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

***City Data: Mamdani Administration Maintains Adams-Era Fare Evasion Enforcement, with Arrests and Summonses Remaining High***

***Nearly 94% of Those Arrested Are New Yorkers of Color***

***Continued Fare Evasion Arrests Increase the Risk of ICE Detention and Deportation***

(NEW YORK, NY) — The Legal Aid Society today responded to newly released New York City Police Department (NYPD) [data](#) showing that Mayor Zohran Mamdani has largely maintained the Adams Administration’s failed approach to fare evasion enforcement. During the first quarter of 2026, the NYPD made 3,188 fare evasion arrests, more than in any of the previous three quarters, and issued 26,267 fare evasion summonses, an increase of 6,433 from the previous quarter. The Q1 2026 data also show that fare evasion enforcement continues to disproportionately target New Yorkers of color, who account for 94 percent of fare evasion arrests and nearly 81 percent of fare evasion summonses where race was identified.

The continued criminal enforcement of low-level fare evasion carries consequences far beyond the alleged offense. Every arrest can pull New Yorkers into the criminal legal system, resulting in jail, court appearances, and lasting criminal records. For immigrant New Yorkers, these arrests can also trigger severe immigration consequences — including ICE detention and deportation — making aggressive fare evasion enforcement particularly harmful to vulnerable communities.

The most recent quarterly enforcement data are below and available [here](#).

Quarter	Fare Evasion Arrests	Fare Evasion Summonses
2026 Q1	3,188	26,267
2025 Q4	2,628	19,834
2025 Q3	2,977	23,708
2025 Q2	3,149	29,561
2025 Q1	3,696	26,177

“This data makes clear that Mayor Mamdani is continuing the same aggressive enforcement approach as the Adams Administration over a \$3 subway fare, one that continues to disproportionately target New Yorkers of color,” said **Phil Desgranges, Attorney-in-Charge of Criminal Law Reform at The Legal Aid Society.**

“Arresting and jailing New Yorkers for low-level fare evasion does nothing to improve public safety — it funnels people into the criminal legal system and, for many immigrants, can lead to ICE detention and deportation. City Hall should be ending unnecessary arrests for fare evasion as well as for sleeping on the train and taking up [two seats](#), not doubling down on a failed strategy that imposes potentially catastrophic consequences for minor offenses.”

Last September, The Legal Aid Society and fellow public defenders released a [ten-point plan](#) calling on the City to end broken windows and other quality-of-life policing strategies that unnecessarily funnel New Yorkers into the criminal legal system. The latest data show that, despite those recommendations, the Mamdani administration continues to expose thousands of New Yorkers to arrest and prosecution for low-level offenses, despite campaigning on [reforming the NYPD](#).

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*The Legal Aid Society is a nonprofit law firm that exists for one simple yet powerful reason: to ensure that New Yorkers are not denied their right to equal justice because of poverty. For 150 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 the people we serve and helps improve our communities.*

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