



**JUMAANE D.
WILLIAMS**

Annual Report 2025

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC ADVOCATE JUMAANE D. WILLIAMS
1 Centre Street, New York, NY 10007 • (212) 669-7250 • www.advocate.nyc.gov • @NYCPA

Contents

5	Constituent Services
6	Legislation
13	Justice & Safety
15	Housing & Health Equity
16	Education & Opportunity
19	Technology, Development & Data
20	Infrastructure & Environmental Justice
21	Community Affairs



JUMAANE D. WILLIAMS

To Speaker Adams, the City Council, and my New York City neighbors,

This past year, our city has faced obstacles I thought I'd never see in this country. The return of Donald Trump and his administration to power threatened all of us, especially the communities already marginalized and underserved. By threatening our funding and our people, deploying a deportation machine and promising worse, the federal government has thrown the city into uncertainty. And throughout that time, the mayor has been at best an additional unknown, at worst an aid to this harm. In that environment, our role in the Public Advocate's office has been all the more critical.

The Office of the Public Advocate exists to give voice to New Yorkers across every borough—to connect the people to their government, to shine a light on inequities and inefficiencies, and to advocate for the systems and solutions that make this city more just, more affordable, and more humane.

Six years into my time as Public Advocate, I remain deeply proud of how our office continues to meet that goal and serve all New Yorkers—by amplifying community concerns, advancing meaningful legislation, and holding power accountable in service of the public good. The past year has tested New York's resilience yet again—with a growing need for the government to meet people where they are. Through it all, our office has worked to respond with urgency, compassion, and creativity.

In the final year of this term, our Policy and Legislative teams have worked diligently to craft and champion laws that respond directly to New Yorkers' lived experiences, while our Constituent Services team has once again served thousands of residents navigating bureaucratic barriers—from unsafe housing conditions to benefits access and disability services. Each case represents not just a number, but a neighbor we've stood beside in pursuit of justice and dignity.

Our Community Engagement division deepened partnerships with neighborhood groups and advocates, hosting roundtables, town halls, and listening sessions focused on issues ranging

from immigration rights to public health. Across every effort, we have spoken truth to power—supporting city agencies and leaders when they act in service of justice and standing firmly against them when they fall short. That dual responsibility is what defines this office, and it is what drives our team each day.

The pages ahead highlight only a fraction of the work our staff has accomplished this year. If I am lucky enough to continue to serve as Public Advocate in the coming year, that work will continue. The strength of the Office of the Public Advocate lies in our people—their dedication, their expertise, and their unwavering belief that government must work for everyone, especially those too often left behind. I am proud of the progress we have made, grateful for the partnerships that make it possible, and steadfast in my commitment to continue this work with and for all New Yorkers.

Constituent Services

The Office reported 44 cases from constituents related to Federal agencies from June 2024 to June 2025, with most cases being attributed to the Social Security Administration. The second highest number of cases involved Immigration questions or referrals, or Housing and Urban Development. There were also some cases concerning the US Postal Service and Passport Renewal. The percentage of cases closed is 90%.

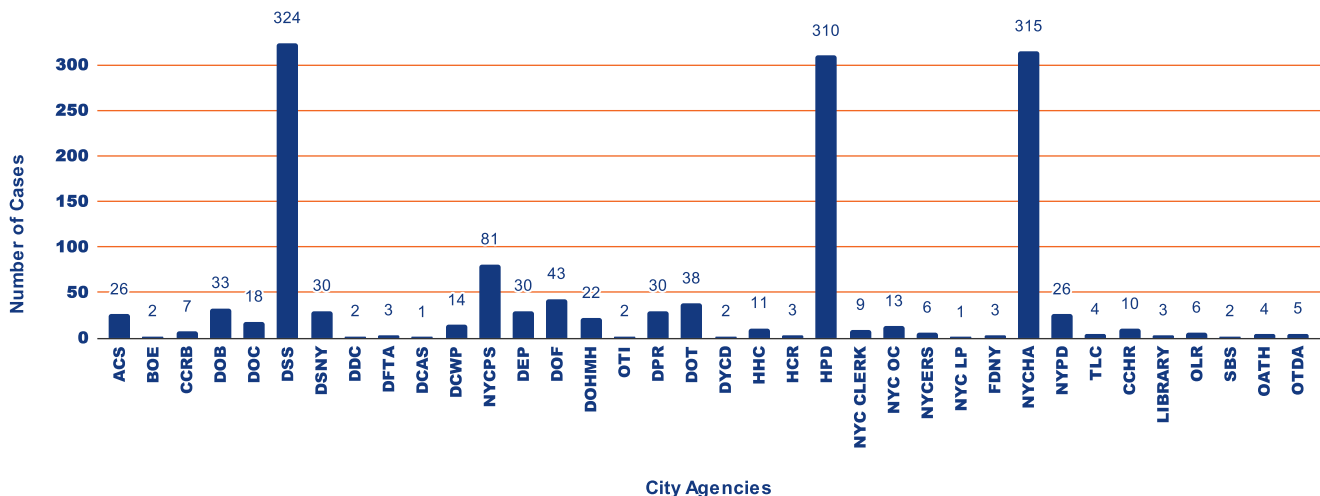
The Office reported 73 cases from constituents related to State agencies from June 2024 to June 2025. The second most cases were related to the MTA and Access-A-Ride at 18 and 16, respectively. The percentage of cases closed is 94%.

The Office reported 1,439 cases from constituents related to City agencies between June 2024 to June 2025. The most cases were related to the Department of Social Services at 324 cases. The second-highest number was the New York City Housing Authority at 315 cases, followed by the Department of Housing and Preservation Department at 310 cases, and the New York City Public Schools at 81 cases. The percentage of cases closed is 91%.

The issues most constituents bring to the Office of the Public Advocate concern Housing, by far. Numbers for NYCHA, HPD, and those who are unhoused reflected here concern constituents' housing conditions. At the State and Federal level, most constituent cases continue to revolve around Immigration or difficulty receiving government benefits.

Constituent Services FY25

Cases Received by Agency



Legislation

In Fiscal Year 2025, the New York City Council enacted **one** of the Public Advocate's bills as a Local Law and did not adopt any Resolutions introduced by the Public Advocate. Below is the sole Local Law passed in Fiscal Year 2025 that encompasses the time period from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. It is important to note that this is a substantial decrease from Fiscal Year 2024 where the Public Advocate passed 8 Local Laws.

Local Laws Enacted in Legislative Session 13 of Fiscal Year 2025

- **Local Law 95 of 2024** formerly known as Int. 833-A-2024 (A Local Law In relation to requiring the installation and maintenance of an informational sign at the intersection of Wall and Pearl Streets in Manhattan to mark the site of New York's first slave market).

Included in this report are **11 bills** (two Resolutions and 9 Intros) that were laid over in committee in the new legislative session that commenced on January 1, 2024, as well as a link to all of the New York City Council hearings that the Public Advocate delivered or submitted a statement for the record.

Laid Over Bills in Legislative Session 13 of Fiscal Year 2025

- **Int. No. 399-2024** Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring the department of education to provide information requiring school compliance with the Americans with disabilities act
 - **Hearing held 06-18-2024**
- **Int. No. 401-2024** A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to prohibiting discrimination in the issuance of credit and requiring creditors to disclose to potential borrowers how their rate is calculated.
 - **Hearing held 02-29-2024**
- **Int. No. 408-2024** A Local Law to amend the New York city charter, in relation to creating a division within the department of small business services to assist street vendors and requiring the commissioner of small business services to update the department's programs to facilitate street vendor access
 - **Hearing held 05-06-2025**

- **Int. No. 634-2024** A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to 311 transmitting image and video data for housing service requests or complaints.
 - **Hearing held 04-25-2024**
- **Int. No. 639-2024** A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring the department of small business services to offer training and education to small businesses regarding accessibility of the workplace and inclusion of workers with disabilities.
 - **Hearing held 05-09-2025**
- **Int. No. 640-2024** A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring the 311-customer service center to accept requests for service and complaints using video call functionality.
 - **Hearing held 04-25-2024**
- **Int. No. 700-2024** A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to developing a college admissions counseling program.
 - **Hearing held 10-30-2024**
- **Int. No. 949-2024** A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to the provision of sufficient receptacles for the storage of solid waste.
 - **Hearing held 11-20-2024**
- **Int. No. 950-2024** A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to increasing the number of violations required to revoke authorization to operate a commuter van service.
 - **Hearing held 09-27-2024**
- **Res. No. 374-2024** Resolution calling on the New York State Legislature to pass and the Governor to sign, legislation mandating that any owner intending to sell a multi-unit residential dwelling, must first make a fairly appraised offer of sale to the tenants within the residence before making any sale offers to third parties.
 - **Hearing held 06-03-2024**
- **Res. No. 416-2024** Resolution calling on the New York State Legislature to pass, and the Governor to sign, S.3103-B/A.6058-A, to require mental health services for incarcerated individuals with mental health issues related to the trauma of incarceration.
 - **Hearing held 05-01-2024**

Testimony & Statements

Delivered and/or Submitted in Legislative Session 13 of Fiscal Year 2025

n Fiscal Year 2025, comprising the months from July 1, 2024 until June 30, 2025, the Public Advocate submitted a total of **84 statements or testimonies** at New York City Council hearings, and New York City or New York State Agency hearings. These hearings covered a variety of topics from safety of lithium-ion battery storage, to law enforcement oversight, reform of street vendor licensing, among others.

Committee(s)	Purpose of Hearing	Date of Hearing	Date(s) (if rescheduled)	Delivered
Board of Correction	Sexual assault	Sep -2024		
Rockefeller Institute of Government Foundation Aid Study	Foundation aid	9/6/2024		
	League of Women Voters	9/10/2024		
Civil + Human Rights	Int 0833A-2024 Vote	9/12/2024		
Higher Education	Increasing Civic Engagement at CUNY	9/16/2024		
(FOR SUBMISSION) JDW Statement: 09.17.2024 Committees on Finance and Oversight & Investigations	Cannabis retail	9/17/2024		
Veterans	Increasing Veterans Civic Engagement	9/18/2024		
Public Housing	Rent Arrears and Evictions (Resulting from Underfunding ERAP)	9/18/2024		
Health/Mental Health, Disabilities & Addiction/Public Safety/Hospitals/ Fire & Emergency Management	B-HEARD	9/23/2024		
Children and Youth/Women and Gender Equity	LGBTQ+ youth in foster care	9/24/2024		
Criminal Justice	Int 423, 719, 735, 206	9/27/2024		
Education/Contracts	School transportation	9/30/2024		
Women + Gender Equity/General Welfare	Supporting Domestic Violence Survivors in NYC's Shelter System	10/9/2024		
JDW Statement: 10.15.2024 Committees on Immigration and Children & Youth	Migrants/asylum seekers	10/15/2024		
Veterans	Supporting the Families of Veterans with PTSD	10/21/2024		
Zoning + Franchise	City of Yes	10/21/2024		

Committee(s)	Purpose of Hearing	Date of Hearing	Date(s) (if rescheduled)	Delivered
Health; Hospitals	Examining the Effects of Hospital Closures on Community Needs	10/29/2024		
Education/Children and Youth	Int 700	10/30/2024		
Public Housing	NYCHA's HUD Agreement and Ongoing Federal Monitorship	10/31/2024		
Hospitals; Fire & Emer. Mngmt.; Oversight	Ambulance Response Times	11/1/2024		
Housing + Buildings	Tenant Harrassment and Safety	11/12/2024		
Education/Children and Youth/ Public Safety/Transportation & Infrastructure	Subway surfing	11/18/2024		
Statement - Joint Hearing on Deed Theft	Oversight on Deed Theft	11/19/2024		In Person
Consumer & Worker Protection	Oversight on Deed Theft	11/19/2024		In Person
Housing + Buildings	Basement Accessory Dwelling Units	11/19/2024		
Joint Committee on Contracts & Solid Waste Management Statement	Oversight on Trash Containerization	11/20/2024		In Person
Committee on Rules, Privileges, & Elections Statement	Confirmation of Muriel Goode-Trufant as Corp. Counsel	11/20/2024		Submitted to Record
Sanitation + Solid Waste Mgmt	Receptacles for the storage of solid waste	11/20/2024		In Person
Committee on Land USE	VOTE on City of Yes	11/21/2024		Submitted to Record
Education/Women & Gender Equity	Sex ed	12/4/2024		
Cultural Affairs	Supporting Indigenous Peoples Arts Cultures and History	12/10/2024		
Transportation & Infrastructure	E-Bike Licensure	12/11/2024		In Person
Children and Youth	Int 652	12/12/2024		
Public Safety	Stop and frisk	12/16/2024		
Joint Committees on Oversight & Investigations, Finance, General Welfare, and Contracts	Oversight on Publicly-Funded Homeless Shelter Providers	12/17/2024		In Person
	PEP Meeting - Chancellor's Regulation A820	12/18/2024		
Fire and Emergency Management				In Person
Health, Hospitals, Civil Service and Labor	Work Stoppage	1/10/2025		Submitted to Record

Committee(s)	Purpose of Hearing	Date of Hearing	Date(s) (if rescheduled)	Delivered
Finance	Tax Lien Sale	1/14/2025		Submitted to Record
Landmarks, Public Sitings and Dispositions		1/15/2025		Submitted to Record
Immigration		1/16/2025		Submitted to Record
Oversight & Investigations - OIG NYPD	OIG NYPD	1/29/2025		
Criminal Justice/Contracts	Contracted jail services	1/30/2025		
Transportation & Infrastructure	Capital Planning / Future Street Repairs	1/21/2025		Submitted to Record
JDW Statement: 01.27.2025 Committee on Civil Service and Labor	Res. 333-2024	1/27/2025		
Education	Special education	1/29/2025	1/30/2025	
General Welfare	Administration of CityFHEPS	1/27/2025		
Small Business + Econ Development	Legal & Regulatory Challenges Facing Small Businesses	1/30/2025		
Health + General Welfare	Oversight - HASA Administration.	2/12/2025		
Public Safety/Technology/Oversight & Investigations	Oversight - Examining NYPD's Implementation of the POST Act	2/19/2025		
Education	Oversight - Early Child Care Center Closures	2/20/2025		
Civil and Human Rights	Oversight - The State of Black New York and the Racial Equity Planning Process	2/20/2025		In Person
Public Housing	Oversight - Transparency @ NYCHA	2/26/2025		In Person
Committee on Health + Subcommittee on COVID	Oversight - Detecting, Preventing, and Responding to Public Health Emergencies in NYC.	2/19/2025		Submitted to Record
Women and Gender Equity	Oversight - Ensuring Access to Supports for Transgender, Gender Non-conforming, and Nonbinary (TGNCNB) People in New York City	2/28/2025		Submitted to Record
Building Codes Council	Updates to the building code	2/28/2025		In Person

Committee(s)	Purpose of Hearing	Date of Hearing	Date(s) (if rescheduled)	Delivered
Public Safety	Criminal Group Database	2/24/2025		In Person
Immigration	FY26 Preliminary Budget	3/6/2025		In Person
Public Safety	Prelim Budget Hearing	3/11/2025		In Person
Education	Prelim Budget Hearing	3/13/2025		In Person
Public Safety	Vote - Res 415-A	3/26/2025		Submitted to Record
Health + Mental Health	Prelim Budget Hearing	3/24/2025		In Person
Full H&B Shorten H&B	Prelim Budget Hearing	3/25/2025		In Person
Civil Service & Labor	Proposed Res. No. 333-A	4/10/2025		
Immigration & Consumer and Worker Protection	Immigration Fraud	4/15/2025		In Person
Criminal Justice	Oversight - Examining Recommendations from the Independent Rikers Commission's Blueprint to Close Rikers.	4/16/2025		
Transportation & Infrastructure	Oversight - Parking Infrastructure / Daylighting	4/21/2025		In Person
Small Business + Civil Rights	Oversight - Supporting Small Businesses' Compliance with ADA and accessibility.	5/9/2025		In Person
H&B	Executive Budget	5/14/2025		In Person
Transportation & Infrastructure	Executive Budget	5/13/2025		Submitted to Record
Government Operations + Finance	Preparing for Changes in Federal Funding	4/16/2025		Submitted to Record
Government Operations	Int 246	4/24/2025		Submitted to Record
Housing + Buildings	Affordable Housing Lottery	4/29/2025		Submitted to Record
Consumer and Worker Protection	Street Vendor Reform	5/6/2025		In Person
Health + Mental Health	Executive Budget	5/23/2025		Submitted to Record
Housing + Buildings	Social Housing	6/3/2025		Submitted to Record
Criminal Justice	Executive Budget	5/27/2025		Submitted to Record
Board of Correction	Monthly meeting	5/13/2025		Submitted to Record

Committee(s)	Purpose of Hearing	Date of Hearing	Date(s) (if rescheduled)	Delivered
Rent Guidelines Board	Rent Guidelines Board Preliminary Vote	6/12/2025		In Person
Economic Development	Redevelopment of the Brooklyn Marine Terminal	6/12/2025		In Person
Fire and Emergency Management	Fire Safety and Permitting Approval for Community Energy Storage Facilities	6/25/2025		
Children and Youth	Oversight - Evaluating the Crisis Management System Under DYCD	6/17/2025		
Public Housing	Oversight - NYCHA Vacancies & Transfers	6/16/2025		Submitted to Record
Health	PA's Bill: Int 0628-2024 + Int 0629-2024	6/26/2025		In Person

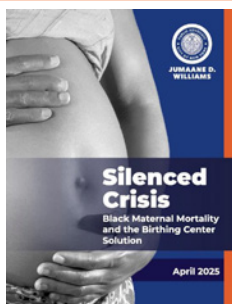
Reports & White Papers

The Office of the Public Advocate published the following policy reports and white papers from July 2024 to June 2025:



December 2024

[Stopping the Blaze: Solutions for Safe Use of Lithium-Ion Batteries](#)



April 2025

[Silenced Crisis: Black Maternal Mortality and the Birthing Center Solution](#)



May 2025

[NYC's Congestion Relief Zone: On the Fast Track to Success](#)

Justice & Safety

The Justice & Safety team helps reach the Office's mission of ensuring all New York City residents are treated with dignity by holding city agencies accountable, uplifting holistic approaches to public safety, and empowering community members in order to confront institutions, drive change and achieve justice.

Events

- **On July 18, 2024,** Public Advocate Jumaane D. Williams participated in the Reimagining Policing Forum, contributing to the launch of strategy sessions for a citywide series of community-led conversations on public safety.
- **On July 27, 2024,** Public Advocate Jumaane D. Williams delivered the keynote address at the Kevin Shaw Jr. Foundation's 3rd Annual Anti-Gun Violence Event, emphasizing the office's commitment to community-led solutions and highlighting the importance of education as a means to advancement.
- **On July 28, 2024,** Public Advocate Jumaane D. Williams delivered the keynote address at the National Day of Mourning for Sonya Massey, standing in solidarity with our larger grieving community and amplifying their demands for justice and accountability.
- **On July 31, 2024,** Deputy Public Advocate for Justice & Safety Jeffrey Severe supported the Men Talk Memorial Candlelight Vigil, an ongoing initiative to create space for men to process grief and trauma related to gun violence.
- **On August 6, 2024,** Public Advocate Jumaane D. Williams participated in National Night Out, travelling across the city meeting with residents and community leaders in Staten Island, Chinatown, and Harlem to discuss localized approaches to public safety and strengthen community-police relations.
- **Later on August 28, 2024,** Public Advocate Jumaane D. Williams joined Assemblymember Monique Chandler-Waterman in convening an urgent virtual briefing with other elected officials and stakeholders to address reports of aggressive policing tactics, leading to a coordinated plan for legislative oversight and community support.

- **On September 10, 2024,** Public Advocate Jumaane D. Williams virtually testified at the NYC Board of Correction’s September meeting. The testimony officially registered the office’s opposition to the mayor’s overreaching with his emergency powers to block Local Law 42. He argued it undermines the democratic process and continues a dangerous status quo on Rikers Island.
- **On September 18, 2024,** Public Advocate Jumaane D. Williams sat with justice-involved and at-risk youth from the Harlem based organizations Youth Justice Network and Avenues for Justice. These intimate Q&A sessions saw them sharing their experiences and discussing pathways to opportunity, deeply informing the office’s work.
- **On September 20, 2024,** Public Advocate Jumaane D. Williams stood with the family of Gregory Delpeche at a press conference addressing the release of recent body camera footage. The Public Advocate’s remarks called for full transparency from the administration and renewed the demand for accountability for questionable actions by officers.
- **Later on September 20, 2024,** Public Advocate Jumaane D. Williams served as a panelist at another Reimagining Policing Forum in the Bronx, contributing to a vital conversation about building new models of public safety rooted in community trust and investment.
- **Later on October 2, 2024,** Public Advocate Jumaane D. Williams joined with advocates to mark the 11th Annual International Wrongful Conviction Day. The Public Advocate’s remarks honored the resilience of exonerees and advocated for systemic reforms to protect against future injustices.
- **On October 5, 2024,** Public Advocate Jumaane D. Williams was the featured virtual speaker at the Canadian Prison Law Conference. The presentation shared insights from New York City’s legislative battles Local Law 42, contributing to an international dialogue on strategies for ending solitary confinement and advancing human rights.
- **On October 14, 2024,** Public Advocate Jumaane D. Williams delivered remarks at the Community Capacity Development Human Justice March, highlighting criminal justice reform as a fight for the dignity and well-being of all New Yorkers.
- **On October 15, 2024,** Public Advocate Jumaane D. Williams delivered virtual remarks at the launch of the “We Deserve to Be Safe” report by Communities United for Police Reform, reinforcing the office’s commitment to using data for meaningful change in police accountability and transparency.

- **On November 1, 2024**, the Public Advocate Jumaane D. Williams partnered with Columbia University's Center for Justice for the ***Project Restore Bed-Stuy Symposium***. He helped lead a lively discussion on developing a new "Model for Community Safety." He hailed the pilot program for taking a necessary approach that invests in our youth and emphasizes preventative resources.
- **On December 3, 2024**, Deputy Public Advocate for Justice & Safety Jeffrey Severe joined the Center for Justice's "Justice Ambassadors Youth Council" conferral ceremony. He was present to support and celebrate the young leaders graduating from the program, looking to empower the next generation of justice reform advocates.
- **On February 24, 2025** the Public Advocate led a call, along with New York City Council sponsors of the How Many Stops Act, and Communities United for Police Reform to engage the NYPD about implementation of the law.
- **On March 10, 2025** the Public Advocate joined New York City Comptroller Brad Lander at Street Corner Resources to launch a comprehensive report on Community Violence Intervention in New York City and ways to bolster the results of the Crisis Management System.
- **On May 29, 2025** the Public Advocate joined Community Capacity Development and other Crisis Management System groups for their Annual Safe Summer press conference kicking off Gun Violence Awareness month. The event precedes a month of furious activities meant to raise awareness and provide resources to those most at-risk to the dangers of gun violence.

Housing & Health Equity

Housing , Health and Equity Portfolio cultivates and maintains relationships with stakeholders across specific issue area(s), including but not limited to community based organizations, advocacy groups, non-profit organizations, and community activists in housing and healthcare.

Events

- Start Loving Us TGNCB Meeting. The Office of the Public Advocate hosts this monthly meeting TGNCB for stakeholders and allies. Participants meet to discuss the reality of loving community and amplify that brown and black trans folks should not be murdered for living in their truth.
- LGBTQ and Health Coordinator Kim Watson-Benjamin represented the Office of the Public Advocate at the HIV Stigma Conference at Lincoln Hospital.
- LGBTQ and Health Coordinator Kim Watson-Benjamin at the City Council Trans Day of Remembrance (TDOR) at the City Council Chambers.
 - The OPA honored Make The Road Organization, Gia Love and Milani Polanco TDOR City wide attendance.
- Black Trans Liberation weekly Kitchen where the LGBT and Health Coordinator attends weekly events volunteering to serve the youth and homeless at the church.
- Staff from the Office of the Public Advocate joined organizers working to address the harmful resolutions against trans youth promoted by Community Education Council 2 (CEC 2).
- The Office of the Public Advocate staff joined advocates at the court hearing and for Beth Israel closure.
- The Office of the Public Advocate and the Comptroller held a first annual Pride Breakfast, honoring community members.

Education & Opportunity

Education & Opportunity team cultivates and maintains relationships with stakeholders across specific issue area(s), including but not limited to community based organizations, advocacy groups, non-profit organizations, and community activists in **education** such as those engaged in our New York City school, **bridges between education and opportunity** that provide pathways to dignified work such as the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP),

certification program, and **opportunity** with those engaged in workforce development, labor, workers rights and protections.

Events

- On September 17th, The Office of the Public Advocate hosted a Voter's Education and Registration Event in Partnership with York College in Queens.
- On October 15th, The Office of the Public Advocate hosted an event for Hispanic Heritage Month Event at P.S. 70 The Max Schoenfeld School to honor Hispanic communities, recognize the history, culture, and contributions. The Office brought together a diverse group of musicians, artists, community vendors and a DJ to kick off the celebration.
- On October 16th, The Office of the Public Advocate partnered with Silicon Harlem's Next Gen Tech Conference "Transforming Tomorrow: Innovations that are Re-Shaping Our Communities" to have the Office's Director of Information, Technology, and Data J.C. Brilliant who joined as a featured panelist speaker. In this 11th Annual Next Gen Tech Conference, they explored cutting-edge technologies revolutionizing industries and impacting communities worldwide and aimed to ignite conversations, spark collaborations, and drive actionable solutions to address today's most pressing challenges and opportunities.
- On November 22nd, Young Invincibles featured a keynote speech from Deputy Public Advocate of Education and Opportunity Elizabeth Kennedy at their 2024 State of the New York Young People event.
- On January 13th, The Office of the Public Advocate co-hosted a public event on Instagram Live called "Youth Civic Hub & OPA's 'Beyond Elections.'" The Office of the Public Advocate asked the public to join the Youth Civic Hub for an exciting Instagram Live event in partnership with NYC Public Advocate Jumaane Williams. Together, the event explored how young people can stay engaged in NYC's civic space year-round, even beyond elections. This inspiring conversation highlighted actionable ways to amplify your civic voice, featuring insights from NYC students, educators, and the Public Advocate himself.
- On January 28th, at Union Settlement - East Harlem Community Partnership, The Office of the Public Advocate held the "Mobilize New York: Community Organizing Fair." This event was more than a fair, as we hosted grassroots partners and city agencies to share resources, build solidarity, and foster civic engagement with the public.

- On February 21st, Deputy Public Advocate for Education & Opportunity Elizabeth Kennedy partnered with Brooklyn College Professor Valerie Weisler to speak to a Brooklyn College Children's Rights Class about the work of The Office of the Public Advocate.
- On March 25th, the Office of the Public Advocate and the Office of Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso co-hosted a Women's History Month celebration to honor extraordinary women making impactful contributions to New York City. New York City Council Speaker Adrienne Adams gave a keynote and the Public Advocate presented awards to deserving individuals.
- On April 9th, The Office of the Public Advocate in partnership with New York City Public Schools (NYCPS), The Partnership for the City of New York, and ExpandEd hosted 30 students from Manhattan International High School for Discovery Career Week. The event hosted young people that were interested in a career in education. The event featured a panel discussion, an office tour with students, and engaged in fruitful discussions over lunch.
- On May 6th, the NYC Street Vendor Justice Coalition (SVJC) hosted a celebration rally/ presser to thank all the Champions of the package bills that were voted and passed that same day which included NYC Public Advocate Jumaane D. Williams, CM Sanchez, CM Farias, CM Krishnan and CM DeLaRosa for their tireless efforts and outstanding leadership to get the bills across the finish line.
- On May 19th, the NYC Youth Agenda invited the NYC Public Advocate Jumaane D. Williams to be a keynote speaker at their Dine & Policy Design event where young people shared how to strengthen the coalition impact and hold city leaders accountable.
- On June 5th, the New York City Public Advocate Jumaane D. Williams co-hosted a rally about afterschool for all with the NYC Comptroller's Office, Advocates For Children & New York Appleseed alongside those in attendance featuring Council Member Rita Joseph, Chair of the Committee on Education, Councilmember Gale Brewer, New York City parents, New York City students, New York City educators, and advocates. The rally was held to make clear that All means ALL—that educational programs are not universal if they continue to exclude students with disabilities.

Technology, Development & Data

The past fiscal year of the NYC Public Advocate's Technology, Development & Data team was highly productive, marked by significant **infrastructure improvements**, enhanced **cybersecurity posture**, and the successful **launch of a key public data project**. A major organizational milestone was also achieved with the official election of the Director of IT J.C.Brilliant to Executive Director of CoPIC.

Key Accomplishments

Area	Achievement	Impact
Infrastructure	Established a Site-to-Site VPN with OTI & Spectrum.	Created a secure, reliable, and persistent network connection to NYC Resources, reducing reliance on the less efficient SSL VPN.
Security	Implemented KnowBe4 Phishing Alerts in Google Workspace.	Significantly strengthened the organization's defenses against social engineering and phishing attacks by improving user awareness.
Public Data	Successfully launched 2024 LandLordWatchList.com with HPD.	Delivered a high-profile public-facing data product on time, demonstrating successful cross-agency collaboration.
Mobility	Initiated migration of the mobile fleet back to Verizon .	Addressed chronic service reliability issues experienced with the previous carrier (T-Mobile), ensuring essential communication is maintained.
Governance	Updated IT Policy for lost phones and drafted an AI Policy .	Modernized IT governance to address current risks (lost devices) and prepared the organization for the future of technology (AI).
Leadership	Director of IT, J.C. Brilliant, was elected Executive Director of CoPIC .	Solidified organizational leadership and elevated the team's involvement in public sector policy and action.

Organizational Challenge

The primary challenge was the **resignation of the Systems Support Engineer** (April–June 2025). The resulting vacancy has placed a heavy operational burden on the Director, Deputy Director, and College Aide, creating risk of burnout and potential delays in non-critical maintenance tasks.

Infrastructure & Environmental Justice

The Infrastructure and Environmental Justice Unit is responsible for assessing the state of our infrastructure within New York City, as well as the impacts of local policy on the environment in the city and beyond. This includes agricultural and internet infrastructure.

- Riders Alliance's Campaign Launch to Improve Buses on Flatbush Avenue to partner with the Pratt Center for Community Development for a Participatory Action Research Project, which aimed to demonstrate how Better Buses along Flatbush Avenue can have a positive economic, civic engagement and health benefits for the community. This project engaged community members, businesses, community leaders, houses of worship, cultural institutions among others. The I&EJ uplifted this project and the Public Advocate attended and spoke at the rally at the launch of the project.
- I&EJ attended numerous congestion pricing rallies in support of continuing congestion pricing after Governor Hochul put a pause on it.
- On July 25th, the PA stood with Comptroller Brad Lander, plaintiffs, and disability rights, climate justice, and transit advocates to call on the Governor to reverse her indefinite hold on Congestion Pricing.
- The Public Advocate joined Uprose's (fabric scrap) FABSCRAP, a festival aimed to raise climate justice consciousness via art and connection in frontline communities.
- The Office of the Public Advocate released information via social media on how New Yorkers can do their part to help save water and prevent fires during the city's Drought Watch.
- On behalf of the Public Advocate, Deputy Public Advocate for Infrastructure and Environmental Justice Kashif Hussein testified at the Department of Buildings hearing in support of strong Local Law 97 rules and regulations.
- In response to concerns about congestion pricing cameras charging cars that are not driving within the congestion pricing zone, at the Queensboro Bridge, the Office of the Public Advocate reviewed constituent concerns in the field, which led to a press conference with the Public Advocate demanding that the MTA move the cameras to a better location.

- As a two-time CUNY grad the Public Advocate supported the launch of the NYC Climate Justice Hub at the Summit with Uprose, NYCEJA, The Point CDC, among others.
- Deputy Public Advocate for Infrastructure and Environmental Justice Kashif Hussein testified for the NYS Building Codes Council to adopt the standards required of them by the All-Electric Buildings Act into their 2025 NYS Building Code
- The Public Advocate gave remarks at the Brooklyn Marine Terminal Rally to advocate for a fair and just process that engages the community around the new EDC plan for redeveloping the Brooklyn Marine Terminal.
- The Public Advocate spoke at the EPA rally against the suspension of staff for speaking out on the administration's disregard of scientific consensus and dismantling EPA's Office of Research and Development, canceling environmental justice programs, rolling back key regulations, and undermining EPA's mission to protect public health and the environment.
- On behalf of the Public Advocate, Community Organizer for Infrastructure and Environmental Justice, David Kahn testified at the DEC Hearing on Greenhouse Gas Reporting Rules, and spoke at the press conference beforehand, to advocate for the immediate release of the entire Cap-and-Invest regulations required by the CLCPA Scoping Plan. The first of the Cap-and-Invest regulations released, the GHG Mandatory Reporting Rule, only mandates the reporting of GHG emissions, not limitations on emissions.

Community Affairs

The Community Affairs Unit works to build and maintain relationships across all five boroughs, amplifying the voices of New Yorkers through engagement, civic empowerment, interfaith initiatives, and cultural celebrations. Through collaboration with local leaders, elected officials, faith-based organizations, advocacy groups, and community boards, Community Affairs successfully organized and joined over a hundred events citywide.

July 2024 – Civic Engagement, Cultural Celebrations & Justice Awareness

Focus: Strengthening community knowledge on legal rights, criminal defense, equity initiatives, and celebrating African and Caribbean cultural diversity.

- Freedom Summer Homeroom – Doubling Down on DEI: No U-Turn on Equity
- Criminal Law Talks (Exoneration, Arrest Protocols, Organizing Defense, Preparing Your Case From Jail)
- PRADO of Transitioning Forward – Tunes for Transformation
- ASALH Abolition Commemoration Holiday Celebration
- NYCHA outreach: 178th Street, McKinley, Mitchel, Moore, Morris Houses
- Bronx Builders Community Partnership & Food Distribution
- Celebrating Mayor David Dinkins
- July 20, 2024 – Go Africa Carnival, Harlem: Celebrated African diversity with merchants and cultural displays along 116th Street and NYC metro area.

August 2024 – Cultural Parades & Heritage Celebrations

Focus: Highlighting NYC’s diverse communities through parades, cultural festivals, and honoring civic legacies.

- August 11, 2024 – Annual Dominican Day Parade: Largest Dominican parade in the country, celebrating Dominican culture.
- August 11–18, 2024 – Harlem Week / “A Great Day in Harlem”: Culminating celebration with the office posthumously honoring the legacy of Harry Belafonte.
- August 25, 2024 – Pakistani Day Parade & Cultural Festival: Public Advocate delivered remarks.
- NYCHA outreach & community engagement initiatives continued across boroughs.

September 2024 – Back-to-School & Cultural Engagement

Focus: Supporting families and students while promoting civic engagement and celebrating cultural heritage.

- Back-to-School Drives: Macerich Mall at Kings Plaza and borough-wide initiatives.
- September 4, 2024 – Annual West Indian Day Parade

- September 7, 2024 – NYC Labor Day Parade
- September 15, 2024 – African American Day Parade
- Criminal Law Talks: Family Defense, Know Your Rights, Custody Appeals
- Harlem River Celebration & Street Co-Namings
- PeersNotPolice Rally & Bronx Builders Community Partnership
- Hispanic Heritage Celebration in partnership with PS 70: The Max School

October 2024 – Cultural Festivals & Legal Education

Focus: Celebrating diverse heritage, providing legal education, and community engagement.

- October 5, 2024 – Korean Parade & Koreatown Street Festival
- October 31, 2024 – Village Halloween Parade
- Criminal Law Talks: Bail Laws & Steps in a Criminal Case, Criminal Records, Family Court Education
- PATH Awareness Day
- Bronx BP Vanessa Gibson Celebration of Italian Heritage

November 2024 – Health Equity & Community Support

Focus: Promoting health equity, veteran recognition, anti-stigma awareness, and community support around Thanksgiving.

- Health Disparities Workgroup & Veteran Celebration
- Bronx Anti-Stigma March & Rally
- Criminal Law Talks: Know Your Rights & Policy Education
- NYCHA Appreciation Brunch & Yama Turkey Giveaway
- Thanksgiving distribution & faith-based programs

December 2024 – Holiday & Cultural Celebrations

Focus: Engaging the community through winter holiday events, cultural celebrations, and youth programming.

- Tree Lighting Extravaganza / Winter Wonderland
- World AIDS Day & Health Disparities Workgroup
- Harlem Inc. 3rd Annual Christmas Dinner
- AM Tapia Holiday Luncheon & Senator Cleare Holiday Office
- Holiday Toy Giveaway & Kwanzaa Film
- Criminal Law Talks – Bronx

January 2025 – Civic Rights & Community Mobilization

Focus: Enhancing community knowledge of legal rights, public safety, and community resource access.

- January 2, 2025 – St. Pats for All Parade, Queens
- January 24, 2025 – Officewide Mobilization Fair: Held at Union Settlement in East Harlem in partnership with Manhattan Community Boards 10 & 11, Senator Cordelle Cleare, Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine, Deputy Speaker Diana Ayala, and over 20 tabling partners.
- Criminal Law Talks: Know Your Rights, Stop & Frisk, Family Defense
- Stop False Police Reporting initiative
- Clean Slate NYS legislative engagement

February 2025 – Black History & Cultural Recognition

Focus: Celebrating Black History Month and promoting awareness of cultural contributions.

- February 8, 2025 – Black History Month Celebration: Partnership with the Museum of the City of New York.

March 2025 – Women’s Leadership & Recognition

Focus: Honoring women leaders and trailblazers who impact communities citywide.

- Nevertheless, She Persisted: Celebrating Women Who Make a Difference. This was in partnership with Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso in Brooklyn Borough Hall featuring keynote speaker Adrienne E. Adams.

April 2025 – Interfaith Collaboration & Community Wellness

Focus: Supporting faith-based leaders with tools for mental health, wellness, and community development.

- Let’s Talk, Let’s Empower Interfaith Summit. We gathered spiritual leaders from across the city to equip them with mental health, wellness, and land-use resources.

May 2025 – Summer Parades & Cultural Festivals

Focus: Celebrating NYC’s diverse communities through cultural parades and festivals.

- May 10, 2025 – Haiti Cultural Day
- May 10, 2025 – Japan Day Parade & Festival
- May 18, 2025 – Celebrate Israel Parade / Israel Day

June 2025 – Pride & Cultural Celebrations

Focus: Promoting inclusivity, LGBTQIA+ visibility, and Puerto Rican heritage across NYC.

- Pride Month Parades:
 - June 1 – Queens Pride Parade & Festival
 - June 7 – National, Knickerbocker & Sunset Park Puerto Rican Day Parades
 - June 14 – Brooklyn Pride Parade
 - June 21 – Bronx Pride Festival
 - June 29 – NYC Pride March

Immigrant Justice

- As part of our Immigrant Justice portfolio, the Unit provided community support, monitored infrastructure for immigrant persons, and civic participation for non-citizens. We did this in coalition with community partners, faith leaders, and legal services organizations
 - Rapid response and mutual aid for new arrivals
 - Monitored infrastructure and provided resources to HERC shelters
 - Legal referrals for immigrant individuals
 - Court witnessing



**JUMAANE D.
WILLIAMS**

CONTACT US:

David N. Dinkins Municipal Building
1 Centre Street 15th Floor North
New York, NY 10007

 advocate.nyc.gov

 (212) 669-7250

 [@NYCPublicAdvocate](https://www.facebook.com/NYCPublicAdvocate)

 [@NYCPA](https://twitter.com/NYCPA)

 [@NYCPublicAdvocate](https://www.instagram.com/NYCPublicAdvocate)

 @NYCPublicAdvocate

 [@advocate.nyc.gov](https://twitter.com/advocate.nyc.gov)