



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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**DOI'S CALENDAR YEAR 2016 STATISTICS
SHOW INCREASE IN INVESTIGATIONS, ARRESTS, AND RECOMMENDED REFORMS**

Work Continues to Focus on Systemic Issues of Corruption and Misuse of Government Programs

Mark G. Peters, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), released the agency's 2016 Calendar Year ("CY") statistics showing increases in complaints into the agency, current investigations, referrals for criminal prosecutions, and arrests. These increases come about as part of the agency's long-term focus on systemic investigations that result in both arrests that stop corruption and fraud as well as recommendations that improve operational vulnerabilities. Specifically, in 2016, major DOI investigations included: Arrests related to bribery and major safety violations within the construction industry; multiple reports documenting serious problems with child protection investigations and oversight of outside vendors by the City's Administration for Children's Services ("ACS"); arrests of 13 current and former fire and police department employees for engaging in supplemental insurance fraud; a review of the process that led to the removal of a deed restriction on the Rivington facility; and a report documenting the NYPD's failure to comply with rules governing investigations of political activity that was subsequently relied upon by a federal court in its ruling on a related federal consent decree. A graphic comparison of DOI statistics for CY 2015 and 2016 follow the release.

DOI Commissioner Mark G. Peters said, "DOI's 2016 statistics are another result of the success of the long-term strategies we are establishing to attack corruption on all fronts: using our in-depth knowledge to root out fraud and corruption that undermine safety in the construction industry; continuing to expose the people and factors that fuel violence within the City's jails; and uncovering problems with child protection investigations needed to better protect children."

In 2016, DOI investigations exposed and stopped a wide variety of wrongdoing, including:

Bribery and Unsafe Practices within the Construction Industry

DOI's in-depth knowledge of how construction professionals circumvent the construction code to expedite projects and increase their profits led to arrests and reforms. Working with its law enforcement partners, DOI investigators:

- Exposed wrongdoing that led to a fatal gas explosion on Second Avenue, sharing our specific expertise on how misconduct, specifically fake documents and dishonest practices, can corrupt the process and lead to life-threatening consequences.

- Uncovered property owners and landlords who illegally subdivided apartments creating dangerous conditions. In one case a Flatbush landlord was indicted for manslaughter in connection with a fatal fire that left one dead and nine injured.
- Determined wrongdoing involving prevailing wage theft, leading to the arrest of 19 individuals and 13 companies and the recovery of more than \$4 million.
- Worked with the Manhattan District Attorney's Office, and area consulates, to establish a give-back program where workers could give back fraudulent safety cards they possess and, in return, receive safety training.

Child Welfare Investigations and Oversight

DOI investigators exposed dangerous violations of policy in ACS child protection investigations, documented concerns about ACS oversight over contract agencies, including those that perform foster care and preventive services work, and showed inadequate ACS oversight of vendors supervising juveniles in non-secure detention facilities. DOI issued two public reports, and in conjunction with its investigation into non-secure detention facilities arrested four staffers at an ACS-contracted home on charges of falsifying log book entries. In that case, ACS-contracted staff claimed they conducted required bed checks to ensure youth were present when they had not actually monitored the youth's whereabouts; in at least one instance the youth escaped and raped a woman in Manhattan. DOI's work in these areas continues.

Violence within the City's Jails

DOI investigations have found that there are core problems promoting violence on Rikers, specifically the smuggling of contraband by City Correction Officers and other staff, the cover up of inmate assaults, lax recruitment and screening of Correction staff, and porous screening of staff as they enter Rikers. This ongoing investigation has already led to the arrest of more than three dozen Correction Officers and other staff on contraband smuggling, assault and other charges and the improved screening of staff as they enter jail facilities. In 2016, DOI saw positive results from its investigations, including the conviction of eight Correction Officers and supervisors in a gang assault and cover up; the indictment of 17 -- including two Correction Officers, a Correction Cook and six inmates -- in a conspiracy to bring scalpels, narcotics and other contraband into the City's jails in exchange for thousands of dollars; and guilty pleas by a Correction Captain and two Correction Officers to falsifying records in connection with covering up the beating of an inmate.

DOI's ongoing investigation includes sexual misconduct within the jails by Correction Officers and other DOC personnel, including an investigation that led to the indictment of a Correction Officer charged with rape and other offenses.

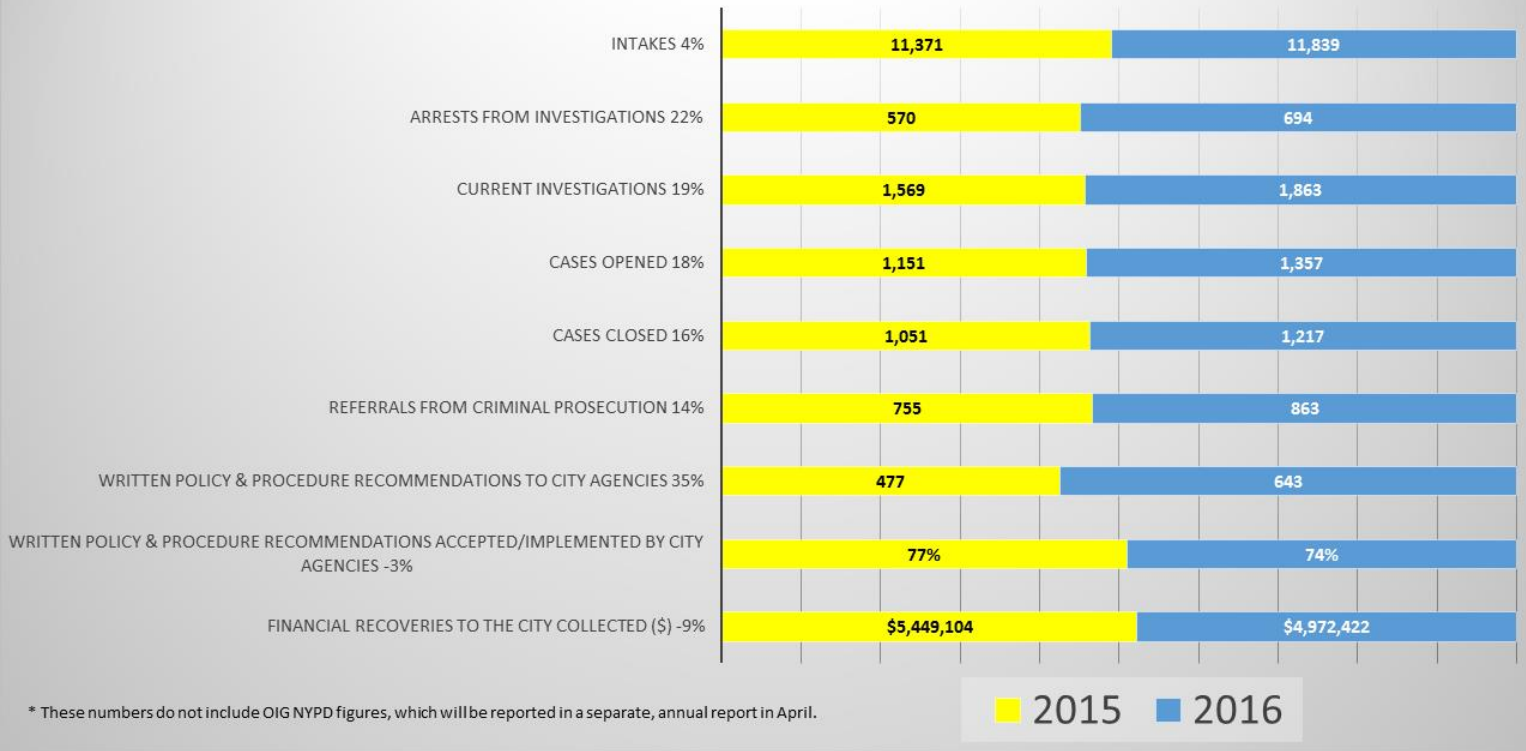
Impact of DOI's Mandated Oversight of the NYPD

Through its Office of the Inspector General for the NYPD, DOI has increased transparency and highlighted important policing issues, generating a broader public understanding and identifying essential reforms. In 2016, DOI continued to examine systemic issues of concern that included an analysis of Quality-of-Life enforcement and NYPD compliance with the rules governing investigations into political activity. A federal court judge relied in part on the latter report when assessing the fairness of a class action settlement regarding alleged NYPD surveillance of Muslims.

DOI's efforts in these areas, and others, continue in 2017.

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

New York City Department of Investigation Performance Statistics Comparison – Calendar Years 2015 & 2016*



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

**DOI's press releases can also be found at twitter.com/doinews
Bribery and Corruption are a Trap. Don't Get Caught Up. Report It at 212-3-NYC-DOI.**