



THE COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

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SPEAKER

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June 9, 2025

Commissioner Jocelyn E. Strauber
NYC Department of Investigation
180 Maiden Lane
New York, NY 10038

Dear Commissioner Strauber:

As New York City Council Speaker and Chair of its Oversight and Investigations Committee, we write to request that the Department of Investigation (DOI) initiate an investigation into the New York City Police Department's (NYPD) information-sharing practices and other forms of collaboration with federal authorities in connection with civil immigration enforcement that may violate local laws. Specifically, we are concerned by recent reports that information provided to federal agencies by the NYPD is now being used in civil immigration proceedings in ways that may violate New York City's laws and New Yorkers' Constitutional rights – these incidents appear to have resulted in multiple people being detained or sent to a prison in El Salvador without due process.¹

New Yorkers must trust that their own city government will not participate in their civil rights being violated, and these recent episodes raise serious doubts that should be urgently addressed. Any violations of city laws by our own agencies undermine the rule of law, public confidence, and public safety. It is therefore imperative that any potential breaches by Mayor Eric Adams' administration and the NYPD be investigated objectively and transparently. We urge DOI to examine the recent incidents of potential violations, including those reported in the news,² as well as any pattern or practice surrounding the transfer of information and collaboration with federal agencies being used for civil

¹ See, e.g., Yoav Gonen, Gwynne Hogan and Paz Radovic, *Arrested by the NYPD but Not Prosecuted, They're Now Imprisoned in El Salvador*, THE CITY, (May 16, 2025, 5:00 AM), <https://www.thecity.nyc/2025/05/16/merwil-gutierrez-flores-nypd-fbi-ice-cecot-task-forces/> (asking how an individual arrested on criminal charges in the Bronx by the NYPD could have ended up in indefinite detention in El Salvador rather than arraigned on state or federal charges in New York; and referencing NYPD and Bronx District Attorney spokespersons' statements that each office's records were sealed).

² See, e.g., Jake Offenhartz, *NYPD shared a Palestinian protester's info with ICE. Now it's evidence in her deportation case*, ASSOCIATED PRESS, (May 2, 2025, 11 PM) <https://apnews.com/article/nypd-ice-legaa-kordia-trump-palestinian-protests-90c6f446f431e8cec23a93172e1eb0b8> (reporting on the NYPD's sharing its records, that may have included a sealed arrest record, with ICE for an individual facing deportation); see also New York City Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch, Mayor Adams Briefs Media on NYPD Officers Attacked in Times Square With NYPD Commissioner Tisch and Holds In-Person Media Availability (May 6, 2025)(transcript available at <https://www.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/288-25/transcript-mayor-adams-briefs-media-nypd-officers-attacked-times-square-nypd>) ("I am looking into how a sealed record could have been provided. I am not looking into the propriety of responding to a request from a federal partner for a money-laundering investigation.")

enforcement actions in violation of law. Ongoing independent monitoring of city agency practices should also be undertaken, if warranted by the findings of such an investigation. This investigation is critical to determine whether city agency practices have intentionally or unintentionally violated local law.

There are already significant and justifiable concerns about whether Mayor Eric Adams is compromised in his dealings with the federal government, as a result of the unprecedented interference in his criminal corruption case by federal officials. This interference to drop criminal charges against the mayor has been attributed to the Trump administration's desire for his cooperation in civil immigration enforcement. The mayor's administration has already taken questionable actions that are perceived to be connected to this federal action as a quid-pro-quo, or as Judge Ho described, "a bargain: dismissal of the indictment in exchange for immigration policy concessions." The less transparent actions by Mayor Adams' administration, into which we request your investigation, deserve objective, legal scrutiny.

New York City's sanctuary laws are grounded in a simple principle: when immigrant communities fear cooperation with law enforcement, everyone is less safe. These laws were enacted to ensure that City agencies, including the NYPD, can effectively perform their jobs for the benefit of our city and New Yorkers. Agency participation in federal immigration enforcement is legally and narrowly defined for circumstances that are mission critical to public safety. These laws are not optional; they are binding. When they are ignored or circumvented, the consequences ripple outward, destabilizing cooperation with law enforcement, corroding civic trust, and undermining public safety across the five boroughs.

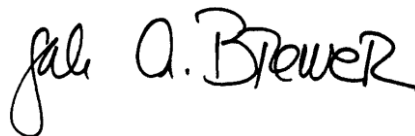
In light of these concerns, we respectfully request that DOI conduct a comprehensive and independent review to determine whether the NYPD's recent actions have violated City law or circumvented their intent. The results of your review should be fully documented in a written report. Should your office find evidence of noncompliance or policy gaps, we urge you to recommend appropriate corrective actions, including policy revisions, specific accountability measures, and improved oversight mechanisms that will prevent and deter future violations.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to your findings. If DOI confirms that the NYPD's practices have undermined our City's sanctuary laws, it is essential that swift steps be taken to restore legal compliance and public trust.

Sincerely,



ADRIENNE E. ADAMS
Speaker



GALE A. BREWER
Chair, Oversight & Investigations Committee