

# How Many Stops Act

## *Frequently Asked Questions*



### **What is Intro 586 of the How Many Stops Act (HMSA)?**

Intro. 586 of the How Many Stops Act is common sense, good government legislation that will bring urgent oversight and transparency to the NYPD's most common police actions in our communities. HMSA will empower New Yorkers to understand the how, where, when, why and key demographic information about who the NYPD stops on a daily basis. The data on Level 1 and 2 stops collected via this legislation is an essential step towards police accountability and true community safety.

### **Why is HMSA more important than ever?**

In spite of the fact that the NYPD has been under federal monitorship for a decade because of its unconstitutional stop and frisk practices, these problems persist. Unconstitutional stop and frisk is at an all-time high since 2015. On top of this, misconduct complaints against the NYPD rose by 51% from 2022 to 2023 and fatal shootings by the NYPD are the highest they've been in a decade.

According to a recent federal monitor report, at least [24% of stops made by Neighborhood Safety Teams were unconstitutional, and 97% were of Black and Latinx New Yorkers. In NYCHA, one-third of stops are unconstitutional, and 70% of them are of Black people.](#) These statistics only show a fraction of the problem because the NYPD is not required to report on the vast majority of the stops it's making. Providing New Yorkers with transparency about how the NYPD is operating in our communities is a racial and economic justice issue.

### **What will HMSA accomplish?**

HMSA is necessary to prevent [discriminatory and unconstitutional](#) policing by:

- Addressing the chronic underreporting of stops that the NYPD itself has acknowledged.
- Ensuring officers are only making stops with the proper legal justification.
- Identifying patterns of abuse to enable policymakers to make informed decisions about what future reforms are needed.
- Promoting NYPD accountability, to repair the harm done by decades of unconstitutional and racially motivated enforcement practices.

### **What kind of police activity does HMSA require reporting on?**

Intro. 586 only requires reporting on Level 1 and 2 investigative encounters. Investigative encounters are defined in the NYPD Patrol Guide ([p. 186](#)) as interactions with a specific law enforcement or investigative purpose. Saying hello, giving directions, and other casual conversations are explicitly excluded from the reporting requirement.

### **What are examples of common level 1 encounters?**

Common level 1 encounters include an officer approaching someone and asking for their ID, why they are in a specific location, what they are doing or where they're going. These are often intimidating interactions and can easily escalate to

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violence and brutality. HMSA will shine a light on what neighborhoods officers' are targeting for these kinds of encounters and key demographic information like race and gender about who is being stopped.

### **How much time will HMSA reporting require?**

The NYPD has grossly exaggerated the amount of time required for HMSA reporting. Officers can report Level 1 and 2 stops in seconds through a few drop down menus on their Department-issued smartphone after the stop is over or at the end of their shift when they conduct mandatory tagging of their body camera footage. In fact, the patrol guide already requires officers to record demographic information on Level 2 stops. HMSA merely codifies that rule into law, requires that the information is reported publicly, and extends it to Level 1 encounters.

HMSA does NOT require officers to explain why they're talking to people beyond existing NYPD protocols, and it does NOT require officers to document the content of their conversations with people.

### **Will HMSA interfere with police work?**

HMSA will NOT interfere with officers' work including their ability to address emergency situations, like searching for a missing child, because officers can quickly complete this simple reporting after an emergency situation has been resolved or at the end of their shift.

Documenting police-civilian interactions is an essential component of police work. The minimal reporting required by HMSA provides a basis for transparency, oversight, and lets the public know what a highly funded, heavily armed public agency is actually doing in their communities. The data's ability to inform evidence-based changes to policing makes it a valuable tool for creating a safer and more just city for all New Yorkers and protecting our rights.

### **Will HMSA cause challenges for District Attorneys?**

HMSA reporting can be easily incorporated into existing NYPD systems already used for discovery. This minimizes the burden on District Attorneys and ensures crucial information is readily available. DAs have received funding for discovery reforms, and their systems are sophisticated enough to handle the additional data from HMSA.

### **What resources will implementing HMSA require?**

This reporting can be done quickly and electronically and requires only a simple update to existing NYPD systems. HMSA can be completed with virtually no extra burden on officers' time and can be implemented with existing NYPD resources.

### **Who supports HMSA?**

HMSA is supported by a veto-proof majority of the City Council, the Black Latino Asian Caucus and the Progressive Caucus, over 100 organizations, 28 family members of New Yorkers killed by the NYPD and New Yorkers across the city.