



Department of Investigation

Calendar Year **2025**



\$5.07M

in savings for the City recovered as a result of DOI's Asylum Seeker Monitorship



174

arrests



\$6M+

in total financial recoveries collected for the city



1,402

active caseload of investigations

2025 Investigative Highlights:

- Strengthening Safety of Young People Under City Care
- Combatting Crimes that Undermine Essential Needs: Housing and Wages
- Tackling Criminal Conduct and Contraband Smuggling in the City's jails
- Protecting Public Funds
- Conducting Complex Investigations

In CY 2025, DOI:



Issued

14 Public Reports

Complaints:

12,979

complaints in CY 2025

DOI Referrals:



153

matters referred for criminal prosecution

Investigations:

843

opened investigations

1,192

closed investigations

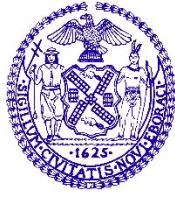
Read on for the full overview of 2025 statistics.

More Information At:

nyc.gov/doi

212.3NYC.DOI

corruption@doi.nyc.gov



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

CHRISTOPHER RYAN
ACTING COMMISSIONER

180 MAIDEN LANE
NEW YORK, NY 10038
212-825-5900

Release #04-2025
nyc.gov/doi

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2026**

**CONTACT: DIANE STRUZZI
CLODAGH MCGOWAN
(212) 825-5931**

**DOI CALENDAR YEAR 2025 BY THE NUMBERS: 174 ARRESTS, AN ACTIVE CASELOAD OF 1,402 INVESTIGATIONS;
AND MORE THAN \$6 MILLION IN FINANCIAL RECOVERIES COLLECTED FOR THE CITY**

Christopher Ryan, Acting Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (“DOI”), issued the agency’s 2025 Calendar Year-end (“CY”) accomplishments today, which reflect an array of investigations, public reports, and policy and procedure recommendations that involve fraud and corruption impacting the City. These investigations held individuals and contractors accountable for corruption-related crimes and strengthened internal controls to prevent similar misconduct in the future. While several of DOI’s indicators decreased from the previous year, in particular arrests, criminal referrals to prosecutors, and active investigations; others increased, including the number of closed investigations, financial recoveries collected for the City as a result of DOI investigations, and the number of City employees trained through our corruption prevention e-learning outreach efforts.

Acting DOI Commissioner Christopher Ryan said, “DOI is a factfinding agency whose investigations protect public funds; uncover corruption-related crimes that undercut critical needs such as housing and wages; and lead to improved City policies and operations. Over the past several years, DOI has conducted complex investigations focused on a number of high-level City officials that required a significant number of staff and resources. Our investigations in 2025 reflect the agency’s broad caseload and impact, which continued even as DOI contended with a 12 percent reduction in staff due to budget cuts over the past four years. As the City grapples with a substantial budget deficit, DOI’s work to safeguard taxpayer dollars and benefits, return stolen dollars to the City, and strengthen processes to close corruption gaps is even more crucial. I thank DOI’s hard-working staff for their commitment to preserving integrity in the City; and I am grateful for our strong partnerships with state and federal prosecutors who work alongside us to advance DOI’s anti-corruption mission.”

In CY 2025, DOI:

- Issued 14 public reports.
- Made 174 arrests, approximately 53% fewer than in 2024, when DOI made 372* arrests.
- Received 12,979 complaints, approximately 12% fewer than the 14,817* received in CY 2024.
- Saved the City \$5.07 million in public funds that were recovered as a result of DOI’s Asylum Seeker Monitorship, which found an array of vendor invoicing errors such as mistaken double-billing, overpayment of advance deposits, and other overcharges and anomalies.
- Collected more than \$6 million in financial recoveries related to DOI investigations.
- Referred 153 investigations for criminal prosecution, an 8.4% decrease from the 167* referred in CY 2024. As of 2025, DOI now counts each investigation as a referral, where prior to 2025, DOI counted each individual subject referred as a unique referral. The number for CY 2024 has been updated to reflect that change and to ensure we have an exact comparison.
- Opened 843 investigations, a slight decrease from the 868 opened in CY 2024.
- Closed 1,192 investigations, a 37% increase from the 868 closed in CY 2024.

more

- Carried an active caseload of approximately 1,402, about 148 fewer than in CY 2024.
 - Completed 51,518 vendor name checks for City agencies, which includes the vetting of companies, principals, AKA's and affiliates, 33% more than in CY 2024, when DOI completed 38,618.
 - Trained approximately 21,650 City employees through our digital corruption-prevention module, an increase of more than 3,500 employees from CY 2024. A total of 37,106 employees and others were trained through the digital module and our in-person and virtual lectures.
 - Conducted 246 in-person and virtual corruption prevention lectures, about 10% fewer than the 273 conducted in 2024. While taking significant staff time and resources, this initiative is an important point of contact between DOI and City employees.
 - Issued 113 policy and procedure recommendations ("PPRs"), about 64% fewer than in CY 2024 when DOI issued 311 PPRs.
 - Closed all pending background investigations that were part of a nearly 6,500-case backlog identified in 2019 thereby eliminating the backlog completely.
- *The CY 2024 number was updated from the previous year's release.*

Below are highlights of DOI's investigations and accomplishments from CY 2025. Please click on each of the section headlines to see the related press releases to the cases mentioned.

[Established the Protest Response Oversight Unit \(PRO\)](#)

DOI established the Protest Response Oversight Unit ("PRO") and began overseeing the New York City Police Department's ("NYPD") response to certain protests, as agreed to in the City's settlement of [In Re: New York City Policing During Summer 2020 Demonstrations](#), No. 20-CV-8924(CM)(GWG) (S.D.N.Y. 2023). "Phase II" of the settlement agreement is underway, and DOI's PRO Unit is reviewing NYPD's response to two protests selected by the Plaintiffs in that litigation: the protest at Brooklyn College on May 8, 2025, and the protest at 26 Federal Plaza on June 14, 2025. The Plaintiffs include the New York State Attorney General's Office and individuals who brought complaints involving their treatment during Summer 2020 protests, represented by organizations including the New York Civil Liberties Union and the Legal Aid Society. If you have witnessed conduct of concern involving NYPD at these or other protests that you would like to share, you can provide information to the PRO Unit using this [Online Portal](#) or call the PRO Unit's hotline at: 212-825-6854.

[Issued 14 Public Reports](#)

DOI's public reports provide a view into the agency's investigations and findings and, where relevant, lay out recommendations to strengthen policies and procedures to prevent the problems from reoccurring in the future. These reports are posted to [DOI's public website](#), providing essential transparency regarding DOI's investigations and government operations. In 2025, DOI 14 publicly issued reports included [An Assessment of NYPD's Use of Social Media](#); [DOI's Findings Regarding "Skimming" of Electronic Benefit Transfer Cards that Provide Vital Funds to Low-Income New Yorkers and Related Recommendations](#); an [Investigation into a Department of Correction \("DOC"\) Intelligence Bureau Investigator Assisting Federal Agents with Immigration Enforcement](#) and an [Investigation into NYPD's Compliance with Local Laws Restricting City Assistance with Immigration Enforcement](#); an [Investigation of Excessive Workers' Compensation Claims by DOC Employees](#); [A Review of Select Safety Measures at Senior New York City Housing Authority \("NYCHA"\) Buildings](#), and investigative findings on the [New York City Conflicts of Interest Board's Advisory Opinion and Moonlighting Waiver Practices](#).

[Conducted Complex Investigations](#)

In CY 2025, announcements on significant investigations on which DOI worked with our prosecuting partners included:

- The indictment of former Mayor Adams's chief advisor and eight other co-defendants in an alleged bribery conspiracy case.
- The conviction on bribery, fraud or extortion offenses of all 70 employees of the New York City Housing Authority ("NYCHA") charged in a February 2024 sweep, which touched on almost one-third of NYCHA's 365 developments in each of the five boroughs.
- The sentencing of two former chiefs in the Fire Department to prison terms for providing expedited plan reviews and priority inspections in return for bribes.
- Three DOC Correction Officers who were charged with an alleged years-long healthcare fraud scheme following use of force incidents on Rikers Island.

Protected Public Funds

DOI regularly investigates fraud and theft allegations involving public funds, uncovering a variety of schemes as well as conduct that compromised City processes and services. In CY 2025, subjects of these investigations included:

- A former CEO and a business partner at a City-funded nonprofit homeless services provider who pleaded guilty to conspiracy to defraud the City of millions of dollars.
- A former fiscal officer for a City-funded Brooklyn charity who was sentenced to 21 months' imprisonment for embezzlement.
- A Queens man pleaded guilty to accepting over \$3,000 from two undercover DOI investigators posing as City Taxi and Limousine Commission ("TLC") license candidates in exchange for helping them cheat on a TLC licensing exam.
- A Brooklyn man who pleaded guilty and was sentenced to five days of community service and ordered to pay \$7,774 in restitution, the amount he stole by using a "Bot" program to answer hundreds of online health surveys that generated thousands of dollars in electronic gift card funds from the City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene ("DOHMH").
- Principals of a fire alarm maintenance company who pleaded guilty and were sentenced to prison time for a decade-long scheme to defraud multiple City agencies by overbilling those agencies using fabricated invoices with fraudulently inflated prices and shell companies.
- Four individuals who pleaded guilty to conspiracies to misappropriate funds of a nonprofit organization serving the City's homeless through two separate schemes to authorize payments worth millions of dollars to vendors from which they then secretly profited.
- The president of a Queens-based construction company who was sentenced to 48 months in prison for a scheme to defraud the City in connection with homeless shelter contracts.
- The CEO of a New Jersey-based telecommunications construction company who was charged with commercial bribery, fraud, and witness tampering offenses.
- The founder and CEO of a City-funded nonprofit organization and two principals of the nonprofit's subcontractors who were charged with allegedly diverting tens of millions of dollars from a COVID-19 emergency housing program to enrich themselves through kickbacks and bribes.

Strengthened Safety of Young People Under City Care

DOI conducts investigations that impact the safety of children under the care of the City Administration for Children's Services ("ACS"), including its Division of Youth and Family Justice ("DYFJ"), as well as funds administered by ACS. In CY 2025, these investigations included:

- Several investigations at Crossroads Juvenile Center ("Crossroads") in Brooklyn, a secure juvenile detention facility under DYFJ, resulted in:
 - A former ACS Youth Development Specialist ("YDS") who was charged with allegedly bringing in contraband to juveniles at Crossroads in exchange for more than \$70,000.
 - Three ACS YDSs, including a supervisor, who were charged with allegedly conspiring to smuggle contraband into Crossroads.
 - Four former ACS YDSs were sentenced for participating in contraband smuggling at Crossroads, resulting in some receiving imprisonment, for accepting money in return for bringing in drugs, razor blades, marijuana, tobacco, pills and alcohol.
- A Bronx day care operator who was charged with allegedly stealing over \$29,000 in public day care funds by falsely representing to ACS that two children had attended the Bronx in-home day care when, in fact, they had not attended.
- A Bronx man who was charged with allegedly stealing \$38,471 in adoption subsidies administered by ACS. The investigation was prompted by ACS's notification to DOI that the legitimate recipient of the subsidies reported she had not received the checks. The defendant pleaded guilty in November 2025 to Petit Larceny and was sentenced in January 2026 to three years' probation, 50 days of community service, and \$10,000 in restitution.
- An ACS Associate YDS was sentenced to time served and two years' post release supervision in connection with the assault of a 16-year-old resident at Horizon Juvenile Center in the Bronx.

In addition to these investigations, DOI is working with Senator Jabari Brisport and Assembly Member Andy Hevesi on [S.8205/A.8248](#) to amend a State law that currently precludes DOI from being able

to meaningfully exercise independent oversight over ACS's handling of child abuse and neglect investigations or its operation of the City's juvenile detention facilities, among other things.

Combatted Crimes that Undermine Essential Needs: Housing and Wages

Tenant harassment, wage theft, and the theft of affordable housing and rental benefits are crimes that threaten New Yorkers' ability to meet critical needs. In CY 2025, DOI's investigations in this area included:

- The indictment of landlords on charges of allegedly harassing two older, rent-regulated tenants in Chelsea, resulting in these tenants frequently living without heat for extended periods each winter, including a heat outage in 2021 that lasted from mid-January to early March, including other uninhabitable conditions.
- A Bronx man who was charged with allegedly creating and selling fraudulent financial documents to individuals claiming to seek affordable housing in New York City pleaded guilty to a felony.
- A Section 8 recipient who was charged with allegedly failing to live in her subsidized Bronx apartment and illegally subletting and profiting from it.
- A Queens couple pleaded guilty to federal charges in connection with a public benefits scam that included providing false information about their income and the type and number of residences they owned in order to obtain public benefits they were not entitled to receive, from three public benefits programs.
- Two separate wage theft cases that resulted in guilty pleas by a master rigger and, separately, a construction company owner who worked on a job site under a City Housing Preservation and Development contract; and the return of stolen wages to victimized workers in these cases. The master rigger was sentenced to six months in jail, five years of probation, and 100 hours of court supervised community service; and separately the construction company owner agreed to a voluntary debarment from City-funded construction projects for three years. In a third, separate matter, an investigation secured \$400,000 for underpaid City school security guards.
- A former prosecutor, her brother and her mother who pleaded guilty to fraudulently obtaining affordable housing in Manhattan.

Investigated Wrongdoing by City Employees

Below are highlights of DOI investigations in CY 2025 involving City employees:

- A former fraud investigator with the City Department of Homeless Services and another individual who were sentenced to prison for stealing homeless victims' identities to apply for unemployment benefits.
- A NYCHA supervisor who was charged with alleged time theft in connection with working an unauthorized side job on City time.
- A City Health + Hospitals ("H+H") Behavioral Health Associate who was charged with alleged felony assault of a patient.
- A former Department of Environmental Protection employee who was indicted for allegedly stealing \$275,000 from a former 78-year-old co-worker disabled by strokes.
- A City H+H Engineer who pleaded guilty to stealing nearly \$22,000 in wages.
- A former Department of Finance employee who pleaded guilty to fraudulently obtaining thousands of dollars in real estate tax refunds.
- A former Board of Elections employee and Bronx District leader who pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 24 months in prison on federal extortion and mail fraud charges.
- An employee with the New York City Employees' Retirement System who pleaded guilty and was sentenced to one to three years in prison for stealing pension checks valued at \$624,000 from two retired individuals.
- A former HRA Eligibility Specialist who was charged with allegedly stealing personal information from a client to illegally obtain unemployment benefits.
- A City Sanitation supervisor who was indicted for filing \$21,000 in fraudulent timesheets.

Tackled Criminal Conduct and Contraband Smuggling by DOC Employees

DOI investigates allegations of criminal conduct, including contraband smuggling, on Rikers Island. In CY 2025, these investigations included:

- A jury convicted a City Department of Correction Officer ("CO") for planting a makeshift weapon in a Rikers Island cell and the defendant was later sentenced to 90 days in jail.

- A former CO who was charged with allegedly filing phony documentation for medical treatment and pleaded guilty as part of a plea agreement that included a sentence to a conditional discharge and a \$500 fine and, in a separate case, a DOC Captain who was convicted of stealing \$14,000 in pay who was ordered to pay fines and restitution and whose pension was reduced.
- A former DOC employee who was indicted on tax fraud charges for allegedly failing to report more than \$135,000 that she received from associates of inmates.
- A CO who was sentenced to a conditional discharge for falsifying suicide prevention training for 74 officers.
- A CO convicted of misconduct and reckless endangerment for failing to act in an 18-year-old inmate's suicide attempt was sentenced to probation and community service.
- A former DOC civilian Program Counselor who was charged with and pleaded guilty to accepting bribes to smuggle contraband into Rikers Island. He was sentenced in January 2026 to three months' imprisonment.
- A former CO who was sentenced to six months in prison for accepting bribes to smuggle narcotics into Rikers Island.
- A former CO who was sentenced to one year and one day in prison for conspiring to smuggle drugs and other contraband into Rikers Island.

Protected the Public's Safety

In CY 2025, DOI conducted a number of investigations that protected the public's safety, such as:

- The conviction of two licensed pharmacists who participated in a scheme to use illegal medical prescriptions to obtain oxycodone for sale on the streets of New York City and who were each sentenced to prison for these offenses.
- A sham construction safety training school and its president pleaded guilty to Attempted Enterprise Corruption, Offering a False Instrument, and Reckless Endangerment and were sentenced to one year in jail, 100 hours of community service and the forfeiture of \$100,000. The company lost its security license. A total of 22 defendants associated with this case have pleaded guilty or been found guilty after trial.
- A Brooklyn man who was sentenced to six months in jail for making and selling fake safety and training certifications to New York City construction workers who never received the required training.
- DOI worked with the Department of Buildings ("DOB") and the Manhattan District Attorney's Office on DOB's final investigative report on the 2023 Ann Street fatal parking structure collapse finding the collapse was attributed primarily to unsafe demolition work on the 98-year-old building.

Complaints and Intakes

In CY 2025, DOI received communications from the public and other individuals through various mechanisms, including: 132 walk-in complainants; 304 complaints received via traditional mail; 6,003 via email; 5,304 complaints received via DOI's online complaint system (1,982 of which were duplicate submissions from one complainant) and includes referrals through the 311 system; and 3,122 complaints received via phone.

Criminal complaints and indictments are accusations. Defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

DOI is one of the oldest law-enforcement agencies in the country and New York City's corruption watchdog. Investigations may involve any agency, officer, elected official or employee of the City, as well as those who do business with or receive benefits from the City. DOI's strategy attacks corruption comprehensively through systemic investigations that lead to high-impact arrests, preventive internal controls and operational reforms that improve the way the City runs.

**DOI's press releases can also be found at twitter.com/NYC_DOI
 Know something rotten in City government? Help DOI Get the Worms Out of the Big Apple.
 Call: 212-3-NYC-DOI or email: Corruption@DOI.nyc.gov**