

**DISTRICT OFFICE**

563 COLUMBUS AVENUE, AT 87<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
 NEW YORK, NY 10024  
**TEL:** (212) 873-0282  
**FAX:** (212) 873-0279

**CITY HALL OFFICE**

250 BROADWAY, ROOM 1875  
 NEW YORK, NY 10007  
**TEL:** (212) 788-6975  
**FAX:** (212) 513-7717

GBrewer@council.nyc.gov  
 www.council.nyc.gov

**THE COUNCIL  
 OF**

**THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

**GALE A. BREWER**

COUNCIL MEMBER, 6<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT, MANHATTAN

**CHAIR**

OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

**COMMITTEES**

CONSUMER AND WORKER PROTECTION

FINANCE

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

HIGHER EDUCATION

IMMIGRATION

RULES, PRIVILEGES, AND ELECTIONS

August 28, 2025

Jessica Tisch  
 Commissioner  
 New York Police Department  
 1 Police Plaza  
 New York, NY 10038

Dear Commissioner Tisch:

As the Chair of the Oversight and Investigations Committee, I write to raise concerns over vehicles with mismatched or “no-hit” out-of-state plates and vehicles not displaying plates at all. Those who own or operate these vehicles evade accountability and undermine street safety. The extent to which those who own or operate these vehicles evade accountability and undermine street safety is outlined in a report released today by City Council’s Oversight and Investigations Division (OID) titled *Plate and Switch: An Investigation of Out of State License Plates Across the Five Boroughs*.

This inquiry surveyed more than 3,500 vehicles across all five boroughs and revealed a pervasive pattern of fraudulent and untraceable plates. Nearly one in five out-of-state vehicles examined displayed mismatched or “no-hit” plates. These vehicles were not only disproportionately tied to outstanding fines—owing nearly two and a half times more than legally registered vehicles—but also paid only 16 percent of the fines they incurred, compared with a 63 percent payment rate for valid plates. The Bronx, Queens, and Brooklyn exhibited the highest concentration of these ghost vehicles.

These findings make clear that the City faces a systemic enforcement issue. Fraudulent plates are not an isolated problem but rather a growing shadow fleet that undermines public confidence, costs the City revenue, and erodes fairness for New Yorkers who comply with the law. This is also a significant public safety concern—vehicles in OID’s sample with mismatched or “no hit” plates accrued 49% more camera violations for Speeding in School Zones and received 74% more Blocking a Fire Hydrant violations than vehicles with matched plates.

In light of these findings, I respectfully request written responses to the following questions:

**1. Enforcement Operations**

- a) What specific citywide and precinct-level operations does NYPD plan to conduct in the next two quarters targeting out-of-state ghost plates (mismatched/“no-hit”/temporary/no plates), particularly in higher-incidence areas identified by OID (e.g., Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens)?
- b) How will NYPD integrate DOF violation data and repeat-offender histories into its operations?
- c) What is NYPD doing to increase storage capacity for towed vehicles?

## **2. Traffic Enforcement Agents**

- a) Will NYPD expand Traffic Enforcement Agents' (TEAs) authority, tools, or training to run and verify out-of-state plates, including quick checks on "no-hit" or VIN mismatches, and to escalate for tow/boot where legally permitted?
- b) Will NYPD standardize VIN-visibility checks, given the prevalence of VIN covers/removal in the sample observed by OID, into routine TEA practice?
- c) What, if any, other policy changes will be made to TEAs' authority and/or practice?

## **3. Interagency Coordination**

- a) What is NYPD's current policy for sharing plate and VIN intelligence with the Sheriff's Office to support boots/tows of high-debt offenders?
- b) Please describe any changes you will be making to that policy to target the ghost plates observed in OID's investigation.
- c) What coordination mechanisms with DOT will be used to flag ghost plates that systematically evade automated enforcement (speed/red-light cameras, bus lanes)? Will NYPD advocate for additional technologies or information sharing?

## **4. Online Marketplace Enforcement**

- a) What investigative steps will NYPD take regarding online marketplace listings for offering replica, fraudulent, or dealer plates to NYC drivers?
- b) Has NYPD engaged with any state or federal partners (e.g., NYS AG, NYS DMV, FBI, HSI) to pursue sellers, disrupt supply chains, or remove listings?

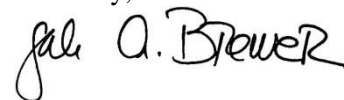
## **5. Performance Metrics & Transparency**

- a) What metrics, such as vehicles seized/booted, summonses issued, repeat-offender reductions by precinct, will NYPD track and report publicly, and on what timeline?

We look forward to your written response on the items above and any additional strategies NYPD plans to deploy. Our goal is to ensure that law-abiding New Yorkers are not competing with a shadow fleet for curb space and that our streets are measurably safer.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Gale A. Brewer

Enclosure