



## ***Safer for All: A Mayoral Blueprint for Public Safety***

*Brad will make New York City safer by driving accountability for outcomes, supporting the police force while building stronger partnerships and working with communities to bring safety to our subways, and invest in safer neighborhoods for all New Yorkers.*

### **Introduction**

Every New Yorker deserves to be safe and feel safe—whether on the subway, walking home at night, or sending their kids to school. We all deserve neighborhoods where safety and trust are not negotiable. Both our families’ and our city’s future depend on it.

Even with crime well below historic highs from the 80’s and 90’s, many New Yorkers don’t feel safe and secure. Just 22% of New Yorkers feel safe riding the subway at night, down dramatically from 46% in 2017. The pandemic elevated crime and a sense of disorder in our neighborhoods, and ruptured the relationship between New Yorkers and the NYPD. Eric Adams promised to address this, but then allowed cronyism and corruption at the NYPD to further weaken trust, focus, and accountability.

Brad will attack this sense of insecurity head-on by confronting the City’s failure to address a growing mental-health crisis, record-high homelessness, persistent gun violence, a serious spike in drug overdoses, rampant retail theft, rising hate crimes, and traffic deaths and injuries on our streets.

It’s time for an approach that restores mutual respect, trust, and accountability. We must rebuild partnerships between the police, community leaders, government, and the people they serve. As mayor, Brad will rebuild the trust between City Hall, the NYPD and communities through respect, training, transparency, metrics, dialogue, accountability, and collaboration. Brad understands that partnership, not division, is required to make a safer New York. At the same time, New Yorkers expect accountability: for those who commit crimes and put their neighbors’ safety at risk, for officers who use excessive force, for leaders who betray their departments through corruption, and for elected officials who spend billions of dollars on programs that don’t deliver results.

Brad’s leadership is exemplified by his successful passage of the [Community Safety Act](#) that ended the era of discriminatory stop-and-frisk practices, which have been creeping back under Mayor Adams, with [unconstitutional frisks increasing from 15.8% in 2021 to 23.9% in 2022](#). Brad’s role as a trustee on the pension funds, partnering with police unions, further demonstrates his balanced approach to public safety, recognizing that our challenges are too broad to be handled by the police department alone.

As Mayor, Brad will drive accountability through focused, outcomes-driven management at the NYPD, and by uniting often-fragmented agencies—the NYPD, community anti-violence groups, and those that serve New York’s most vulnerable—into a strategic, data-driven partnership, especially in the neighborhoods with the

highest number of shootings. This will reduce crime, gun violence, and assaults, maintain order, and help communities thrive.

Leadership and accountability begins at the top, and Brad has been encouraged by the leadership of NYPD Commissioner Jessica Tisch over the three months since her appointment. He will seek to retain Commissioner Tisch, in order to continue the work of reform and outcomes-driven management she has begun. He would also expand the role of the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety to ensure better coordination across the agencies responsible for public safety, public health, emergency response, and addressing the root causes of public safety challenges.

Brad will confront the looming staffing crisis at the NYPD, which threatens to leave us 5,000 officers short by the end of the year. In line with Brad's plan for a [fiscally responsible City](#) with a [World Class Workforce](#), Brad will recruit, retain, and support officers in order to ensure every one of the NYPD's budgeted 35,051 full-time positions is filled to enhance public safety and get cops back to doing what they got into the service to do - not to be social workers or traffic agents but to protect people from violent crime.

Brad will end street homelessness for the severely mentally ill through his detailed, ready-on-day-one, [Safer for All](#) plan, making subways safer and more secure. He will collaborate with the State and MTA to ensure police presence on overnight trains in the short-term, while establishing new outreach teams, addressing the longer term solution of housing the homeless, and improving infrastructure to address behaviors that undermine public safety.

Finally, Brad's plan will make neighborhoods safer through evidence-based, data-driven initiatives that harness the power of communities and government to restore the fabric of everyday life in New York. His comprehensive plan to combat hate violence and harassment includes cutting-edge technology, evidence-based prevention programs, victim support and stronger law enforcement. His plan for a simple, one-stop platform that retail stores can opt into to streamline reporting, investigating, and preventing shoplifting— and a grants program to support small 'mom and pop' shops to upgrade cameras— will help confront the surge of retail theft that has left toothpaste behind lock and key. Brad will lead a city that is safer for all.

## The Problem

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, a rise in random violence, increased gun crime, spike in hate crimes, increased retail theft and a failing mental health system have shaken public confidence in the City's ability to protect its residents. These challenges demand bold, comprehensive action—not more of the same fragmented and ineffective efforts that leave New Yorkers at risk.

### **Damaged Trust Between City Hall and the NYPD**

Rank-and-file officers no longer trust City Hall. That dynamic worsened during the pandemic. Then the Adams Administration allowed corruption, political interference in promotions and discipline, and a culture of favoritism to replace merit-based leadership with backroom deals. Officers feel unsupported, undermined, and trapped in a system where who-you-know matters more than performance. This dysfunction has real consequences for public safety. Resources are wasted on PR-driven initiatives instead of real crime-fighting strategies. Up until the appointment of Commissioner Tisch, accountability at the top has been disastrously weak, morale is low, and a full-blown retention crisis is unfolding as officers leave in record numbers.

Brad knows public safety depends on restoring trust—between officers, leadership, and the communities they serve. He will appoint leaders at City Hall and 1 Police Plaza who will end political interference, refocus training on real safety outcomes, and bring integrity back to the NYPD.

As a trustee of the Police Pension Fund, Brad worked alongside union representatives to protect retirement security and ensure disability decisions were handled with integrity and consistency. Brad partnered with police unions—over the objections of the Adams administration—to [secure disability benefits for officers who contracted long COVID](#) after being put at risk in the early days of the pandemic. He also fought to ensure that the family of [Officer Adeed Fayaz, who was killed in the line of duty, received the death benefits he deserved](#), despite City Hall’s opposition. As Mayor, he will bring that same respect to the job—not every decision will be popular, but rank-and-file officers will always know that his administration acts with honesty, transparency, and fairness.

### **NYPD Staffing Crisis and Low Morale**

The NYPD is facing a staffing crisis which is about to get worse. There are currently 33,498 officers, more than 1,500 below the authorized headcount of 35,051. This is likely to get worse in the coming year, as nearly 4,000 officers will reach their 20th anniversary, making them eligible for their full pension. This is exacerbated by the fact that [morale among NYC police officers is extremely low](#), as many feel unsupported by City Hall, and distrustful of their superiors—even as they are risking their safety and often working in poor conditions. Partially as a result, NYPD has been in a dire staffing crisis which is about to get worse – as thousands of officers become eligible for retirement over the next year. Meanwhile, the number of people signing up to take the police exam has plummeted from over 18,000 in 2017 to just over 8,000 last year. Low headcount is partially responsible for the explosion of overtime spending in recent years. Last fiscal year, the NYPD spent more than double the \$517 million set aside for overtime alone; [this year, the agency has already blown through its new \\$564.8 million dollar overtime budget](#)— just six months into the year.

### **Police Accountability and Public Trust**

New Yorkers expect accountability at all levels. The criminal justice system needs to be more accountable for delivering public safety and fairness. There needs to be accountability for people who break the law. Police should be held accountable for excessive force. Police leaders need to be held to account when they abuse their rank to assault fellow officers, or corrupt their procurement process. Elected officials need to be accountable to voters when they spend billions on things that don’t work.

In the absence of accountability, trust has diminished in all directions. Public trust in the NYPD has deteriorated under the Adams administration, with rising misconduct complaints and declining accountability. In 2023, the NYPD commissioner disciplined officers in only [55% of misconduct cases, down from 71% in 2021](#), even as [civilian complaints surged 51% to 5,600 cases—the highest level in over a decade](#). Institutions designed to ensure [police accountability](#), such as the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) and the NYPD Inspector General, have been significantly weakened.

Meanwhile, the NYPD is failing to show up when New Yorkers need help most. The department’s [response time](#) for critical incidents now averages over nine minutes—the longest since the 1990s. Meanwhile, [reckless police pursuits](#) have led to 315 injuries and seven deaths. [Crime remains 20% higher than pre-pandemic levels](#), yet compared to other cities, New York’s recovery has been sluggish. Whether runaway overtime expenses, allegations of small-time pay-to-play scandals, the department culture under Mayor Adams has become corrupt, combative, and erratic - all while statistics show that police are failing to show up for New Yorkers when they need help most.

## Addressing Mental Health and Public Safety

A broken mental health system continues to put both vulnerable individuals and the public in danger. The tragic killing of Michelle Go in January 2022 by an individual with untreated psychosis was just [one of 37 cases in which people were pushed onto subway tracks](#) in just over a year. A 2023 New York Times investigation found nearly 100 random attacks by mentally ill, homeless New Yorkers “[failed by a system that keeps making the same errors.](#)” While City and State leaders have introduced initiatives to address homelessness and mental illness, the efforts remain piecemeal, leaving too many people to fall through the cracks.

## Tackling Gun Violence and Violent Crime

In 2023, New York City saw [974 shootings and 386 murders](#), a troubling increase from 2019’s [754 shootings and 295 murders](#). Though far from the historic highs of the 1980s and 1990s, every shooting devastates not only the victims but also their families and communities. Gun violence remains highly concentrated, with just [4% of city blocks accounting for nearly all shootings](#). Even more alarming, [young Black men were 53 times more likely to be shot](#) than young white men between 2020 and 2022. These disparities expose a city dangerously divided, where some neighborhoods rarely encounter violence while others live with it daily.

Despite the severity of the crisis, the City is too often failing to deliver justice. In 2022, the clearance rate—the percentage of crimes where charges were brought—was [just 43% for shootings](#). These low clearance rates fuel a vicious cycle of fear and retaliation, encouraging more people to carry weapons for self-defense and deepening distrust in law enforcement. Meanwhile, delays in processing gun possession cases in the courts leave New Yorkers feeling that there are no real consequences for violent crime.

The reform aimed at enhancing fairness in criminal cases has backfired. A loophole now causes the time between discovery certification and later challenges to be counted retroactively against the prosecution, which leads to cases—especially misdemeanors like retail theft—being [dismissed on technicalities \(increasing from 6% to 33% from 2019 to 2024\)](#). Additionally, the justice system is facing major delays, with [felony cases taking over three years 179%](#) more often than in 2019, violating detainees’ rights and wasting taxpayer money.

## Hate Crime and Harassment

At a time when forces seek to divide us, we must stand firm against all forms of hate and ensure all victims—regardless of immigration status—feel safe reporting incidents. Between 2019 and 2023 [hate crime incidents grew by almost 60%](#). In 2023, nearly half of New York’s hate crimes were motivated by religious bias—with most targeting Jews (which grew a staggering 89% since 2018)—while about one-third were race-based, over half of which were anti-Black. LGBTQ+ hate crimes made up nearly 17% of all incidents, with sharp increases noted, especially against gay male and transgender individuals. Additionally, crimes against Jewish, Muslim, and LGBTQ+ communities have surged over the past five years, and although anti-Asian incidents have dropped from their pandemic peak, they still far exceed pre-pandemic levels—with nearly half motivated religious hate. Trump’s rhetoric portends to even further exacerbate hate-based violence and crime.

## Retail Theft in NYC

Retail theft in New York City undermines the economic health of local businesses, strains resources, and forces consumers to purchase everyday essentials from behind locked glass. The number of [shoplifting incidents in NYC saw a whopping 68.1% increase in 2022 compared to 2019, resulting in over 25,000 additional thefts](#). Despite a 7.3% decline in 2023, shoplifting remained at historically high levels, marking the second-highest year on record and representing a 56% increase since 2019. Small independent businesses and large chain stores alike are affected by retail theft, with [Business Improvement Districts \(BIDs\) like Church Avenue and Flatbush-Nostrand Junction experiencing particularly dramatic increases of 32.1% and 39.7%, respectively](#). These losses hit especially hard for our City’s small businesses that often operate on narrow profit margins, and are then forced to spend operating costs on enhanced security measures and insurance premiums.

[Shoplifting incidents are unfortunately becoming more violent](#) with incidents involving force or threat of force 75% higher than pre-pandemic levels.

Many stores have responded by putting products behind lock-and-key, a huge problem for customers, which is also [tanking sales](#) for businesses. Frustrated and law-abiding New Yorkers are opting to purchase products online to avoid long waits and chaotic customer experiences at brick-and-mortar stores. Much retail theft currently goes unreported, which causes the problem to grow. A survey found that 55% of businesses think reporting theft is too time-consuming, 49% hesitate to involve the police, and 34% doubt law enforcement's effectiveness.

## Brad's Solution

### I. Build a public safety coalition to drive trust and accountability

Improving public safety requires a comprehensive approach that prioritizes trust through mutual respect and accountability. [Trust is built](#) when communities feel heard, and law enforcement operates with fairness and transparency, ensuring that safety is a shared responsibility. 90% of voters agree that [we need more accountability at all levels](#). A solutions-based approach demands accountability not just for those who commit crimes, but for the police responsible for ensuring justice and safety, and for elected and appointed officials for the outcomes of their leadership and the programs they fund. Without accountability, trust between communities and law enforcement erodes, making people [less likely to report crimes or come forward](#).

**As Mayor, Brad will create a strong, accountable government that unites all stakeholders through trust and integrity—police, community members, City Hall, and district attorneys—to prioritize public safety.**

### Leadership focused on data and partnership

- **Brad will appoint an NYPD Commissioner committed to accountability, outcomes-driven management, and rebuilding both public and officer trust. He will seek to retain Commissioner Jessica Tisch, who has brought a renewed focus on reform, accountability, and rigorous attention to public safety outcomes.** Brad's Police Commissioner will prioritize rebuilding trust (both inside and outside the department) addressing the staffing crisis, data analytics, police accountability, and the social safety net to prevent crime and foster collaboration. To strengthen oversight and accountability, Brad supports "advice and consent" by the City Council on key appointments, including the Police Commissioner.
- **Appoint a Deputy Mayor for Public Safety who will oversee a comprehensive portfolio that recognizes the critical link between public safety, public health, and emergency response in order to ensure focused, coordinated leadership across safety and health agencies.** This role will be responsible for aligning the efforts of the NYPD, Correction, Probation, FDNY, the Offices of Criminal Justice and Neighborhood Safety, Emergency Management, working in close coordination with the City's health and social service agencies —ensuring a unified, strategic approach to reducing crime, improving emergency response, and addressing the root causes of public safety challenges.
- **Robust management and leadership education to the police at the commander level.** Modeled on University of Chicago's [Policing Leadership Academy](#), Brad will dramatically expand a comprehensive and rigorous leadership development program for NYPD commanders and captains, providing hands-on, data-driven training in key areas like violence reduction, community trust, and ethical



decision-making. Focusing on modern policing strategies, de-escalation, and accountability, this initiative will equip commanders with the leadership skills necessary to foster professionalism within the force and strengthen relationships with the communities they serve. Brad will also prioritize enhanced training for sergeants and lieutenants, two ranks that have the greatest interaction with officers, to reduce excessive force and illegal stops while increasing health interactions with neighborhood residents.

- **Commit to making data public and accessible** in key areas that have previously been opaque including clearance rates and subway crime. Brad will build on his exceptional track record to make data not only public but accessible such as his first-of-its kind [Department of Corrections dashboard](#) which monitors pervasive issues in the City's jails, including staff absenteeism, missed medical appointments, and incidents of violence among detained people and staff.
- **Expanding the Public Safety Workforce by restructuring the City's mental health emergency response to ensure trained professionals handle all crisis calls.** Establish a 24/7 citywide program modeled on CAHOOTS, deploying mental health professionals and peer responders to 100% of 911 mental health crisis calls, with police support when there is a risk of violence. Require comprehensive mental health response training for all police officers and 911 operators to improve crisis assessment and de-escalation. Enhance accountability through a centralized database and independent oversight team to track outcomes and ensure effectiveness.

## Public Safety through State-of-the-Art Management + Integrity

New York City's [CompStat system](#) revolutionized policing 30 years ago with data-driven crime prevention, but it has remained largely unchanged despite advances in analytics and research showing the importance of social services in reducing crime. Recent data shows that just 4% of NYC's blocks account for most shootings, often in neighborhoods with increased funding for violence interrupters. However, there is no unified approach to use this data across the NYPD, community groups, and District Attorneys. It's time for a modern, data-driven approach that integrates all resources, holds agencies accountable, and enhances public safety through transparency and community involvement. With Brad's leadership, this team-focused, data-driven approach will tackle crime while fostering trust and partnership across all New York communities.

- **Modernize CompStat for greater impact.** Brad will modernize and scale NeighborhoodStat (NStat), a new evolution of CompStat, recognized for driving [more effective crime prevention and community safety](#) by deploying a data-driven community engagement strategy through monthly "NeighborhoodStat" meetings.
- **NeighborhoodStat will leverage data and collaboration across agencies.** Inspired by Canada's HUB model, this initiative will significantly expand inter-agency interventions, with a stronger focus on data analytics and community-based supports.
- **Coordinate resources** from social services, sanitation, nonprofit violence interrupters, and safe-injection sites to address the root causes of crime and disorder.
- As recommended by [Dr. George Kelling](#), NStat will also **integrate data** on police misconduct, excessive force, and public perceptions of law enforcement to promote accountability and ensure police interventions are effective.
- **Support community residents to ensure robust participation** in NeighborhoodStat, and other [promising community response models](#) such as the Brownville Safety Alliance partnership with the Brooklyn District Attorney.

## Increase Police Accountability & Transparency

- **Appoint a NYPD Commissioner and Deputy Mayor** who are committed to accountability within the NYPD and restoring trust in the agency, including a significantly higher rate of discipline consistent with CCRB recommendations.
- Work closely with the federal court-appointed **Stop and Frisk monitor** to close out the monitorship through full compliance with monitor demands, and a strong system for accountability moving forward.
- **Reinstate [NYPD Deputy Commissioner of Risk Management](#)** to identify and implement improvements needed for an [effective and humane 21st Century NYPD](#).
- **[Increase NYPD Special Victims Division staffing](#)** to meet nationally accepted standards, ensuring detectives have the resources to support victims with the attention and dignity they deserve.
- Implement the Brennan Center's recommendations to **strengthen the [NYPD Inspector General](#)** (established through legislation that Brad co-sponsored with Public Advocate Jumaane Williams when they served in the City Council) by ensuring it is fully funded and staffed, has access to the NYPD records it needs to conduct thorough investigations, and has the independence to do its job effectively.
- **Restore [funding and full-time headcount](#) at the CCRB** to ensure the agency is adequately staffed to do its job effectively.
- **Require NYPD to follow CCRB disciplinary recommendations** in cases under CCRB's jurisdiction, preventing NYPD commissioners from overturning decisions, including those upheld by administrative judges or agreed to in guilty pleas.
- **Focused NYPD intervention in highest CCRB complaint precincts.**
- **[Provide CCRB with independent and direct remote access credentials to all NYPD Body Worn Camera storage databases](#)** so that the videos can be searched, viewed, and used as appropriate in CCRB investigations. Such access should be subject to appropriate credential procedures and audit trails to address security and privacy concerns.
- Add to the Mayor's Management Report (MMR) **key data on the Commission to Combat Police Corruption** including staffing and budget data to ensure the Commission is adequately resourced.
- **Commit to the highest levels of transparency around law enforcement to protect civil liberties and restore public trust in our City's law enforcement**
  - Full compliance with the [POST Act](#), the [Right to Know Act](#), and the [How Many Stops Act](#);
  - Reporter access to [radio](#) transmissions;
  - Timely disclosures of [crime clearance rates](#); and
  - Media presence inside Police Headquarters, moving ['the Shack' back to 1 Police Plaza](#).

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## II. Confront the NYPD Staffing Crisis

### Invest in our police force

NYPD staffing levels are at decade lows. Of the City's budgeted 35,051 full time positions, as of October, there were 33,475 on staff—having lost about 50 officers per month [since May of 2022](#)—and [thousands more will become eligible for retirement over the next year](#). We can't recruit fast enough. **As Mayor, Brad will be laser-focused on bringing NYPD staffing up to its fully budgeted 35,000 officers through innovative recruitment and retention strategies, and improve the job experience for those on the force —while keeping over-time under control.**

- **Expand the Police Cadet Corps to boost and diversify NYPD recruitment.** Cadets receive tuition assistance through a \$5,000/year forgivable loan, covering a four-year degree at CUNY or other college—with no repayment required after four years of police service, offering a well-paying, flexible part-time job, free college education, and a guaranteed career path in law enforcement to attract a broader, more diverse applicant pool. The program has been highly successful, with 80% of those hired as Cadets becoming NYPD Officers, and yielding a very diverse pool. Currently, applicants must already have at least 45 college credits. The expanded program would be open to high-school graduates without any college credits, who would start their jobs as NYPD cadets while enrolling at CUNY (or other partner college). When they reach the 60 credit requirement (approximately equivalent to an associates degree), they could take the NYPD Entrance Exam, attend the academy, and become NYPD Officers. If they wish, they could then continue in the program to obtain their four-year degree.
- **Diversify recruitment** by finding opportunities for eliminating selection criteria that unnecessarily excludes non-traditional applicants and bring in a new generation of public safety professionals that [better reflects New York City](#) which has been proven to help [reset trust between police and communities and lower rates of excessive force](#).
- **Deepen partnerships with CUNY** and other universities to recruit graduates interested in law enforcement, offer internship programs, scholarships, and guaranteed employment for top candidates.
- **Retain experienced officers by supporting State Pension Bill S4262**, which will help retain experienced detectives, sergeants and lieutenants and ultimately help stabilize the workforce given retirements are up 305% as of January 2025. Brad will work with NYPD to explore other pathways for experienced officers to remain in the department, such as mentorship roles, leadership development programs, and alternative career paths within the NYPD.
- **Civilianize to quickly free officers for police work**, aggressively recruit for Police Administrative Aides, Crime Analysts, and other civilians to share the load. In the long term, Brad will identify [national best practices](#) that make sense for New York, like training specialists to respond to minor traffic accidents and low-risk 911 calls.
- **Improve the job experience for police:** Brad will continue hosting roundtables with rank-and-file officers to listen to their [concerns and ideas](#). He will prioritize station house improvements, including air conditioning in all dressing rooms (similar to schools) and other concrete improvements to make the working environment safer, more comfortable, and supportive for officers, such as [longer shifts in exchange for more days off](#). Brad's innovative [Homes for City Workers](#) program will double the purchasing power of NYPD officers (and other municipal employees) to buy homes in the five boroughs, enabling them to live in the communities they serve, and supporting the next generation of middle-class homeownership.
- **Get overtime under control:** NYPD will incorporate fatigue policies into its overtime procedures, recognizing the risks excessive hours pose to officers, public safety, and City liability. The department will also track off-duty employment hours to ensure officers are not too fatigued for overtime shifts. With these steps, and leadership from the top, the department will get control over overtime, which has blown past \$1 billion annually.

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### III. Build an NYPD focused on solving gun violence and violent crime



Gun violence continues to devastate too many of New York City's communities, with shootings highly concentrated in low-income neighborhoods and communities of color, exposing a dangerously divided city, where some neighborhoods rarely encounter violence, while others live with it daily. Clearance rates for shootings remain low, too often fueling a cycle of retribution, deepening distrust, and encouraging more people to carry weapons. Unfortunately, help is not coming from the federal government, with the Trump administration and courts failing to implement common-sense gun reform or crack down on the iron pipeline that pumps guns into New York City's communities.

**As Mayor, Brad will focus the NYPD on solving gun crimes, stem the flow of illegal guns into New York City, partner with the state to speed up consequences, and reform and support community-based preventative measures proven to decrease gun violence. He will tackle the root causes of violence through social services and community programs, while increasing transparency in high-crime neighborhoods, public housing, and subways.**

**Build an NYPD focused on solving gun crimes.**

- **Deploy the NYPD strategically.** As noted above, a small percentage of blocks in NYC account for the vast majority of shootings. Increasing NYPD presence in very specific places has historically driven [shooting and murders down](#), and there is evidence from multiple cities supporting an increased police presence in [“hot spots”](#) and [preventative engagement](#) with people known to engage in criminal activity has significant effects on reducing crime. Deployment will prioritize community-based policing strategies that emphasize building trust, de-escalation, and partnerships with local organizations to ensure that increased presence does not lead to overly aggressive tactics, such as stop-and-frisk.
- **Improve clearance rates for gun crimes** by partnering with the City's District Attorneys, providing them with additional resources to support shooting investigations, and expanding the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice's current model which brings police and community members into key conversations together to solve shootings.
- **Focus NYPD's resources on solving gun crimes in partnership with community members.** Instead of a wide approach based on stopping large numbers of people in case they have a weapon, which uses valuable resources and produces very little result (aside from decreasing trust and subjecting people to potentially discriminatory profiling), Brad's NYPD will focus on solving gun cases, in order to take guns off the street and prevent the cycle of retribution.

**Stem the flow of guns—both legal and illegal—into New York City.**

- Participate in the existing Interstate Gun Task Force established by Governor Hochul to **reduce the flow of guns into New York City** in partnership with neighboring states and federal partners. 93% of gun crimes in NYC are committed using [guns that come from out of state](#), many via I-95 or the [“Iron Pipeline.”](#) Through an inter-state effort, Brad will work with key partners to reduce the number of guns coming into NYC.
- **Explore State legislation requiring gun insurance.** Gun insurance, like car insurance, would cover the damage done by the covered weapon. Just as insurance companies determine rates by assessing the likelihood of damage, gun liability insurance companies would [increase insurance based on potential damage](#), thus incentivizing responsible gun ownership.

**Reform and support the City's Crisis Management System (CMS), a network of community violence intervention organizations, to decrease gun violence.**

- **Strengthen oversight over the City's Community Violence Intervention (CVI) Organizations, with a focus on outcomes and coordination:** The City's Crisis Management System (CMS) has been in place for over a decade and is now composed of over 40 CVI groups who mediate conflicts, prevent retaliation,

and address the root cause of violence. Evidence shows that these efforts reduce crime. But deficiencies in management and leadership at City Hall have left these groups without a standardized approach to measuring their impact, access to critical City data on gun violence and neighborhood demographics, adequate training, or administrative support to navigate the City's complex procurement system. Brad will dedicate a team at City Hall to oversight and reform of CMS to improve coordination, increase efficacy, enhance training and technical assistance, and root out procurement inefficiencies that produce delayed payments – and then support these groups to succeed.

- **Take a data-driven approach to increasing the efficacy of the City's Crisis Management System (CMS):** Funding for CMS has increased by nearly 2000% since its inception in 2012, but City Hall has failed to collect or measure the impact of that funding over time to better understand what's working and where different interventions are needed. Brad will train and provide CVI groups with technical assistance in data collection and analysis, deploy real-time data dashboards to measure CVI efficacy, conduct longitudinal studies on a regular basis to understand program impact in the short- and long-term, and bring these data-driven approaches to law enforcement and communities in monthly meetings to regularly identify and implement CVI programmatic changes to improve CVI efficacy.

### **Evidence-Based Community-Led Prevention and Interventions**

- **Expand and strengthen [evidence-based, community-led](#) strategies proven to reduce violence and [interrupt cycles of retaliatory violence](#)** through trauma-informed, culturally relevant interventions. He will prioritize investment in NYCHA communities and historically underserved neighborhoods, ensuring a comprehensive approach that addresses both prevention and enforcement to make all New Yorkers safer.
- **Expand hospital-based intervention programs**, and wraparound support services to address broader violent crime, including felony assaults.
- **Work with DAs to scale out** Manhattan DA Alvin Bragg's targeted approach of prioritizing prosecutions for gun traffickers and individuals driving violence while expanding diversion programs for those at risk of reoffending.
- Create **school-based programs** that have evidence-based results, such as Chicago's [Becoming a Man program](#), which helps young people think carefully in tough situations, providing impulse control skills and self-control skills. This program has been shown to decrease total arrests by about a third, violent crime arrests by nearly half, and arrests for other crimes by more than a third.
- Expand **[family-based therapy programs](#)** that support family connection, reduce recidivism, and [reduce violence](#).
- **Expand the number of public housing developments participating in [MAP](#)**, which focuses city resources on the NYCHA developments experiencing the highest crime including: CCTV cameras, exterior lighting, and community center upgrades, youth employment and mentorship, urban farms, fitness programs, and health initiatives to address root causes of crime. MAP sites saw a [7.5% drop](#) in major felonies, preventing 600 crimes.
- **Guarantee summer employment** for young people with risk factors associated with being a victim or otherwise otherwise be involved in gun violence, including young people living in public housing, on probation and in communities with high incidence of crime. A study of NYC's Summer Youth Employment Program found an [increase in earnings for participants for three years after the program, and a decreased risk of incarceration and mortality](#).
- **Expand and coordinate jobs programs** for people with criminal justice history proven to reduce recidivism and support economic independence.

**Activate public spaces to reduce crime and foster a greater sense of community ownership and safety.**

- [Better lighting](#) in high-crime areas including transit hubs, parks and public housing.
- **Dramatically expand afterschool offerings, library hours, evening sports, arts, and job training programs to activate public space.**
- **Fund public safety ambassadors, cleanups, cultural events and beautification projects** to support local efforts (BIDs, religious institutions, youth groups) to promote a culture of safety in hot spot areas.

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## IV. Make the subways safer

In the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic, and continuing into recent weeks, a series of high-profile, random, and tragic acts of violence have heightened New Yorkers' attention to people living on the streets and subways with serious mental illness. From the killing of Michelle Go in January 2022 by an individual with a long history of psychosis, to the tragic murder of Debrina Kawam just a few days before Christmas 2024, New Yorkers sense of safety on subways has plummeted. The New York Times documented nearly 100 random attacks by mentally ill, homeless New Yorkers [“failed by a system that keeps making the same errors.”](#)

Around 2,000 people with serious mental illness are living on the streets, cycling from subways to street to hospital to jail, and back again. Despite billions spent on outreach, homeless sweeps, police overtime, and emergency services, City Hall has failed to coordinate these efforts or focus effectively on connecting people to stable housing with services. New York City must shift from the “housing last” approach of the Adams administration to a “housing first” approach that moves people from the street directly to housing with services, which has proven successful in other cities (e.g. Denver, Houston, Salt Lake City) at getting and keeping people stably housed 70-90% of the time.

**As Mayor, Brad will implement his comprehensive, ready-on-day-one strategy to end street homelessness for those with serious mental illness, while also addressing issues like fare evasion in order to restore New Yorkers' sense of safety on the subway.**

## End Street Homelessness for People With Serious Mental Illness

Brad's [plan for ending street homelessness for people with serious mental illness](#) is a comprehensive, ready-on-day-one approach that will improve management and coordination across agencies and outreach programs, expand and improve involuntary and court-ordered treatment and secure detention programs, and invest in the capacity of the mental health system. At the center of the plan is a [“housing first”](#) approach, which moves people directly from the street into existing supportive housing units (including many single-room occupancy, or SRO units, which are currently vacant), with wraparound services. This model has proven effective at getting and keeping people house 70-90% of the time.

**Improve City Hall management and coordination across agencies and outreach programs, with a diligent focus on outcomes.**

- **Improve management at City Hall:** Create a dedicated team at City Hall that drives resource deployment and decision-making citywide, with a focus on stabilizing and housing the highest risk populations living on the streets.
- **Empower and expand the City's Continuum of Care** to facilitate program implementation and improve coordination.

- Improve and expand proactive subway and neighborhood outreach teams
- Restructure the City's framework for mental health emergency response

Create a "Housing First" program with robust wrap around support services for people with serious mental illness experiencing street homelessness.

- Create a **large-scale "Housing First" program with robust wraparound services** for people with serious mental illness experiencing street homelessness, modeled on the successful "Street to Housing" pilot of Volunteers of America, and utilizing existing vacancies in SRO and supportive housing.
- **Fulfill the NYC 15/15 commitment** to build supportive housing and create more supportive housing through a NY/NY IV agreement
- **Supportive housing placements** to people with serious mental illness discharged from City jails.
- **Pressure New York State** should do its fair share to confront the City's homelessness crisis.

Expand and improve involuntary and court-ordered treatment and secure detention programs.

- **Close gaps in State law around involuntary hospitalization** and assisted outpatient treatment to ensure more people receive the care they need
- Expedite and expand the **secure, outposted therapeutic beds**, starting with the 360 beds at Health and Hospitals (H+H) facilities that the Adams administration delayed by over two years and has still failed to open.
- Increase the capacity and efficacy of **Mental Health Courts** which have proven highly effective, but require stable housing for people to comply with their treatment and sanctions.

Both the City and State must invest in the capacity of the mental health system.

- **Reverse state-level funding cuts** for New York City's mental health system
- **Invest in the City's mental health and human services workforce**
- **Invest in and adapt mental health care services for people with SMI** to fully integrate them into the new Housing First approach and related programs
- **More and better training for the NYPD officers** who respond to EDPs.

## Confront Fare Evasion and Low-Level Violations

Large increases in fare evasion present and other low-level violations pose a serious problem for subway safety. Fare evasion spiked after the pandemic, growing to 14% of subway riders, and a whopping 48% of bus riders. The MTA reports losing approximately \$700 million in revenue due to fare and toll evasion in 2023, which represents 14% of the agency's potential pool of revenue and nearly 4% of its operating budget. NYPD increased overtime for officers to monitor the transit system from [\\$4 million in 2022 to \\$150 million in 2023](#). However, the arrests and summons amounted to approximately \$104,000 in unpaid fares.

- **Install turnstiles that [prevent fare evasion](#)** at all subway stations, beginning with [150 subway stations that serve 75% of riders](#).
- **Increase focus on high-fare evasion zones:** In the short-term, provide additional coverage to high-fare evasion areas while minimizing disruptions to regular riders. Since most fare evasion occurs through open emergency doors (rather than turnstile jumping), the strategy of hiring private security guards to keep the emergency doors closed when not being appropriately used should be expanded.

- **Expand “Fair Fares” to increase access:** Brad will ensure that the MTA works with community-based organizations to expand the “Fair Fares” program and provide discounted or subsidized fares for low-income riders, making it easier for all New Yorkers to access affordable transportation.
- **Fair and transparent enforcement:** Enforcement of low-level violations on the subway (e.g. lying down or stretching out across multiple seats, public urination, etc) can be done effectively to promote safety, through a mixture of warnings and violations, generally without leading to arrests or criminal charges. Prioritize a fair, non-punitive approach to enforcement, focusing on education and offering options for those caught evading fares, such as community service, payment, and enrollment in fair fares.

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## V. Modernize Case Processing and Discovery Reforms

New York’s 2020 discovery reform introduced essential changes to enhance fairness in criminal cases, but led to unintended consequences. Currently, if a prosecutor’s discovery compliance is later challenged successfully, the time between certification and challenge is retroactively counted against the prosecution, often resulting in dismissals unrelated to the merits of the case or the legality of the investigation. This loophole inadvertently incentivizes delaying discovery challenges, in order to have cases easily thrown out on technicalities. For example, dismissals of misdemeanors—many involving retail theft—due to [discovery technicalities increased fivefold from 6% to 33%](#) between 2019 and 2024.

Meanwhile, increasingly long delays of New York City’s justice system are violating the constitutional rights of detainees and wasting hundreds of millions of tax-payer dollars annually, without making our city any safer. No one should have to wait three years for their day in court. As Comptroller, Brad’s [Ensuring Timely Trials](#) report, found [179% increase from 2019 to 2023 in felony cases that took over three years for the court to process](#). Following that report, NYS Chief Administrative Judge Joseph Zayas [announced a plan to confront these delays](#) and ensure more timely trials.

- **Expedite case processing** by investing in 21st-century scheduling software, implementing discovery technology improvements to expedite access to NYPD records and case files for prosecutors and defenders and creating a working group charged with accelerating the processing of felony cases – [reducing the cost of detaining individuals by \\$876.7 million](#) per year.
- **Work with the State to decrease the processing time of gun cases.** There are far too many pending gun possession cases, which delays outcomes. Brad will work with the NYS court system to build upon past intensive efforts to [reduce gun case backlogs](#). Reducing the gun case backlog will mean a faster process for gun possession cases and a focused effort to get guns off the street.
- Support the [NYS Chief Administrative Judge’s recent leadership and innovation](#) which, in line with [Comptroller Office recommendations](#), will set firm but realistic **deadlines for discovery compliance**, triage and expedite criminal cases, and implement a citywide calendaring system. Brad looks forward to partnering with the State to support the implementation of these reforms.
- Brad supports **discovery reform** Senate Bill S613 sponsored by State Senator Zellnor Myrie and Assemblymember Micah Lasher, which would **give prosecutors direct access to police evidence databases to help improve timely processing** and (with some modest adjustments) more effectively utilize technology to preserve the key features of the 2020 discovery reform law, including clear timelines and obligations to provide relevant information and ensure fairness for defendants, while addressing the rise in case dismissals for technical reasons that in many cases did not prejudice the case.



## VI. Fight against hate and harassment in our city

At a time when forces seek to divide us, we must stand firm against all forms of hate and ensure all victims feel safe reporting incidents. Between 2019 and 2023 [hate crime incidents grew by almost 60%](#). In 2023, nearly half of New York’s hate crimes were motivated by religious bias—with most targeting Jews, up a staggering 89% since 2018. About one-third were race-based, over half of which were anti-Black. LGBTQ+ hate crimes made up nearly 17% of all incidents, with sharp increases noted, especially against gay male and transgender individuals. Although anti-Asian incidents have dropped from their pandemic peak, they still far exceed pre-pandemic levels. Trump’s rhetoric portends to even further exacerbate hate-based violence and crime.

Brad has a long history of bringing New Yorkers together, bridging divides, and standing up against hate. Over his decade as a City Councilmember in a district with a large number of Jews and Muslims, he consistently organized and joined marches and rallies against [antisemitism](#), [Islamophobia](#), and [white supremacy](#), and brought people together to [stand up to hate](#). **Brad’s comprehensive plan to combat hate violence and harassment includes cutting-edge technology, evidence-based prevention programs, victim support and stronger law enforcement.**

### **Cutting-edge approach to prevent and combat domestic extremism and targeted violence**

Violent extremism and targeted violence (directed at a specific individual or group due to a perceived grievance, ideology, or hatred) are on the rise in the United States. Law enforcement has faced an increasing number of cases pertaining to terrorism, driven by many forms of extremism. Taking an evidence-based approach to prevention and intervention, Brad will partner with groups, such as the Citizens Crime Commission, to harness [cutting edge, effective strategies to identify, redirect and demobilize individuals with risk factors associated with hate crime](#) to expand programs that:

- **Identify early warning signs of violent extremism and intervene before harm occurs.** Social media and gaming platforms often reveal harmful messaging and hate speech before authorities are alerted. By leveraging public education and accessible search data, the City will pilot a targeted outreach strategy to connect at-risk individuals—and their concerned family and peers—with vital resources and mental health support.
- **Disrupt extremist violence before it starts** through a first-of-its-kind voluntary early engagement program that connects individuals at-risk of violent extremist mobilization with mental health professionals.
- **Launch training program aimed at mental health professionals** who may be interacting with individuals mobilizing unbeknownst to them to identify warning signs and intervention best practices.

### **Strengthening legislation, law enforcement & victim support**

- **Fully resource the NYPD Hate Crimes Task Force** with the staffing, training, and tools needed to investigate rising hate crimes and effectively engage impacted communities.
- **Strengthen OPHC’s response to hate crimes** by implementing key provisions of the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act, particularly in tracking, reporting, and prevention in collaboration with the NYPD, the Hate Crimes Task Force, DAs offices, and community organizations to enhance data-sharing to ensure a coordinated approach.

- **Strengthen partnerships between law enforcement and community organizations** to build trust, encourage hate crime reporting, and provide direct victim support.
- **Ensure all victims, regardless of immigration status, feel safe reporting** hate crimes by reinforcing policies that protect undocumented individuals and encourage them to seek help without fear.
- **Expand support services for victims and survivors** of hate crimes, including trauma-informed care, legal assistance, and crisis intervention programs.
- **Mandate comprehensive training** for all city employees on recognizing and addressing hate crimes, discrimination, and bias incidents, fostering a culture committed to prevention and intervention.
- To **reinforce the fundamental right to an education free from discrimination and bias**, Brad supports [State legislation](#) mandating that every NYS college and university appoint a dedicated Title VI Coordinator to ensure compliance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by promoting equal access to education and services for students regardless of race, color, or national origin.

## Education, prevention & community investment

**Ensure Diverse Histories Are Taught and Reflected in Classrooms.** One model for broader expansion is the AAPI Classroom Program, operated by the Coalition for Asian American Children and Families (CACF), an educational initiative in which high school students are trained to teach their classmates about their history and culture, and about the forms of bias and discrimination they face, in order to foster cultural understanding and reduce bias in schools. Brad will support the growth of this program to ensure that all students see their histories and lived experiences reflected in their education. Expansion will include:

- **A broader range of communities**, ensuring tailored educator training, for student-educators and teachers, that equips them with the tools to lead inclusive curricula effectively.
- **Co-designed content from diverse communities**, multilingual and culturally responsive materials, and digital and hybrid learning tools for greater accessibility.
- **Enhanced anti-hate education and youth programs** that promote inclusion, leadership, and civic engagement, ensuring young people understand bias and discrimination while fostering a sense of belonging, civil rights, and community building.
- **Field trips and partnership with community organizations**, such as the models offered by the Museum of Jewish Heritage, Lower East Side Tenement Museum, Museo del Barrio, the Schomburg Center, and the Weeksville Heritage Center.
- **Statewide policy integration** to serve as a model for community-centered, equitable education. that truly reflects the city's values.
- **Expand community-based initiatives** that foster cross-cultural understanding, including interfaith dialogues, neighborhood engagement, and community-led safety efforts and work with community groups to **conduct safety audits** that identify locations where harassment is most prevalent and design solutions that deter harassment while maintaining a welcoming, accessible public environment.
- **Support mental health and social services** for communities most impacted by hate crimes, providing culturally competent resources to aid healing and resilience.
- **Revitalize the Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes (OPHC)** by ensuring adequate staffing to coordinate the city's response and prevention efforts against hate crimes, bias incidents, and discrimination.
- **Invest in the NYC Commission on Human Rights** to enhance protections against discrimination in housing, employment, and public spaces while addressing bias-based harassment

- **Implement a non-criminal harassment reporting mechanism**—such as an anonymous reporting app or hotline—to allow victims and bystanders to report harassment without fear of escalation. Ensure the NYPD and community-based responders are trained in trauma-informed interventions that de-escalate harassment incidents. Launch a citywide educational campaign on what constitutes street harassment, how it affects New Yorkers, and how to safely intervene as a bystander.

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## VII. Combat retail theft

Retail theft and organized retail crime harm New Yorkers – they hurt businesses small and large, contribute to store closures and vacant storefronts, and create huge headaches for consumers. New Yorkers should be able to purchase everyday essentials without waiting for store staff to unlock the toothpaste, and local businesses should be shielded from profit losses and crime incidents that can escalate. Brad’s [plan to combat retail theft](#) will include a simple, one-stop platform that retail stores can opt into to streamline reporting to the NYPD, helping with timely response, and investigations. As the system works to curb shoplifting, stores will be required to unlock items and restore the customer shopping experience.

### Reduce barriers to reporting

**Create a simple one-stop platform that stores can opt into to streamline reporting to the NYPD, investigating and preventing theft, and requires stores to remove barriers that keep products behind lock-and-key as shoplifting declines.** The site would make it easy for stores to:

- **Quickly report shoplifting at the touch of a button**, rather than call 911.
- **Integrate retail store cameras with NYPD**, so they can quickly access footage, without red tape slowing down the process.
- **Enable NYPD to develop a database of shoplifting across stores**, to more easily identify repeat offenders.

**Participating stores will be required to remove barriers that keep products behind lock-and-key – starting with low-cost items like toothpaste and deodorant, based on a percentage threshold system: as theft decreases by a certain amount, participating stores will commit to unlocking a corresponding quantity of items.**

### Expedite effective enforcement

- **Forge better interagency partnerships for stronger investigation and enforcement** to improve the government’s capacity to investigate and enforce against online marketplaces selling stolen goods.
- **Leverage data and interagency partnership to focus on repeat offenders.** In 2022, just 327 individuals accounted for 6,600 shoplifting arrests – and in 2024, the Manhattan DA reported that from 2015 to 2021, 18% of shoplifting arrestees accounted for 42% of shoplifting arrests.
- **Issue swift consequences for retail theft.** Brad supports the [Manhattan District Attorney’s focused deterrence approach](#) which ensures speedy consequences for those doing the most damage while also ensuring a narrow focus on the specific people needed to make the biggest impact. Through regular meetings with District Attorneys, NYPD, businesses BIDs and merchant associations, Brad will be able to sharply monitor and increase real-time communication between the City and businesses.

- **Enhance enforcement efforts against brick-and-mortar businesses that engage in resale of stolen goods.** [Leveraging existing enforcement mechanisms](#), Brad will ensure the City creates stronger disincentives for these businesses to participate in fencing. Since these establishments have a vested interest in maintaining their legal operations, targeted enforcement and additional penalties will effectively deter their involvement in illegal resales. Brad supports the [State's recent efforts to identify and enforce against online marketplaces selling stolen goods](#).
- Make grant funding available for **small businesses to upgrade security cameras**.

#### **Establish evidence-based diversion, public education, and training**

- **Leverage evidence-based programs to address repeat non-violent offenders and those with drug habits.** Recognizing that many repeat retail offenders struggle with substance abuse, he will strengthen these programs through enhanced prosecution, treatment for drug users, and diversion initiatives (like the effective drug treatment courts sponsored by the Center for Justice Innovation).
- **Connect repeat offenders to support services** through better coordinated services such as Brad's plan for [ending street homelessness](#).
- **Spearhead public education projects** to [protect consumers from inadvertently buying stolen goods online](#).
- **Train in-workplace violence prevention, de-escalation and emergency procedures.** Brad supports RWDSU's recent victory, which resulted in the successful passage and the Governor's signing of the [Retail Worker Safety Act](#). In addition to training, the [act requires](#) large employers to provide panic buttons in case of emergency, which can be integrated with the online reporting system. Brad will continue to work with workers and unions to understand what support they need in order to ensure properly staffed, safe work environments.