

Manhattan District Attorney  
Alvin L. Bragg, Jr.



# Annual Report

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20 23



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# A Note from D.A. Bragg

In the Manhattan D.A.'s Office, the goal of everything we do is to improve public safety and make our justice system fairer.

In my second year in office, we continued to drive down gun violence, which remains our top priority. We partnered with the NYPD to shut down numerous ghost gun factories, took guns out of the hands of domestic abusers, and prosecuted the most prolific drivers of gun violence. We built on progress we made last year to combat hate crimes, and our expanded Hate Crimes Unit is prosecuting more cases than ever and deepening partnerships with the communities most impacted by hate crimes. Our Special Victims Division took on tough cases to secure justice for survivors while increasing engagement with diverse stakeholders through our new SVD Advisory Council.

Our white-collar prosecutors focused on public corruption, wage theft and brought significant cases to protect democracy and the integrity of public programs. We prosecuted employers who abused workers and created a Stolen Wage Fund to compensate exploited workers. We invested significantly in preventative support for people with mental and behavioral health needs, expanded support for survivors of crimes, and made further progress combatting retail theft. We increased our referrals to diversion through our Pathways to Public Safety Division, expanding the use of alternatives to incarceration to reduce recidivism and enhance public safety. And, we continued the important work of holding the criminal justice system accountable by vacating wrongful convictions and prosecuting police misconduct.

In the coming year, we will continue all this work and more to make Manhattan safer and our justice system fairer. We will push legislation in Albany to counter the threat of 3D printed guns, combat hate crimes, reform the discovery law, and deliver justice for survivors of human trafficking. We will advocate for investments in housing and mental health care that we know are needed to create lasting safety. And we will continue to strengthen partnerships with all of Manhattan's diverse communities. I am deeply honored to serve the people of Manhattan. There is much to be done to improve public safety, and I look forward to continuing that work in the coming year in collaboration with our community and law enforcement partners.





# Driving Down Crime

Major crime was down in 2023 in every major category in Manhattan, compared to 2022.

## **NYPD 2023 Crime Stats:**

**Shootings DOWN 23% in Manhattan**

**Murders DOWN 9% in Manhattan**

**Robbery DOWN 8% in Manhattan**

**Rape DOWN 28% in Manhattan**

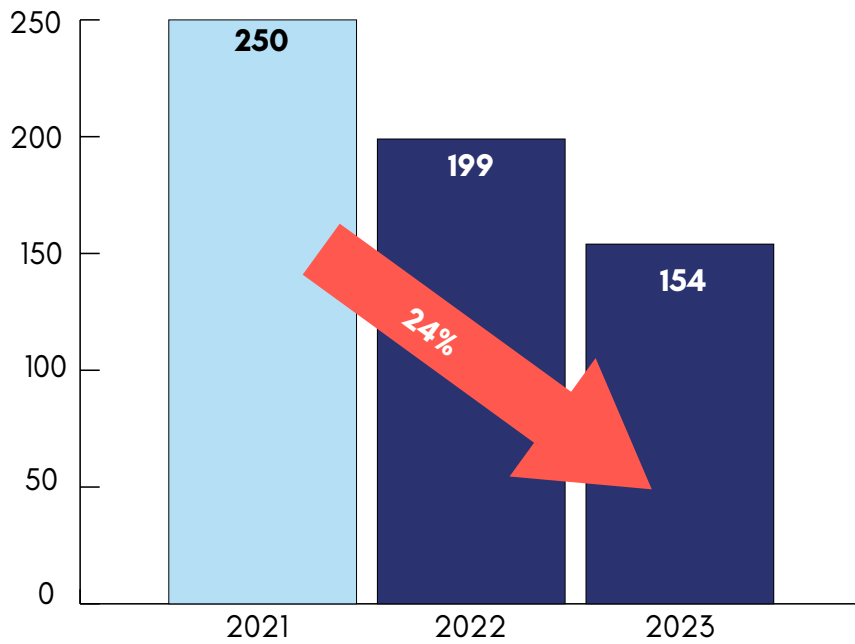
**Burglary DOWN 23% in Manhattan**

**Total Index Crime DOWN 5% in Manhattan**

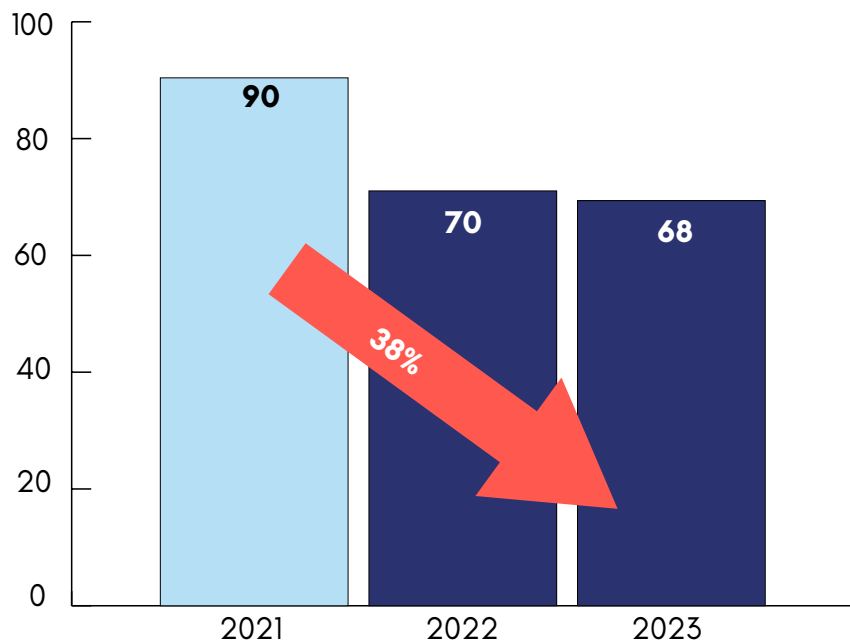




## Shootings in Manhattan



## Murders in Manhattan





## Combating Gun Violence

Combating gun violence in Manhattan remains our top priority. There are far too many people grieving due to gun violence, and we have an urgent responsibility to use every tool at our disposal to get guns off our streets. This year we've continued to target drivers of violence, including indicting three individuals for the drive-by shooting and murder of 66-year-old Reda Girgis, an innocent bystander visiting from Egypt. Almost every gun used in a violent crime in Manhattan was trafficked here illegally from a state with weak gun laws, and this year we've continued to work closely with our law enforcement partners to crack down on gun trafficking.

**DAILY NEWS**

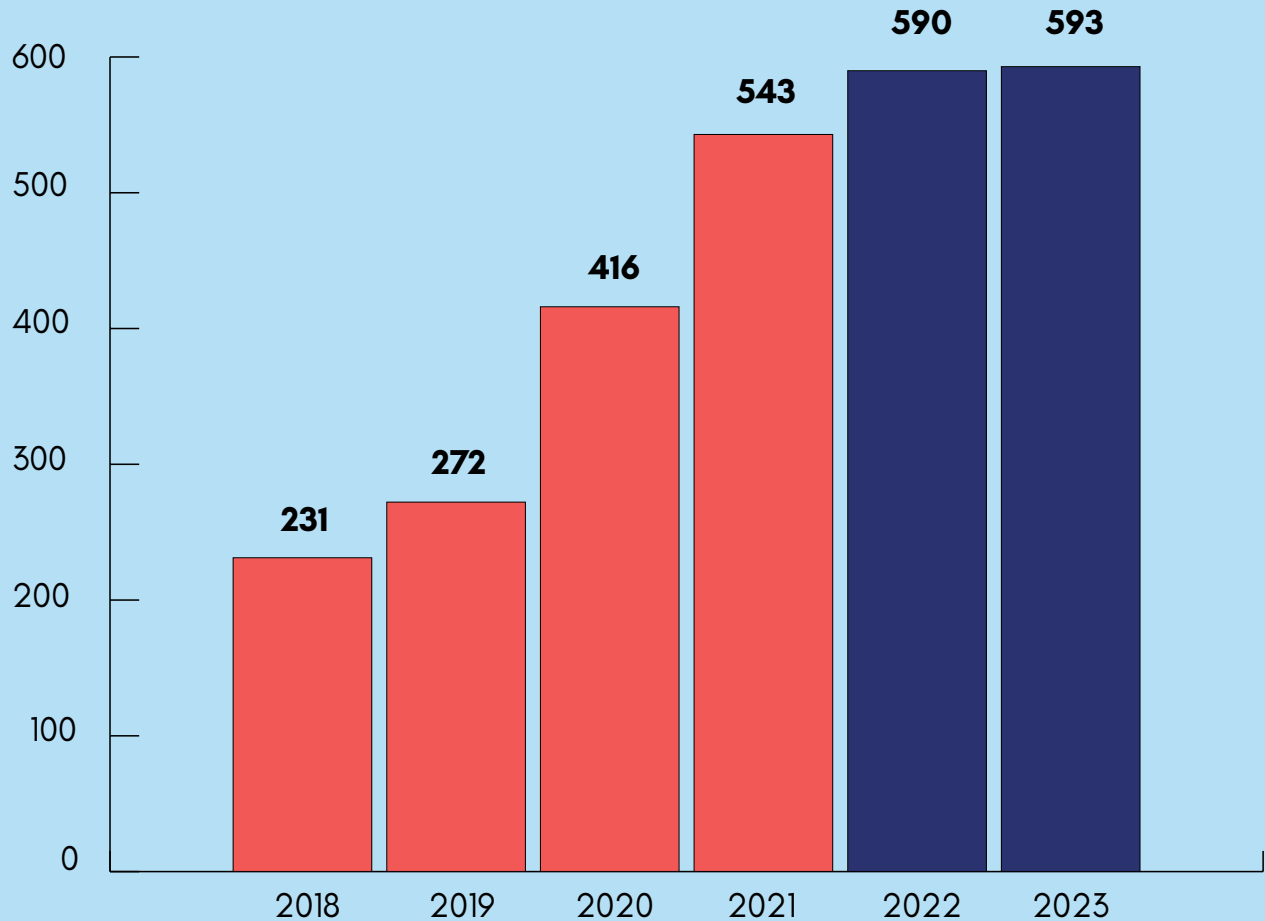
**NORTH CAROLINA MAN GETS 7 1/2 YEARS FOR TRAFFICKING GUNS MOST USED IN CITY SHOOTINGS TO NYC VIA IRON PIPELINE**

**gothamist**

**MAN WHO SOLD MORE THAN 10 GUNS TO AN UNDERCOVER NYPD OFFICER SENTENCED TO 7.5 YEARS IN PRISON**

# Gun Prosecutions

The number of cases where the gun possession charge is the most serious (top or underlying) VFO or Class A non-drug felony on the case. Includes NA indictments.



**Patch**

**HARLEM TRIO SOLD GHOST GUNS, METH TO UNDERCOVER COP: DA**

**amNY**

**TWO CONVICTED MURDER SUSPECTS SENTENCED FOR KILLING HARLEM RAPPER A\$AP PRESS, FORMER MEMBER OF HIP-HOP COLLECTIVE**

**Patch**

**HARLEM SHOOTER SENTENCED TO 17 YEARS IN RETALIATION PLOT**





## Centering Survivors

Strengthening trust with our community partners and reducing barriers to services for survivors leads to more reporting and increased participation in the criminal justice process, which is crucial to our work. This year we created the Special Victims Division Advisory Council to solicit feedback from a diverse group of external stakeholders, as we collaborate to share resources, learn from each other, and continue improve our practice. We're consistently taking on a wide variety of tough cases and ensuring survivors can tell a jury what happened to them. In May, we secured a 24-year prison sentence for a man who raped two teenage girls in Harlem and then attempted to bribe them for their silence. In addition, our Human Trafficking Unit has been leading the way in vacating convictions of survivors of human trafficking under the 2021 START Act and applying the same approach to new and existing cases.



**MANHATTAN DA INVITES STAKEHOLDERS TO PROVIDE INPUT ON SPECIAL VICTIMS DIVISION**



**MAN SENTENCED FOR RAPING AND FILMING WOMAN ON LOWER EAST SIDE, AMONG OTHER CHARGES**



**NEW YORK MAN GETS 20 YEARS IN PRISON FOR RAPING SLEEPING WOMAN**



**OPINION: IT'S TIME TO ELIMINATE NEW YORK'S STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR SEX TRAFFICKING**

# Investing in Mental Health

Traditional enforcement is just one aspect of our Office's approach to public safety. As part of our multi-pronged approach, we're investing in preventative efforts and making it clear that the criminal justice system must not be the main vehicle for addressing mental and behavioral health. Earlier this year, we awarded nearly \$6 million to The Bridge, a peer-founded housing and behavioral health services provider, to establish our Neighborhood Navigator program that works directly with New Yorkers who are experiencing entrenched mental health and substance use issues. We also awarded nearly \$3 million to The Fortune Society, an organization that supports reentry and alternative-to-incarceration services, to create a network of Court Navigators that will support New Yorkers with deeply entrenched needs.



**Amsterdam News**  
NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN D.A. REDISTRIBUTES \$6 MILLION IN SEIZED FINANCIAL CRIME MONEY TO HARLEM-BASED MENTAL HEALTH INVESTMENT**

**SPECTRUM NEWS**  
NY 1

**\$3M INVESTMENT TO PROVIDE NEW LIFELINE INSIDE MANHATTAN CRIMINAL COURTHOUSE**

## Neighborhood Navigators

Building  
Trusting  
Relationships



Housing, Mental  
Health and  
Substance Use  
Services



Stronger  
and Safer  
Neighborhoods  
and Communities



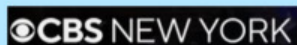


## Standing Against Hate

Prosecuting hate crimes has been at the forefront of our work this year as we stand with New Yorkers of all backgrounds targeted by hate. We've taken on cases including the hate crime indictments of a man who allegedly followed and harassed an Israeli tourist for blocks before assaulting him in an antisemitic attack, as well as a man for allegedly defacing three synagogues and a Jewish volunteer ambulance, and the hate crime prosecution of a man who stalked and harassed a food truck worker while spewing anti-Muslim rhetoric. We also secured a 22-year prison sentence of the man who killed Yao Pan Ma, a 61-year-old Chinese immigrant, by brutally assaulting him for no other reason than his race. In addition to our traditional law enforcement work, we are also pushing for legislation that will allow us to close loopholes in the current hate crimes statute. In November, we stood with Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal and Assemblymember Grace Lee to introduce the Hate Crimes Modernization Act, which would increase the list of hate crime eligible charges from 66 to 97 and enhance charges and certain sentences.



**NEW YORK MAN GETS 22 YEARS IN JAIL OVER KILLING OF CHINESE IMMIGRANT**



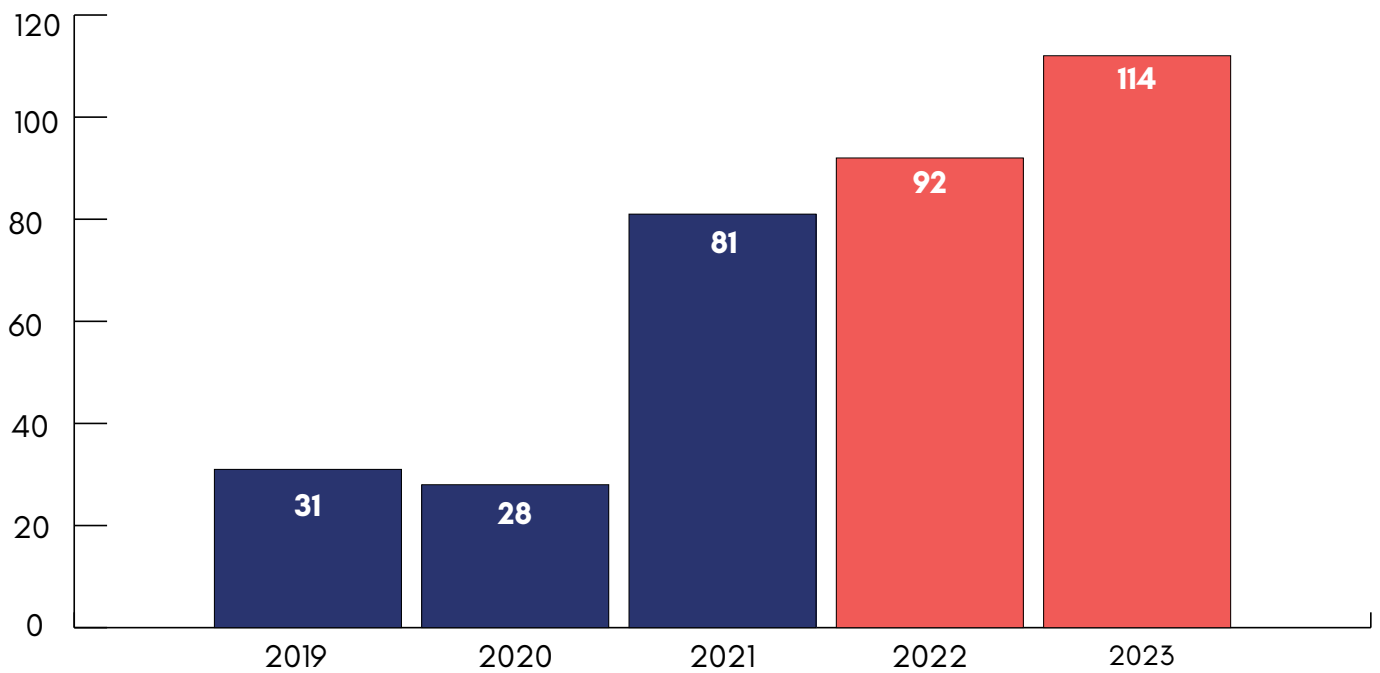
**MANHATTAN DA ALVIN BRAGG, NEW YORK LAWMAKERS INTRODUCE HATE CRIME MODERNIZATION ACT TO CLOSE LOOPHOLES**



**ANTISEMITIC VANDAL INDICTED AFTER UES SYNAGOGUE GRAFFITI: DA**



## New Hate Crimes Initiated Per Year



## Stemming the Flood of Ghost Guns

The ease with which people can manufacture guns and gun parts using 3D printers poses a direct threat to the safety of our communities. That's why earlier this year with New York State Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal and New York State Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal, we announced new legislation to make the manufacturing of 3D-printed guns and gun parts illegal, closing a loophole in New York State law. "Technology has made it possible for anyone to create 3D guns in the comfort of their own home," said D.A. Bragg. "At a time when gun control measures are being eroded around the country, New York must remain a leader in enacting the most comprehensive anti-gun legislation possible."





**gothamist**

**EAST VILLAGE GHOST GUNMAKER PLEADS GUILTY**

**amNY**

**UPPER EAST SIDE MAN TURNED APARTMENT INTO GHOST GUN AND DRUG FACTORY: DA BRAGG**

*East Side Feed*

**42-YEAR-OLD DAD PLEADS GUILTY TO MAKING GHOST GUNS IN UES APARTMENT**

**abc NEWS**

**NEW YORK TO PROPOSE LEGISLATION CRIMINALIZING PRINTING GHOST GUNS AT HOME**



# Protecting Manhattan Workers

We are committed to holding accountable companies that line their pockets at the expense of their employees. Whether it's combatting wage theft or demanding safe worksite conditions, we're standing up for hard-working New Yorkers. In February, we launched the Office's first Worker Protection Unit to investigate and prosecute wage theft and other forms of worker exploitation across Manhattan. We also announced the creation of a Stolen Wage Fund operated in partnership with the New York State Department of Labor, and in August we returned stolen wages to seven workers of the now-defunct Ampak Electrical Services.

**T47** NUEVA YORK

**TRABAJADORES RECIBEN DINERO DE SALARIO ADEUDADO**

**TIMES** UNION

**COMMENTARY: WAGE THEFT IS A SERIOUS CRIME. WE'RE FINALLY TREATING IT THAT WAY.**

**amNY**

**NAILED! MANHATTAN DA HELPS HAMMER IN CRIMINAL INDICTMENT OF ALLEGED \$5M CONSTRUCTION SCHEME**

**LAW360**  
A LexisNexis® Company

**MANHATTAN DA SAYS RIGGING CO.'S HEAD STOLE \$170K IN WAGES**







## Investing In Our Youth

Strengthening community bonds and discouraging young people from carrying guns is key to tackling gun violence. For the second consecutive year, we announced \$200,000 in funding to organizations that had a demonstrated track record of engaging young people at high risk to participate in meaningful programming and beautify public spaces that are known areas for gun violence.



NEW YORK  
**Amsterdam News**

**UPTOWN FUND: EIGHT CBOS SERVING HARLEM RECEIVE  
MANHATTAN DA BRAGG'S GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION  
GRANTS**

NEW YORK  
**Amsterdam News**

**MANHATTAN DA GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION FUND KEEPS  
EAST HARLEM HUB CLEAN**



## Prosecuting Public Corruption & Defending Democracy

It is essential for government officials to abide by the law and uphold their duty to the People of New York. In September we announced the indictment of former New York City Department of Buildings Commissioner Eric Ulrich and his associates for a wide-ranging bribery scheme that allegedly netted Ulrich more than \$150,000 worth of cash and gifts in less than two years. In April, we announced a 34-count felony indictment against Donald J. Trump alleging that he falsified New York business records as part of a corrupt scheme to conceal damaging information from the voting public in advance of the 2016 presidential election.



**FORMER NYC BUILDINGS COMMISSIONER ERIC ULRICH  
INDICTED ON BRIBERY CHARGES**

**The New York Times**

**FROM PRESIDENT TO DEFENDANT: TRUMP PLEADS NOT  
GUILTY TO 34 FELONIES**



# Vacating Unjust Convictions

Unjust convictions are the height of injustice and undermine trust in law enforcement. In June, we announced the vacatur of 316 convictions that were tied to nine NYPD officers who were previously convicted of crimes related to their law enforcement duties. In December, we moved to vacate the unjust homicide convictions of Wayne Gardine and Jabar Walker, who both spent more than 20 years in prison after being wrongfully convicted in separate murder cases in the late 90's.



**The New York Times**

**ON A SINGLE DAY, TWO MEN ARE CLEARED IN DECADES-OLD MANHATTAN MURDERS**

**gothamist**

**MANHATTAN JUDGE TOSSES HUNDREDS OF CONVICTIONS TIED TO NYPD OFFICERS ACCUSED OF MISCONDUCT**







## Engaging With Our Communities

Through our Community Partnerships Unit, our Office has organized dozens of events, volunteered across the borough, and hosted numerous trainings as we worked to increase trust within our community and raise awareness about the role and vision of D.A. Bragg. This year we've joined marches to raise awareness for Domestic Violence, engaged young New Yorkers through our High School Internship program and anti-gun violence prevention initiatives and attended community festivals throughout Manhattan.





# Repatriating Cultural Artifacts

Under D.A. Bragg, our Antiquities Trafficking Unit has recovered more than a thousand antiquities stolen from more than two dozen countries, that were collectively valued at nearly \$225 million. In September we returned seven pieces of Nazi-looted art to the family of Fritz Grünbaum, an Austrian-Jewish cabaret performer whose art collection was stolen by the Nazi regime. It is impossible to put a value on the cultural and historical significance of looted antiquities and we are proud of the role our Office plays in repatriating looted objects back to their countries of origin.



**AP** ASSOCIATED PRESS

**ARTWORKS STOLEN BY NAZIS RETURNED TO HEIRS OF  
OUTSPOKEN CABARET PERFORMER KILLED IN THE  
HOLOCAUST**

**The New York Times**

**A DOZEN LOOTED ARTIFACTS ARE RETURNED TO LEBANON**

**CBS  
NEWS**

**ART REPATRIATION: FIGHTING TRAFFICKERS IN AN ILLICIT  
GLOBAL TRADE**





## Holding the System Accountable

Police accountability is both a civil rights issue and a public safety issue. In October, we announced assault charges against a former NYPD Sergeant for punching an individual over a dozen times when responding to a call about an emotionally disturbed child. Our Police Accountability Unit has had 13 convictions since D.A. Bragg took office, and we have 19 open investigations.

**The New York Times**

**DE BLASIO'S SECURITY CHIEF ADMITS HINDERING  
CORRUPTION INVESTIGATION**

**The New York Times**

**N.Y.P.D. SERGEANT SHOWN ON VIDEO PUMMELING MAN IS  
CHARGED WITH ASSAULT**





## Combating Illegal Dispensaries

In February we announced a partnership with local law enforcement and elected officials to combat the proliferation of illegal, unlicensed cannabis dispensaries across the borough of Manhattan. “We want to give New York’s legal cannabis market a fair chance to thrive and give New Yorkers the security of knowing that a safe, orderly system is in place for cannabis dispensaries. Together, we can level the playing field for New York’s legal cannabis market and deliver on the promise of equity and fairness that legalization advocates fought so long and hard for,” said D.A. Bragg. In July following a criminal investigation, we announced that the owner of 11 illegal and unlicensed cannabis stores will pay over \$400k in restitution and fees. Several of his stores were also convicted after pleading guilty to criminal possession of cannabis and were required to pay additional fines. We are continuing to partner closely with our community partners, including Council Member Gale Brewer, to prioritize shutting down the illegal shops that have been the subject of community complaints.

**Bloomberg**

**TEN MANHATTAN BODEGAS BARRED BY MANHATTAN DA FROM SELLING WEED**

**gothamist**

**MANHATTAN DA ORDERS OWNER OF 11 UNLICENSED WEED BODEGAS TO STOP SALES, PAY \$400,000 IN FINES**



# Cracking Down on Retail Theft

In 2023, we've continued to collaborate with our Small Business Alliance, law enforcement partners, and service providers on meaningful solutions to combat shoplifting. While there is more work to do, our targeted strategy is making an impact, and grand larceny and burglary were down in 2023. Shoplifting complaints were also down in Manhattan in the first three quarters of 2023, outpacing the decline citywide.

