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City Data: Taxpayers Paid \$53.5 Million to Resolve NYPD Misconduct Claims in First Seven Months of 2026, Nearly \$1 Billion Since 2018, as Mayor Mamdani Has Yet to Deliver Meaningful Policing Reform

If Mayor Mamdani Fails to Deliver on His Campaign Promise to Reform the NYPD, Victims of Police Misconduct and Taxpayers Will Continue to Pay the Price

(NEW YORK, NY) — The Legal Aid Society today [released](#) a new [analysis](#) of [City data](#) showing that, seven months into the Mamdani administration, New Yorkers continue to pay millions of dollars to resolve lawsuits alleging misconduct by the New York City Police Department, with \$53.5 million paid between January 1 and July 31, 2026, and nearly \$1 billion paid since 2018, while Mayor Mamdani has yet to deliver the meaningful policing reforms he promised during his campaign. The analysis examines New York City data on lawsuits resolved between January 1 and July 31, 2026. Total payouts for police misconduct are likely to be substantially higher because the data does not account for matters settled with the New York City Comptroller’s Office prior to formal litigation.

Rather than advancing the transformational policing reforms promised on the campaign trail, the Mamdani administration has continued many of the enforcement strategies championed by former Mayor Eric Adams despite pledging to chart a fundamentally different course. Despite campaigning on a promise [not to return to broken windows policing](#), the administration has continued [fare evasion enforcement](#) and other [low-level enforcement practices](#), including the [continued criminalization](#) of people for sleeping or occupying more than one seat in the subway.

The administration has also retained the NYPD’s Strategic Response Group despite the Mayor’s [commitment to disband the unit](#), continued defending the NYPD’s “[gang database](#)” in ongoing litigation, [backed away](#) from his campaign position that the Civilian Complaint Review Board should have the authority to discipline police officers, replaced its proposal for an independent Department of Community Safety with an Office of Community Safety — [falling short](#) of the independent agency envisioned during the campaign — and ultimately removed a proposed increase to the NYPD’s uniformed headcount from its budget following criticism from New Yorkers.

City Hall’s failure to deliver meaningful policing reform comes at a particularly dangerous moment, as the Trump administration’s increased federal immigration enforcement heightens the consequences of police contact for immigrant New Yorkers.

In addition to the reforms outlined above, last September Legal Aid and fellow public defender organizations released a [10-point plan](#) calling for an end to broken windows policing after a series of deaths in NYPD custody

highlighted the deadly consequences of unnecessary low-level arrests. To date, the Mamdani administration has yet to advance any of those recommendations, despite those deaths remaining the subject of an ongoing New York City Department of Investigation [probe](#).

Calendar Year	Total Lawsuits Disposed	Total Calendar Year Payout
2018	1,568	\$76,316,592
2019	1,276	\$71,723,243
2020	928	\$62,103,992
2021	752	\$87,405,727
2022	973	\$135,404,617
2023	812	\$115,852,781
2024	980	\$206,472,257
2025	1,056	\$117,565,058
January - July 2026	493	\$53,461,678
TOTAL	8,838	\$926,305,945

“New Yorkers voted for a fundamentally different approach to public safety, one that promised to move away from the failed policing strategies that have driven over-policing, undermined constitutional rights, and failed to make New Yorkers safer,” said **Phil Desgranges, Attorney-in-Charge of Criminal Law Reform at The Legal Aid Society**. “Seven months into the Mamdani administration, taxpayers continue paying millions to resolve allegations of police misconduct while New Yorkers continue to suffer the consequences of over-policing. Mayor Mamdani still has an opportunity to deliver his commitment to meaningful policing reform, but that requires more than rhetoric. It requires ending the practices that continue to generate harm, erode public trust, and cost taxpayers millions of dollars year after year.”

“The NYPD consistently refuses to meaningfully discipline officers who kill and abuse New Yorkers, perpetuating the violence and sending a clear message that officers can enact grievous harm with impunity,” said **Divad Durant, member of the Justice Committee**. “Take Lt. Howard Roth, who has a record of 48 misconduct allegations and has cost the city over \$400,000 in civil suit payouts so far. Or Lt. Jonathan Rivera, who has been named in 6 lawsuits and was found guilty of excessive force for killing Allan Feliz, but was let off the hook by Commissioner Tisch last year. Or Officer Wayne Isaacs, whose discipline process for killing Delrawn Small has dragged on for over a decade. The list goes on, because these cases are not the exception - they’re the status quo for NYPD. Without critical action from the Mamdani administration, New Yorkers will continue to be harmed by cops and then forced to pay for their impunity with their tax dollars.”

“The deadly and painful cost of police misconduct against New Yorkers must be addressed by this administration urgently, as we seek real community safety for all and meaningful reforms,” said **Yasmine Farhang, Executive Director of the Immigrant Defense Project**. “Too many New Yorkers harmed by failed policing policies also then face the additional harms of ICE policing as a result of their contact with the NYPD. These policies disproportionately harm people of color, funnel immigrants into the mass deportation terror system after even the briefest contact with law enforcement, and deny justice to countless New Yorkers.”

“Too many New Yorkers continue to suffer at the hands of the police,” said **Andrew Case, Supervising Counsel, LatinoJustice PRLDEF**. “And while the new administration has done admirable work on affordability and education, the promises to reign in New York’s police have not been fulfilled. After thirteen years, the NYPD remains under a federal monitorship because it still has not stopped racial profiling. These lawsuits should be a wake-up call to the administration that it is time to take action to reign in the police department and to adequately punish officers who engage in misconduct.”

From Center for Constitutional Rights Staff Attorney Samah Sisay: “It is disappointing that months into the Mamdani administration, the NYPD continues to violate the rights of New Yorkers with impunity, with Black and Latinx New Yorkers being disproportionately impacted. Officers continue to racially profile individuals and engage in unconstitutional stop, question, and frisk, among many other constitutional violations. It is time for Mayor Mamdani to listen to the community members who elected him and ensure that NYPD officers and supervisors are disciplined and, if warranted, fired for engaging in racist and unconstitutional policing practices.”

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