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Legal Aid Responds to Troubling Increase in NYPD Broken Windows Enforcement

Mayor's Management Report Shows NYPD Issued More Than 220,000 Low-Level Summonses in FY26, a 13 Percent Increase from the Previous Fiscal Year

(NEW YORK, NY) — The Legal Aid Society released the following statement in response to the [Mayor's Fiscal Year 2026 Management Report](#), which covers the final six months of the Adams administration and the first six months of the Mamdani administration and shows that the New York City Police Department (NYPD) issued 220,802 low-level summonses — up 13 percent from 196,102 in the previous fiscal year:

“Mayor Mamdani promised New Yorkers a [departure](#) from broken-windows policing, yet these numbers show the City continuing down the same troubling path of aggressive low-level enforcement pursued by the previous administration.

“These encounters are not harmless. The Mayor cannot preach affordability while his police department subjects New Yorkers to enforcement that can mean fines, missed work, and time spent navigating the court system. He cannot have it both ways.

“And at a time of heightened federal immigration enforcement, unnecessary police contact can carry especially serious consequences for immigrant New Yorkers. The stakes become even higher when these encounters escalate into arrest and detention, particularly as New Yorkers continue to [die in or following NYPD custody](#).

“The Mamdani Administration must end this troubling reliance on low-level enforcement and deliver on its promise to move New York City away from broken-windows policing.”

Background

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.

Meanwhile, New York City taxpayers continue to bear the financial cost of alleged NYPD misconduct, with the City paying [\\$53.5 million](#) to resolve 493 lawsuits alleging police misconduct in the first seven months of 2026 alone, and more than \$926 million to resolve 8,838 such lawsuits since 2018.

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, scaled back the proposed Department of Community Safety to an Office of Community Safety — [falling short](#) of the resources and staffing needed to build the mental health crisis-response system 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](#).

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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 our clients and helps improve our communities.

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