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Release #02-2015  
nyc.gov/oignypd

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**APRIL 21, 2015**

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**DOI'S OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR THE NYPD CALLS FOR BETTER COLLECTION AND COORDINATION OF POLICE LITIGATION DATA**

*Effective data analysis shown to improve policing, cost-savings, and community relations*

Today, the Department of Investigation's (DOI) Office of the Inspector General for the NYPD (OIG-NYPD) issued its findings on how the NYPD can better use police litigation data to improve officer performance and identify trends of police misconduct. The proper collection and analysis of police litigation data has the potential to reduce police misconduct, improve public safety, control costs, identify training opportunities, strengthen public confidence, and advance law enforcement oversight. After critiquing the NYPD's current approach to litigation data, the Report identifies several categories of information that the NYPD should be analyzing better and recommends the creation of an interagency working group to coordinate the organization and exchange of litigation information. The Report also recommends that the NYPD make its work in this evolving area more transparent, and allow New Yorkers to provide public comment on the data the NYPD is currently tracking. A copy of the Report is attached to this release and can be found at the following link: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/oignypd/pages/news/news-reports.shtml>

DOI Commissioner Mark G. Peters said, "Data is a valuable tool for law enforcement, but its effectiveness rests on the type of information collected and whether it is properly tracked. This Report zeroes in on what the NYPD and other relevant agencies should do to advance the City's interests in this important area."

"Police departments from Seattle to Cincinnati have harnessed the power of police litigation information, using it to analyze trends in officer behavior that may have otherwise gone unidentified and unaddressed," said Inspector General Philip K. Eure. "By employing a similar examination of this data, the NYPD can track incidents in a more comprehensive way and make adjustments to its training and policies in response."

In the past five years, the City has seen more than 15,000 lawsuits filed against the NYPD – a 44 percent increase – at a cost of over \$200 million. By carefully combing through the information contained in these lawsuits and legal claims, and omitting lawsuits that are clearly without merit, the NYPD and the City can begin taking necessary corrective actions to drive down these costs.

Information about litigation has been shown to help law enforcement and police oversight agencies across the country identify patterns and trends of police misconduct, as well as better train officers for possible encounters in the community. Coupled with "Early Intervention Systems (EIS)," or computer databases that allow police departments to monitor the behavior of officers, agencies can utilize the data to identify at-risk officers who may require guidance, instruction or discipline. The Report cites case studies from other cities where positive results have already been seen.

The NYPD currently uses computerized systems for tracking officer performance and conduct as well as overall policing trends, and in some instances is ahead of many other departments in this field. OIG-NYPD's Report found, however, that while the NYPD did track certain information culled from police litigation, such as complaints filed against an officer, it did not track some key indicators, such as the core allegations made in the claims. In addition, OIG-NYPD identified a need for better communication between the NYPD and other agencies that also track lawsuits and claims involving members of the police department, specifically the Comptroller's Office and Law Department. These issues stand in the way of fully realizing the benefits of analyzing the data.

During the course of OIG-NYPD's review, investigators found the NYPD has had limited access to both the Comptroller and Law Department's data, and cannot easily access information about when legal claims or lawsuits are filed against the NYPD or the resolution of these claims. The Report found the Comptroller's Office and Law Department – like the NYPD – also track different sets of data without an effective way of merging the information. The Comptroller's Office, for instance, tracks the number and type of pre-litigation legal claims filed and amounts paid in claim and lawsuit settlements, while the Law Department tracks data on the number of lawsuits filed and information related to court proceedings. All three agencies lacked uniform definitions for similar metrics.

Although the NYPD now has better access to litigation-related information from both the Law Department and Comptroller's Office than in years past, improvements must be made. With the help of this data, the NYPD has started to identify trends, but the department has yet to release any of its findings, including those about areas in which lawsuits may be increasing or decreasing and those where NYPD has or is looking to revise its policies or training.

While the NYPD is updating its systems to meet the changing needs of policing, and has revamped its internal team responsible for reviewing and identifying trends in legal claims and litigation, and all three agencies are making strides towards better inter-agency information sharing, OIG-NYPD has identified three key areas that need improvement and has issued the following recommendations:

- **Identify, collect and track additional relevant quantitative and qualitative categories of litigation data.** Agencies should start tracking more details about the nature of non-frivolous claims and core allegations, information about the police officers named, the locations of incidents, and addresses of plaintiffs.
- **Establish an interagency working group between the NYPD, Law Department and Comptroller's Office to more closely coordinate the collection and exchange of litigation data.** The implementation of a working group would allow agencies to better understand the best ways to identify which data exists and where, which additional data should be collected and retained, and how best to exchange this information.
- **Improve transparency of emerging work in litigation data analysis to better inform New Yorkers of how officers are evaluated and how trends are identified in the department.** The NYPD should make aspects of its data analysis systems public and provide details about which performance indicators are tracked for officers and how monitoring levels operate. The NYPD should also solicit public comment on these systems.

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**The Office of the Inspector General for the NYPD (OIG-NYPD)** is a new oversight office charged with investigating, reviewing, studying, auditing, and making recommendations relating to the operations, policies, programs, and practices of the New York City Police Department (NYPD). The goals of OIG-NYPD are to enhance the effectiveness of the police department, increase public safety, protect civil liberties and civil rights, and increase the public's confidence in the police force, thus building stronger police-community relations. OIG-NYPD is part of the New York City Department of Investigation and is independent of NYPD. Inspector General Eure reports to DOI Commissioner Peters.

**The New York City Department of Investigation (DOI)** is one of the oldest law-enforcement agencies in the country and is New York City's corruption watchdog. DOI 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. Learn more at [www.nyc.gov/doi](http://www.nyc.gov/doi).

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