigs for over-hyped and error-prone surveillance tech. We are prepared to protect the right of all subway riders to be free from NYPD intrusion and harassment.”

The technology is highly ineffective: during 2022, [85% of alarms](#) from scanners installed at Jacobi Medical Center in the Bronx were false positives. [It also has an alarming record of flagging items that are not illegal](#) — such as laptops, for example — making it even more likely that people heading to work will be flagged and subjected to further needless searches by the police for no reason.

The deployment of this unlawful technology also comes at a moment when subway safety is at an all time high: thus far in 2024, [subways have had the lowest daily crime rate in 14 years](#).

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