



Press Release

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**NYC DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE'S IMPROVES
COLLECTION RATE FOR ECB JUDGMENT DEBT**

NEW YORK (Wednesday, October 26, 2016) — The New York City Department of Finance (DOF) said it is collecting more Environmental Control Board (ECB) judgment debt in fiscal year 2016 due to increased collections efforts. ECB judgment debt reflects violations issued by various City agencies that have gone into judgment and have been adjudicated by the Environmental Control Board.

Collection of ECB judgment debt increased to \$60.9 million in FY16, a 22% annual increase from \$50.1 million in FY15, according to a report issued by the agency today. A violation in judgment means the City has taken the extra step of filing a record of the liability in court for the entire amount due.

“Simply put, we are more efficiently collecting more of the money that is owed to the City for violations that have gone into judgment,” said Commissioner of Finance Jacques Jiha. “ECB judgment debt is an important piece of the revenue collected by the Department of Finance that goes to fund crucial City services and agencies, including education and the New York Police Department.”

Excluding debt that may ultimately be uncollectible, outstanding ECB judgment debt on 1.4 million violations fell 22% to \$981 million in FY16 from \$1.6 billion in FY15. Of the current total, \$479.8 million represents the base fine, and \$406.5 million represents interest.

The collection rate was enhanced by increased collection efforts in FY16. The number of collection letters rose from 82,000 in FY15 to 128,000 in FY16, due to new letters issued in the middle of FY15 being in effect for a full year in FY16.

“Forgiving Fines: The New York City Amnesty Program,” the City’s amnesty program for ECB judgment debt, is also expected to enhance the collection rate. Under the program, New York City is forgiving penalties and interest for many violations issued by the Department of Sanitation, Department of Buildings and other City agencies until Dec. 12, 2016. After that date, the City will resume enforcement actions, including property seizures by the Sheriff and Marshalls.

To read the full **FY2016 Annual Local Law 11 (2015) Report on Environmental Control Board-Adjudicated Judgments Referred to the NYC Department of Finance**, visit our website at nyc.gov/finance.

For more information about “Forgiving Fines: The New York City Amnesty Program,” visit us online: <http://nyc.gov/forgivingfines>.