

Office of the Community Liaison 2026

First Quarterly Report

Reporting period: January 1, 2026-March 31, 2026

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Introduction

During the first quarter of 2026, the Office of the Community Liaison (OCL) expanded its citywide engagement efforts, strengthened community partnerships, and continued serving as a trusted bridge between impacted communities and the federal monitoring process. OCL's work focused on gathering community feedback regarding NYPD Stop, Question and Frisk (SQF) practices, trespass enforcement, youth-police interactions, specialized unit activity, consent searches, and broader issues of public trust in law enforcement.

The quarter reflected significant growth in both outreach and feedback collection. OCL conducted 65 feedback events, generating 441 survey responses from nearly 550 participants, while also establishing relationships with 59 new partner organizations. In addition, the team carried out 40 community events and 365 outreach conversations across all five boroughs, strengthening connections with schools, NYCHA developments, community-based organizations, legal service providers, youth justice advocates, violence prevention groups, and other stakeholders invested in public safety and community well-being.

Key activities included a Community Conversation with the Federal Monitor in Queens on January 13, 2026, as well as four virtual and Instagram Live events. These efforts supported OCL's mission to seek, receive, and organize concerns from New Yorkers impacted by stop-and-frisk practices and ensure those perspectives inform the monitoring process. The quarter also marked two important organizational milestones: the hiring of Community Coordinator Aaliyah Guillory-Nickens, which expanded OCL's youth engagement and organizing capacity, and the acquisition of a new community-based office space in Brooklyn, scheduled to open during the summer.

OCL Role and Reporting Context

OCL operates as an independent community engagement office connected to the federal monitoring process. Its public-facing mission is to seek, receive, and organize concerns from New York City community members impacted by stop-and-frisk, and to communicate that feedback to the Federal Monitor and the Court (Office of the Community Liaison).

The NYPD Monitor's online resource page explains that Reports issued by the Monitor assess NYPD compliance with court-ordered reforms related to stop-and-frisk practices, policies, training, supervision, documentation, racial profiling, body-worn cameras, and accountability mechanisms (NYPD Monitor Resources & Reports). OCL's community engagement function supports that process by ensuring that lived experience, community concerns, and neighborhood-specific experiences are heard alongside formal compliance reviews.

OCL does not investigate individual misconduct complaints or provide legal advice. Its value lies in building trust, educating community members, documenting recurring concerns, identifying possible patterns, making appropriate referrals, and ensuring that community perspectives are communicated through the monitoring process.

The Benchmark numbers reflect the scale of OCL's first quarter engagement and its continued emphasis on structured feedback collection. A complete status report on Benchmarks is attached as Appendix A, along with Appendices featuring charts showing some of the content and demographics reflected in the feedback from 441 Form Assembly surveys collected during the quarter, reflecting the scale of OCL's first quarter engagement and the team's continued emphasis on structured feedback collection.

First Quarter Activities

OCL held its quarterly Community Conversation in Queens with the Federal Monitor. Although turnout was lower than desired, key partners participated, including LIFE Camp and Queens Community Justice Center. LIFE Camp participants expressed deep skepticism about the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) and police reform more broadly, citing continued experiences of police harassment despite attempts to file complaints and engage official processes.

OCL participated in a February meeting with the Federal Monitorship for NYCHA to listen to concerns about trespass enforcement. NYCHA leaders expressed concerns that NYPD was not doing enough to address trespass issues involving individuals loitering, sleeping, or using drugs in stairwells and roof landings.

A major highlight was a collaborative community safety forum facilitated by OCL and the Brooklyn Community Justice Center, with participation from Neighborhood Safety Teams and the Civilian Complaint Review Board. The forum created a rare space for youth and community members to engage directly with public safety stakeholders. It also reinforced the need for continued transparency and responsiveness to persistent concerns raised by participants.

Staffing and Organizational Growth

Hiring of Community Coordinator Aaliyah Guillory-Nickens

In Q1, OCL hired Aaliyah Guillory-Nickens as Community Coordinator. This new role is designed to support the Director and Organizers in strengthening OCL's youth engagement, community organizing, feedback collection, and partnership-building capacity.

The Community Coordinator role fits directly into OCL's current model by supporting the office's ability to sustain relationships with youth, credible messengers, grassroots organizations, and system-impacted communities. An important component of this effort is to expand participation from young people and families who may not otherwise be connected to our partner organizations. In addition, the Community Coordinator can review reports from organizers to help identify themes and translate community concerns into OCL reports and communications with the Monitor, as well as provide the Community Liaison with information about progress against goals in time for adjustments to be made if needed. This role will support OCL in strengthening follow-up and trust-building across communities most impacted SQF and trespass enforcement.

Aaliyah brings significant experience as an advocate for criminal and juvenile justice reform. She founded More Than a Statistic, a youth-led organization created to prevent young people from being reduced to statistics, and has worked in a variety of youth-serving organizations. Aaliyah joined OCL mid-way through the quarter, and is expanding the office's ability to engage youth not only as participants, but as leaders, storytellers, and contributors to public safety and accountability conversations.

Brooklyn Office Hub

OCL secured a new office space in Brooklyn during Q1. The space is embedded in the community and is being prepared for opening in Q2. This will give OCL a stronger physical presence in a borough where staff continue to hear serious concerns from youth and families regarding SQF, specialized units, aggressive encounters, surveillance behavior, and invasive search practices. As many organizations found during Covid, working remotely has some advantages, but a community-embedded office is more accessible to partners and can enable the team to work together and exchange information on a more consistent basis to build stronger partner

coordination. The space also provides a more stable setting for feedback collection, workshops, and follow-up conversations.

Staff Development

Staff development and field learning were important during Q1. One organizer reported increased confidence as a presenter and facilitator, attended police recruit training on stop and search at the Police Academy, and participated in a health and human justice summit with the team. These experiences strengthened understanding of both law enforcement training and community-based approaches to interpersonal and system-level violence.

One organizer observed a subway encounter at the Fordham Road D train station involving four officers and a young man who appeared to be a minor, involving extended questioning that led to issuing a summons. This observation illustrated a recurring staff question about scope: whether particular transit, summons, or youth encounters fall within OCL's purview, illustrating the need for continuous learning.

Ligon Conclusion and Materials Revision

The team also prepared for a shift in public education and community-facing messaging following the conclusion of the *Ligon* case. The NYPD Monitor's resource page now identifies an order vacating the *Ligon* stipulation of settlement and order dated March 27, 2026 (NYPD Monitor Resources & Reports). As a result, OCL is revamping presentations and materials to clearly explain what this means, what it does not mean, and how community feedback related to trespass enforcement and police encounters should continue to be understood within the current monitoring framework.

OCL materials will be updated to explain what the case covered, what changed as a result of the conclusion of the case since the City's Trespass Affidavit Program (TAP) had already been ended, and how community members should understand trespass enforcement concerns moving forward (since it remains an issue under *Davis*.) The team will need to determine how to handle feedback that we may receive regarding TAP

Themes Emerging from OCL Activities

Based on information gleaned from the team's outreach and feedback sessions, certain themes emerged, some of which were citywide, and others that were more borough-specific..

Citywide themes:

1. Youth remain central to OCL's work

While people of all ages may experience encounters with NYPD, people in highly policed communities, and primarily young people of color, continue to be the most likely to experience SQF. They are also least likely to understand how to exercise their rights and obligations when interacting with law enforcement. Across boroughs, youth engagement continued to be one of the most important parts of OCL's work. Staff engaged young people through schools, youth justice programs, community organizations, barbershop conversations, resource fairs, NYCHA spaces, both informally and in targeted feedback sessions, generally sponsored by organizations and staff trusted by those they serve.

Young participants (12-24) raised concerns about being stopped while walking through their neighborhoods, walking to and from school or programs they attend, standing outside buildings, moving between stores or transit, using scooters or bikes, and gathering in parks. Many described encounters as unprovoked, based on presence rather than behavior, or connected to assumptions about their neighborhood, presumed gang affiliation, or prior justice system involvement of themselves or a family member.

The first quarter showed the need for continued youth-centered education on the levels of encounters, consent searches, how to document interactions, and how to understand available avenues for making complaints or expressing concerns about their experiences. By providing education, we are able to elicit the feedback that is important for the Monitor to help interpret the data collected by NYPD and the Monitor team.

2. Specialized NYPD units remain a recurring concern

Concerns expressed to team members in multiple boroughs continued to focus on NYPD specialized units, including Neighborhood Safety Teams (NST) and Community Response Teams (CRT). Participants described officers failing to identify themselves, conducting stops and searches without clear explanation, failing to request consent, using aggressive language, and not providing business cards.

Bronx residents also indicated a perceived shift from CRT encounters toward NST encounters. Brooklyn feedback included concerns about NST engagement and broader specialized-unit conduct. Manhattan sessions identified continued NYCHA-resident concern about NST presence.

These accounts remain important because the Monitor’s public reports have repeatedly examined SQF practices of specialized units as part of the federal monitoring process (NYPD Monitor Resources & Reports).

3. Consent, searches, and unclear escalation remain common concerns

Across all neighborhoods, community members frequently described confusion or concern about whether consent was requested before frisks or searches. Some participants stated that officers searched them after they had verbally refused a search, while others were unsure whether they were being asked for permission or being ordered to comply.

Several team members reported hearing descriptions of encounters that escalated quickly from questioning to frisking, searching, handcuffing, ticketing or sometimes an arrest. These accounts highlight the ongoing need for public education around the distinction between a request for information, a common-law inquiry, a stop, a frisk, a search, and an arrest.

4. Trust barriers continue to affect data collection

Staff across boroughs continue to report that many community members remain hesitant to complete QR-code surveys or provide written responses. Concerns included lack of confidence in their anonymity, fear of retaliation, distrust of formal systems, and uncertainty about how information will be used. This has improved when we return for repeat engagements, demonstrating that we are not “one and done,” and also when we hold sessions in trusted spaces such as schools, youth programs, legal services partner sites, NYCHA meetings, and community-based organization settings, where there is someone the community member knows (a teacher or program staff) in the room. During this quarter, 441 forms were submitted, representing about 75% of participants in feedback sessions, which is an improvement over previous quarters.

At the same time, we are working on an updated and shortened Form Assembly survey that will prioritize the questions most salient for the Monitor. In some cases, facilitators can read the form aloud so that people who have difficulty reading or understanding the questions will be able to follow along, and more time will be left for the anecdotal responses and discussion that is helpful in understanding the experience of participants with SQF.

5. Language access emerged as a citywide issue, heightened by concerns about immigration enforcement

Language barriers were reported in multiple boroughs, with organizers in Manhattan and Queens identifying specific neighborhoods (e.g. Washington Heights and Northern Queens). All staff heard concerns that Spanish-speaking residents experienced difficulty communicating with officers and that officers did not consistently use translation tools or seek Spanish-speaking colleagues.

General language access issues are amplified by heightened concern about U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activity in immigrant neighborhoods, affecting outreach in communities with significant immigrant populations. Language access and fear of government systems shaped both engagement strategy and community willingness to participate. These issues affect the ability of community members to understand their rights, ask questions, decline consent, or document what occurred.

6. Community feedback often extends beyond SQF

While OCL's work is focused on SQF and trespass enforcement in NYCHA, staff hear many concerns about policing that extend into broader questions of police conduct, harassment, public safety, accountability, youth trauma, immigration enforcement, NYCHA safety, and community trust.

This underscores the importance of clear facilitation. Staff must explain OCL's scope while also making appropriate referrals and identifying themes that may intersect with practices of relevance to the Monitor. While the teams focus on accounts of encounters that align with the Monitor's mission, we record all the information provided to us as it helps us to identify trends that may not be clear from information about specific encounters.

Borough Themes

In addition to the cross-cutting themes noted above, organizers who are assigned to focus on a particular borough reported hearing feedback on specific issues and activities in their boroughs:

The Bronx

Bronx engagement increased significantly compared with Q1 2025, reflecting OCL's broader effort to increase the number of feedback sessions and deepen qualitative feedback collection. Bronx outreach included work with Community Justice Connect, R.A.I.N. Tolentine Senior Center, the ACES program within CASES, the Bronx Community Justice Center, and Center for Justice Innovation-connected sites.

Bronx feedback showed the importance of neighborhood context. Staff reported that local social dynamics, including conflicts between neighborhood groups, influence how young people move through the borough and how they encounter police. Some youth avoid public transit because of safety concerns involving rival groups, which may increase use of scooters, bikes, and cars (including taxis/Ubers). Participants described SQF-related encounters while using scooters, bikes, and cars. One account involved a young person who was approached by officers while on a motorized scooter, later frisked by the same officers, and felt compelled to lift his shirt to show he was unarmed while asking a friend to record the encounter.

Feedback from the Bronx also identified concerns around places of safety becoming sites of police attention. Participants from the Bronx Community Justice Center and Save Our Streets (S.O.S.) described encounters occurring near program locations. One participant reported being searched near the Morissania office after “just chilling,” with no consent requested. A staff member also observed a pattern where officers appeared to wait for participants to leave program spaces before initiating encounters.

The Bronx team also reported a perceived shift from CRT-related encounters to NST-related encounters. Participants continued to recognize CRT uniforms, but recent accounts more often involve NST officers. These encounters were described as including failure of officers to identify themselves, failure to request consent, antagonizing suspected gang members, and failure to provide business cards. Individuals expressed continued concern about the 40th Precinct, and increasing concern about the 42nd and 46th Precincts. Other allegations described officers removing shoes during searches, indicating they believed people were hiding weapons in their shoes. Other reports indicated officers were operating from vehicles that community members perceived as taxis before identifying them as police.

Brooklyn

Brooklyn’s Q1 work demonstrates both the value of trusted partnerships with youth-serving groups and the urgency of continued focused engagement. Brooklyn reported strengthened partnerships with NYCHA developments including Marcy Houses and Van Dyke Houses, Grand Street Settlement, Eagle Academy for Young Men II in Ocean Hill, RiseBoro Community Partnership, and The BRO Experience. These partnerships allowed OCL to hold workshops and feedback sessions in trusted spaces serving youth, families, and communities affected by SQF practices.

Brooklyn organization We Build the Block initiated a new cohort serving younger participants ages 12-15. This expansion reflects an intentional effort to reach youth earlier and provide education before negative encounters become normalized. Because some participants live outside Brooklyn, including Staten Island and the Lower East Side, meeting with this cohort also generated cross-borough insight into different precinct experiences.

Brooklyn staff expanded OCL’s visibility through media appearances, including a RiseBoro podcast and Good Shepherd Services East New York’s Broadening Horizons podcast. These appearances helped increase awareness of OCL’s work and the systemic challenges surrounding SQF practices.

Brooklyn feedback raised several serious concerns, including reports of inappropriate and invasive touching during frisks and searches which some youth perceived as sexual misconduct, and officers initiating encounters aggressively without identifying themselves or explaining the basis for the stop. There were reports of verbal

harassment involving gang-related language, references to rival groups, or music associated with an opposing neighborhood. There were also increased reports of surveillance behavior, including being followed and having flashlights shone directly into faces and eyes.

Manhattan

While Manhattan outreach resulted in only eight completed feedback sessions during Q1, fewer than the goal of two per week, the team focused on expanding engagement beyond Harlem into the Lower East Side and Washington Heights. The lower number was affected by partner capacity constraints, severe winter weather, and heightened immigration enforcement concerns in immigrant neighborhoods. While some of these concerns continue, new outreach strategies including canvassing, targeted email engagement, and ongoing partner development are on track to increase feedback sessions. The Legal Aid Society helped identify new partners, leading to additional workshops, including two sessions with STRIVE. Restart Academy remained a consistent site, though participation varied because of attendance and scheduling factors.

New school partnerships were pursued with Eagle Academy and Mott Hall. Although sessions were not secured this quarter, Mott Hall remains a priority because of identified student needs. In addition, the team added partnerships including the Ali Forney Center, Avenues for Justice, Fresh Youth Initiatives, and Amistad Dual Language School.

Manhattan partnerships also adapted to new community concerns. In response to increased ICE-related issues, OCL collaborated with Neighborhood Defender Services and Getting Out Staying Out (GOSO) on a rapid-response effort and an upcoming public safety event, Rights, Power, Protection is scheduled for Q2, and the expanded outreach led to OCL receiving an invitation to present at the National Action Network's National Convention during Q2.

Community feedback in Manhattan extended beyond stop-and-frisk into police misconduct and harassment. NYCHA residents described continued heavy NST presence, while Spanish-speaking residents in Washington Heights raised concerns about language barriers during police encounters.

A key Manhattan strategy was sharing precinct-level SQF data with community organizations. This improved transparency, supported more informed conversations, and encouraged localized feedback from partners.

Queens

Queens engagement included strong feedback collection through the Fortune Society, Voces Latinas, the Queens Community Conversation, and participation in a NYCHA federal monitorship meeting.

The partnership with the Fortune Society was especially effective because many participants had direct, consistent, and recent contact with police. Staff received substantial anecdotal feedback, including cell phone videos and photos of business cards. Digital gift cards helped increase participation in sessions with the Arts program, though some participants faced access barriers because gift cards require an email address and computer or phone, and some did not have personal email addresses or reliable phones.

Language access was a major issue in Northern Queens. During multiple feedback sessions with Voces Latinas in Jackson Heights, participants described recurring language barriers involving the 115th and 110th Precincts. Community members reported that officers did not appear to use translation applications or seek Spanish-speaking colleagues, and some participants felt officers were apathetic about understanding non-English speakers.

OCL also connected with tenant association leadership, including South Jamaica Houses, and planned to return for a May meeting focused on public safety.

Queens staff also monitored community response to the NYPD fatal shooting of Chez Fray in Far Rockaway. Community leaders expressed concern that the shooting was unnecessary and that the incident could undermine recent improvements in community relationships with the 101st Precinct. Concerns were also raised about the treatment of Mr. Fray's father following the shooting.

Staten Island

Staten Island engagement focused on youth outreach, Know Your Rights education, feedback collection, canvassing, school-based outreach, and community-based partnerships. Engagement included feedback sessions with youth ages 10-25, workshops on levels of police encounters and constitutional rights, school-based outreach at I.S. 49, Curtis High School, Port Richmond High School, and the Staten Island Justice Center, and canvassing in NYCHA developments and community spaces including Stapleton, West Brighton, New Brighton, and Mariners Harbor.

Partnerships included Staten Island Justice Center, Staten Island Connect, Central Family Life Center, Curtis High School's YES Program, RISE Project, True 2 Life, Legal Aid Society, Staten Island Urban Center, Port Richmond High School, Vibrant Emotional Health, Center for Family Representation, Youth Justice Network, NYCID, Families on the Move of NYC, ACS Family Assessment Program, NY Foundling, the Citywide Oversight Committee, and NYPD Community Affairs ambassador engagement.

Staten Island feedback identified several issues. Participants noted that vehicle stops appear to serve as a primary entry point for encounters that lead to unlawful frisk and searches, pedestrian stops in residential settings, and park-based encounters before or after dusk.

Questions and concerns related to unclear consent or searches after refusal, body-worn cameras, including uncertainty about activation and timing, and perceived targeting and repeat encounters involving the 120th and 121st Precincts. Participants expressed uncertainty about whether they were free to leave, when officers must provide a reason for a stop, and whether they could refuse searches. They also expressed frustration that stops may not lead to charges but can still create lasting impacts, including trauma.

Barriers to gathering feedback included reluctance to complete surveys, concerns about anonymity, and greater willingness to share verbally with familiar staff. Program impacts included increased awareness of rights during police encounters, youth engagement in legal and accountability conversations, initial CCRB complaint filings supported during sessions with CCRB representatives, and strengthened Staten Island partnerships.

Anecdotal Feedback from Community Members

The following narratives were excerpted from Salesforce entries by organizers following formal and informal interactions designed to elicit feedback about experiences with SQF. They are written in anonymized language and framed as participant-reported experiences.

1: Youth report searches without consent by specialized units

During a feedback session with Good Shepherd Services, multiple youth participants reported encounters involving specialized NYPD units in Brooklyn. Two 15-year-old participants reported stops by officers they believed were from Neighborhood Safety Teams in the 60th and 61st Precincts during mid-to-late 2025. One participant said officers “hopped out,” searched him without consent, and knocked the phone out of his hand when he attempted to record the encounter.

A separate 15-year-old Black male participant reported being stopped in the afternoon near Mother Gaston Boulevard by officers from the 73rd Precinct. He said officers initially attempted to stop him for littering, but even after his friend picked up the item from the ground, officers continued following him with a flashlight pointed at him. He reported that officers grabbed and frisked him without consent, did not issue a summons, and appeared primarily interested in patting him down.

A 16-year-old Latino male participant also reported being stopped near Sutter and Dumont around 7:00 p.m. by officers from PSA 2. He described the officers as wearing dark uniforms and arriving in an unmarked car,

which led him to believe they may have been part of a Neighborhood Safety Team. He reported being searched without consent and stated that the officers did not identify themselves or act courteously.

2: Participant reports pocket search after refusing consent

During a Good Shepherd Services feedback session, one attendee shared that an officer grabbed her without warning. She stated that she told the officer, “I do not consent to a search,” but the officer searched her pockets anyway. The participant said that after she pushed the officer away, she was accused of resisting arrest.

The group discussion that followed focused on how community members experience appearance-based stops. Participants said officers often stop people for wearing ski masks, hoodies, or all-black clothing. One participant described being stopped by officers from what the group identified as likely a Neighborhood Safety Team. The participant said the officers emerged from an unmarked vehicle, wore nonstandard uniforms with police markings, and were connected to the 70th Precinct.

3: Participant reports repeated Bronx stops and past searches without consent

During a feedback session with the Fortune Society Arts program, a 26-year-old Hispanic male participant reported that he had been stopped numerous times throughout the Bronx. He said his most recent encounter occurred in East Tremont during the summer, when he and a friend were stopped and questioned for approximately 15 minutes. He refused a search, and in that instance, the uniformed officers respected his refusal. The officers reportedly said they had received a 911 call about an assault and eventually let him go.

The participant described that encounter as more respectful than others because officers appeared to activate their body-worn cameras and did not search him after he refused consent. However, he also reported that in prior encounters, officers had searched him without consent and often did not activate their body-worn cameras.

A second participant in the same session stated that he regularly witnesses officers in dark uniforms, possibly Neighborhood Safety Team officers, exiting unmarked cars along Fordham Avenue and Southern Boulevard to stop young people. He described the pattern as frequent and ongoing.

4: Participant reports being frisked near East 149th Street and Tinton Avenue

During a feedback session with CASES ACES, a participant described an encounter that occurred at night during the winter of 2024 near East 149th Street and Tinton Avenue. The participant said he was wearing a coat, hoodie, and ski mask because of the weather and had just left a store with a friend. He reported that officers in an unmarked car followed another friend, then drove toward him and immediately got out of the vehicle.

The participant reported that officers put him against a corner and began grabbing and frisking him. He said he told officers that he did not consent and asked for a badge number. He also reported that an officer attempted to

hit or knock away his phone while he was recording and asking for a business card. The participant stated that he was not given an explanation for the encounter.

The participant also reported that officers in the 40th Precinct frequently stop, frisk, and search him and his friends. He said that when officers recognize him or learn about his pending charge, they often search him without asking for consent. He stated that, in his experience, officers usually do not clearly inform him of his right to refuse consent before searches.

5: Young man reports being surrounded and searched after refusing consent

During a feedback session at Man Up Inc., a young man described a recent nighttime encounter involving officers from the 75th Precinct. He reported that he was outside with others when multiple officers approached suddenly on foot from the front, back, and sides. He described the approach as a “blitz” and said the officers effectively surrounded the group and limited their ability to leave.

The participant stated that officers did not ask for consent before searching. He also reported that when consent was verbally denied, officers proceeded to search him anyway, including checking his bags. He said only one person in the group received a ticket, while others were searched but not cited. The participant felt the stop and search were based on profiling rather than specific behavior.

The participant also described a separate encounter in Harlem involving a scooter-related ticket. He emphasized frustration with repeated stops, lack of consent during searches, inconsistent enforcement, and the importance of keeping documentation after police encounters.

6: Bronx participants report unmarked vehicle stops, frisks, and searches

During a feedback session at the Bronx Community Justice Center, one participant described a recent encounter in the 40th Precinct. He said he was walking when officers in an unmarked vehicle followed him, shined a flashlight in his face, pulled ahead of him, exited the vehicle, and began grabbing him. He reported that he was frisked and searched without consent and without a clear explanation.

Participants in the same session described some frisks and searches as excessively invasive, with several using terms such as “groping” or “sexual harassment” to describe how they experienced the physical contact. One participant stated that although he tells officers, “I do not consent to you searching me,” officers often ignore his refusal.

A second participant described an encounter that he said began as a jaywalking stop but escalated into a forceful detention and search. He reported being followed by officers in an unmarked car, grabbed, and thrown face-down in the street. The participant said that when he objected to being searched, an officer responded that they did not care. He reported that charges related to the encounter were later dismissed.

7: Youth report consent refusal and pocket search near Sumner Houses

During a feedback session with The BRO Experience, two 19-year-old Black male participants described an encounter near Sumner Houses. They reported that they had missed a bus on a cold night and were walking near Myrtle Avenue and Broadway when a dark vehicle followed them. They said three officers in navy blue uniforms exited the vehicle and approached them.

One participant said officers asked what was in his left pocket and asked whether they had consent to search him. He said he refused consent and began walking away. According to the participant, the officer continued questioning him about the pocket, laughed when he asked for a business card, and then reached into the pocket anyway. The participant reported that the item in the pocket was only a portable charger.

The same feedback entry also described a separate incident involving four Black youth, ages 18 to 22, who were riding in a cab after a graduation-related gathering. Participants reported that officers in a dark vehicle followed the cab, stopped it near a bus stop, removed each passenger one by one, and frisked them without providing an explanation. No contraband was reportedly found.

8: Participant reports aggressive approach, flashlight use, and search after leaving a corner store

During a feedback session at the Bronx Community Justice Center, a participant described an encounter that occurred after he left a corner store in the same neighborhood. He reported that officers approached aggressively, shined a bright flashlight in his face, and that one officer already had a weapon drawn. The participant said he raised his hands because he expected to be frisked and searched.

The participant reported that after the search, an officer stated that he thought the participant had something on him. The participant said he had only come out of the store and was not offered a business card after the encounter.

The same participant described a separate incident after leaving the S.O.S. office in Morrisania. He reported that an unmarked police vehicle followed him and a friend for several blocks while officers shined a flashlight toward them but did not explain why they were following. Multiple participants in the session described flashlight use during encounters as a recurring pattern.

9: Participants report searches after refusing consent in the 40th Precinct

During a feedback session at the Bronx Community Justice Center, participants in a G.E.D. class described significant experience with police encounters, many involving frisks or searches. One participant reported that officers in the 40th Precinct have asked whether he consented to a search. He stated that when he said no and continued walking, officers searched him anyway.

The participant said that when he questioned why officers searched him after he refused consent, an officer responded that he thought the participant had a gun. The participant believed that his pending gun charge caused officers to recognize him, look up his information, and search him even when no gun was present.

A second participant described an encounter in a Tremont park during the daytime. He said officers in what appeared to be a taxi-like vehicle approached him and his friends. After others ran, he was detained and frisked. Multiple participants also described officers making antagonistic comments from unmarked cars, including comments that appeared designed to provoke conflict between neighborhood groups.

10: Participant reports repeated NYCHA stops and searches without consent

During a feedback session with STRIVE in East Harlem, a 21-year-old Black male participant reported being stopped repeatedly in the Pelham Parkway Houses by officers from PSA 8. He said these encounters have occurred repeatedly since at least 2023.

The participant stated that in his most recent encounter, which he estimated occurred two weekends before the feedback session, officers in dark uniforms and unmarked cars, possibly Neighborhood Safety Team officers, exited their vehicles near the Pelham Houses and searched him without consent. He believed that at least one officer's body-worn camera was activated. He also stated that being searched without consent has been a recurring experience for him.

Another participant in the same session reported that officers in khaki pants, likely Community Response Team officers, had approached him and his friends in unmarked cars in different parts of the Bronx. He said officers often made comments suggesting they knew about street conflicts and, in one instance, made an offensive comment about the death of a friend.

Challenges in Achieving Benchmarks

Weather and scheduling disruptions

Severe winter weather affected outreach across boroughs, causing cancellations and reducing attendance. Some partner organizations also experienced accidental overscheduling, low participant turnout, or capacity constraints. Staff responded by offering virtual sessions, overscheduling feedback opportunities, remaining at drop-in sites beyond scheduled times, and building new coalition relationships.

Trust and anonymity concerns

A continuing issue has been that community members often prefer verbal sharing to written forms or QR-code surveys. Trust barriers remain especially significant for youth, immigrant communities, people with pending cases, people returning from incarceration, and residents who fear retaliation.

Scope questions

Staff continue to encounter incidents that may touch on stop-and-frisk, transit enforcement, summons activity, trespass enforcement, misconduct, harassment, or broader public safety concerns. Additional internal guidance from the Monitor team and the Community Liaison will help staff determine how to document, refer, or escalate these situations.

Language access

Spanish-speaking residents in Manhattan and Queens described language barriers during police encounters. Language access should remain a specific focus of OCL's feedback collection and public education work.

Data consistency

Staff are continuing to improve Salesforce entries, deadline compliance, and standardized documentation. As feedback collection grows, consistent data entry and clear coding will be essential for identifying patterns across boroughs as well as documenting anecdotal information about stops.

Second Quarter Priorities

OCL's Q2 priorities and plans include:

- Fully integrate Aaliyah Guillory-Nickens into OCL's youth engagement, organizing, and feedback collection model.
- Revise all materials affected by the *Ligon* closure and prepare plain-language explanations for staff and community members.
- Increase feedback sessions in boroughs where weather, partner capacity, or attendance limited Q1 progress.
- Expand targeted NYCHA outreach in the Bronx, Manhattan, Queens, Brooklyn, and Staten Island.
- Continue youth-focused education on levels of encounters, consent searches, body-worn cameras, Right to Know business cards, and safe documentation.
- Strengthen Spanish language outreach in Washington Heights, Jackson Heights, and other communities where residents reported barriers

- Develop internal staff guidance on scope, referrals, and documentation for complex or borderline encounters
- Continue using precinct-level SQF data to support localized partner conversations.
- Strengthen relationships with legal service providers, CCRB, tenant associations, and community-based organizations to expand ability to refer non-SQF concerns expressed by participants
- Continue monitoring concerns related to specialized units, including NST, CRT, and other proactive enforcement teams.
- Leverage relationships with elected officials as State and City legislative sessions end for support in scheduling feedback sessions with groups in their districts.
- Expand NYCHA canvassing with tenant association board members.
- Re-engage with precinct council meetings

Conclusion

Q1 2026 demonstrated OCL's continued growth as a citywide community engagement office grounded in trust-building, feedback collection, and public education. Staff expanded partnerships, gathered substantial feedback, increased youth engagement, and identified recurring concerns across boroughs involving specialized units, consent searches, language barriers, youth-police encounters, vehicle stops, NYCHA spaces, and community trust.

The quarter also positioned OCL for deeper impact in Q2. The hiring of Aaliyah Guillory-Nickens, the preparation of a new Brooklyn office, the Queens Community Conversation with the Federal Monitor, and the revision of materials following the *Ligon* closure all represent important steps in strengthening OCL's model.

Moving forward, OCL's continued success will depend on consistent presence, clear public education, reliable data practices, strong referral pathways, and sustained relationships with the communities most impacted by police encounters. The first quarter confirmed that community members are willing to share deeply when they are met with respect, clarity, and trust. OCL's role is to ensure those voices are organized, elevated, and reflected in the ongoing work of oversight, accountability, and reform.

Appendix A

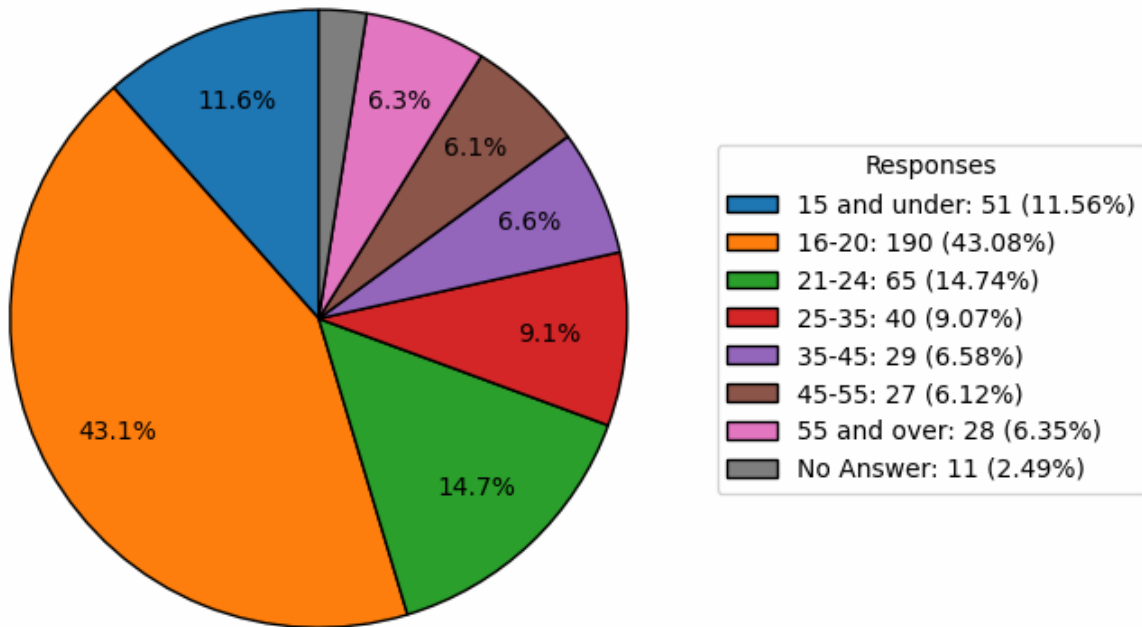
Benchmarks

Tasks	Goal per quarter	First quarter
All Parties Meetings		3
Bi-weekly Meetings with Monitor		6
Meetings with NYPD/Precinct Councils		9
Meetings with Plaintiffs		3
Attend relevant conferences/events		40
Quarterly reports submitted		1
Outreach meetings		321
Follow up meetings/calls/emails		44
New organizations/groups added		59
Feedback Sessions	8 per week	65
NYCHA Resident meetings		13
Train the Trainer sessions	As requested	0
Community events with Monitor	Quarterly	1
Virtual events/IG Live	Monthly	4
Social Media postings	2 x weekly	64
Newsletter	Monthly	3
Videos received from community		12
Public officials - hearings/meetings		7
Form Assembly surveys received		441
Stakeholder Meetings		0

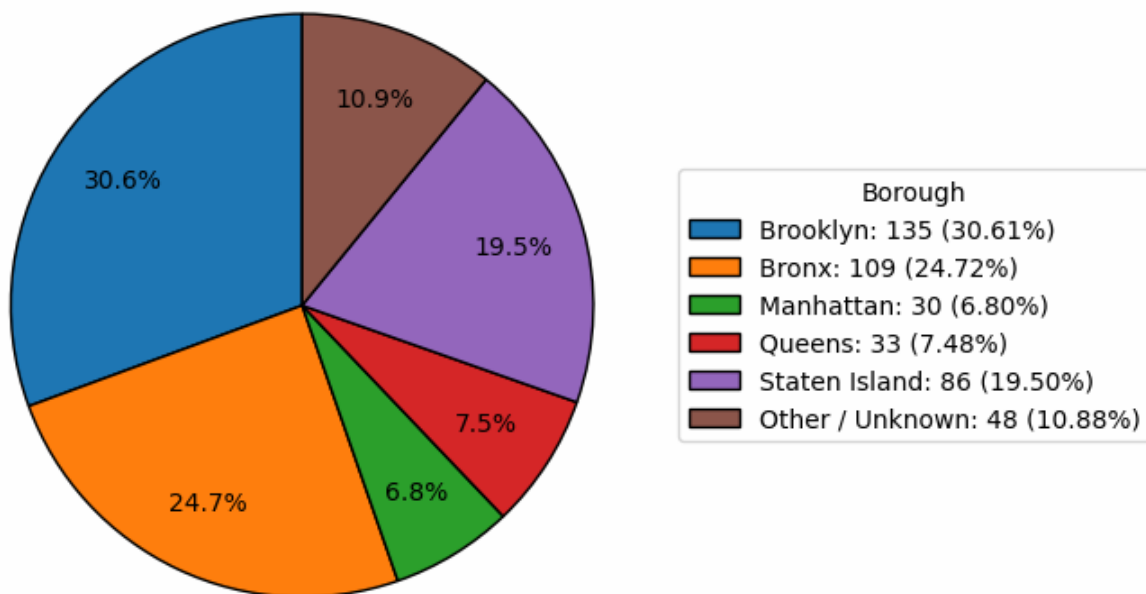
Appendix B

Form Assembly Data

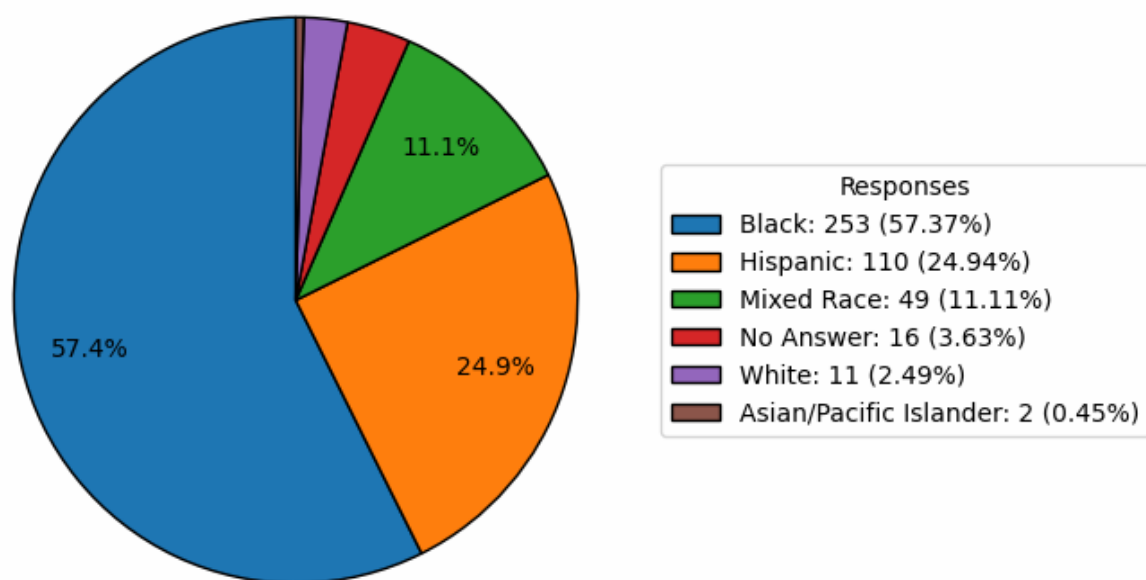
What is your age range? (n=441)



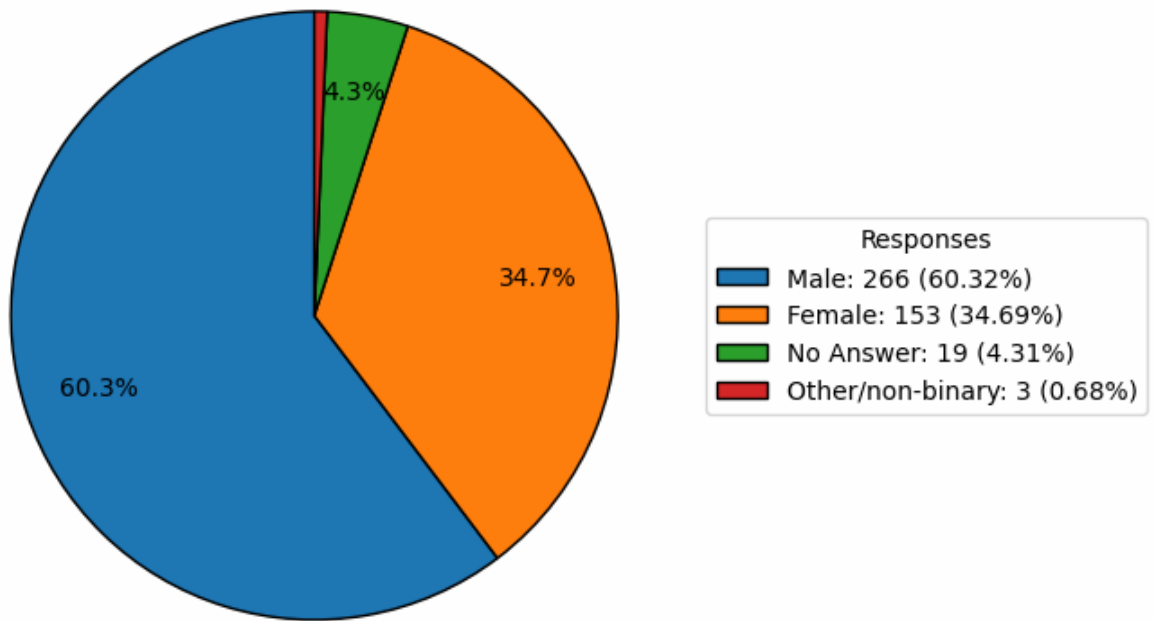
Respondent Borough Distribution (n=441)



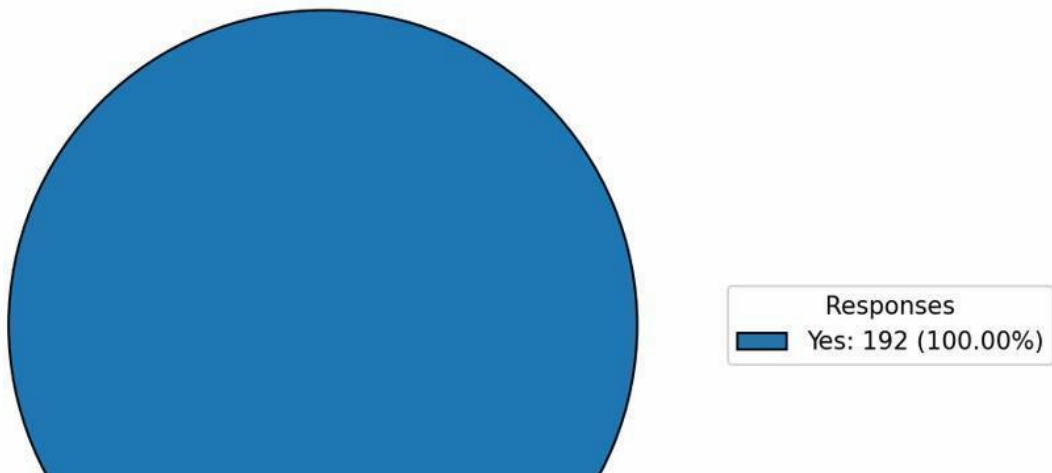
What is your racial/ethnic background? (n=441)



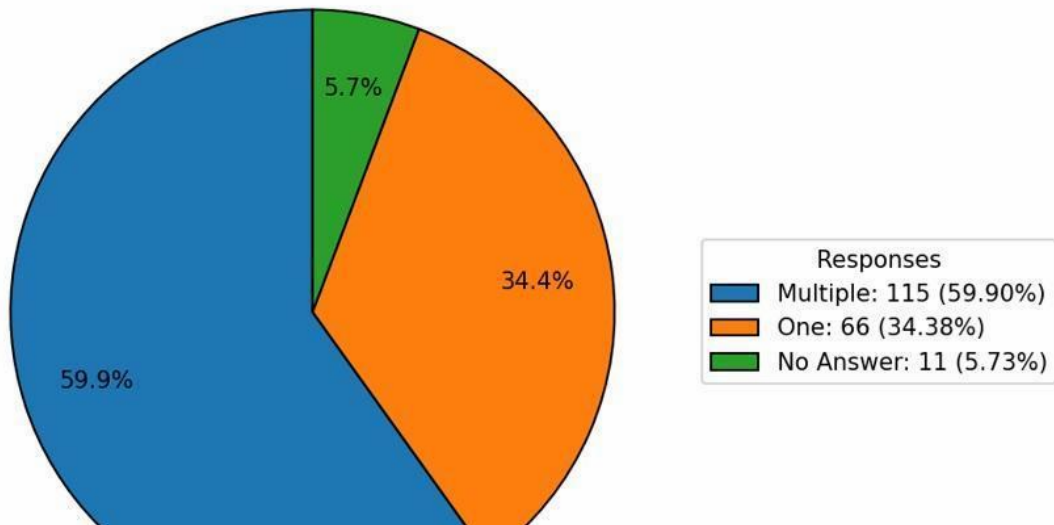
What is your Gender? (n=441)



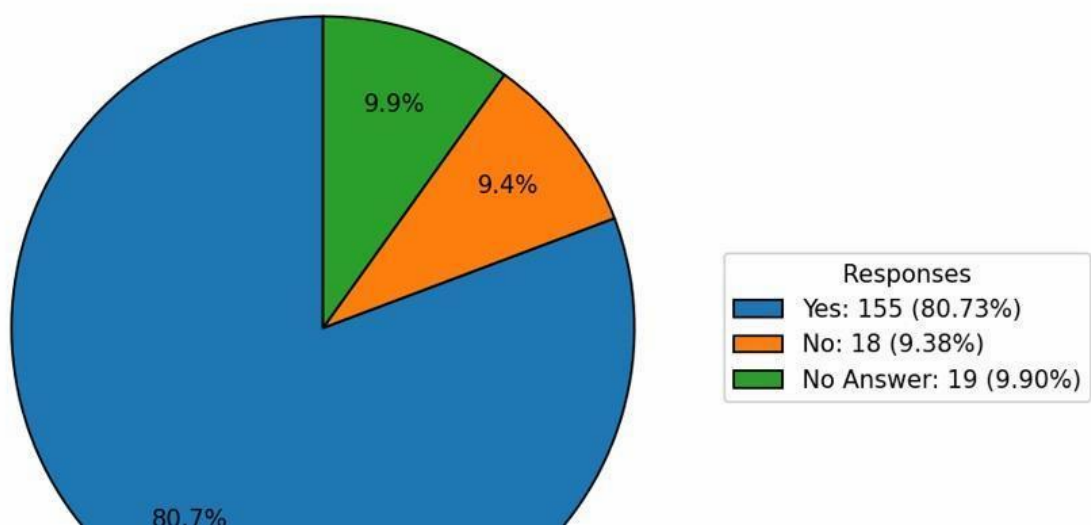
Police encounter in the last 2 years? (n=192)



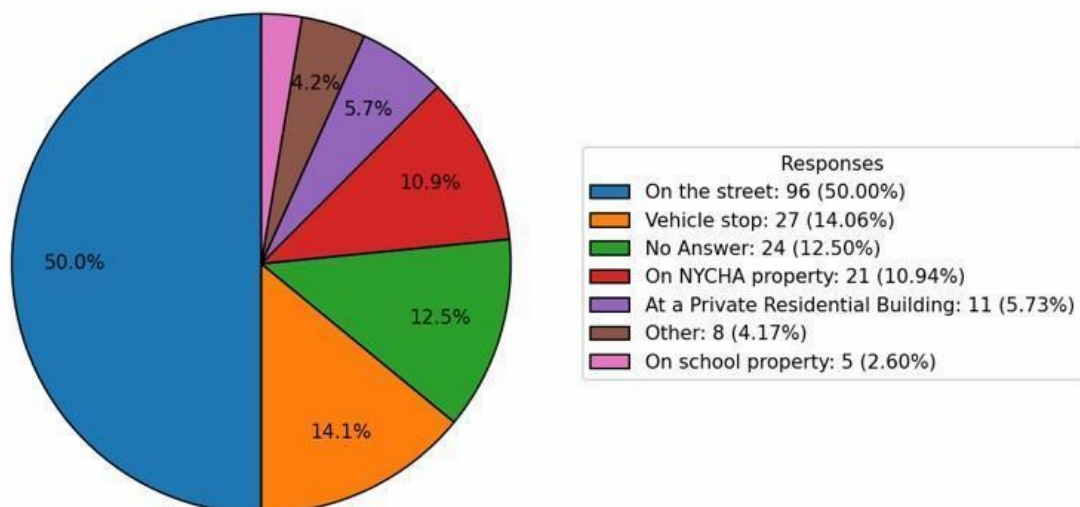
One / Multi encounters in last 2 years? (n=192)



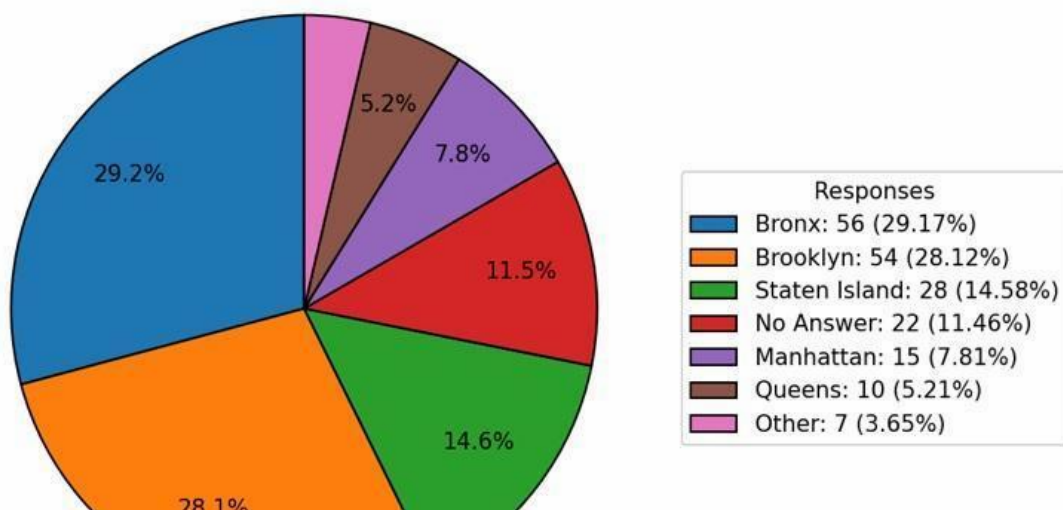
Did officer speak language? (n=192)



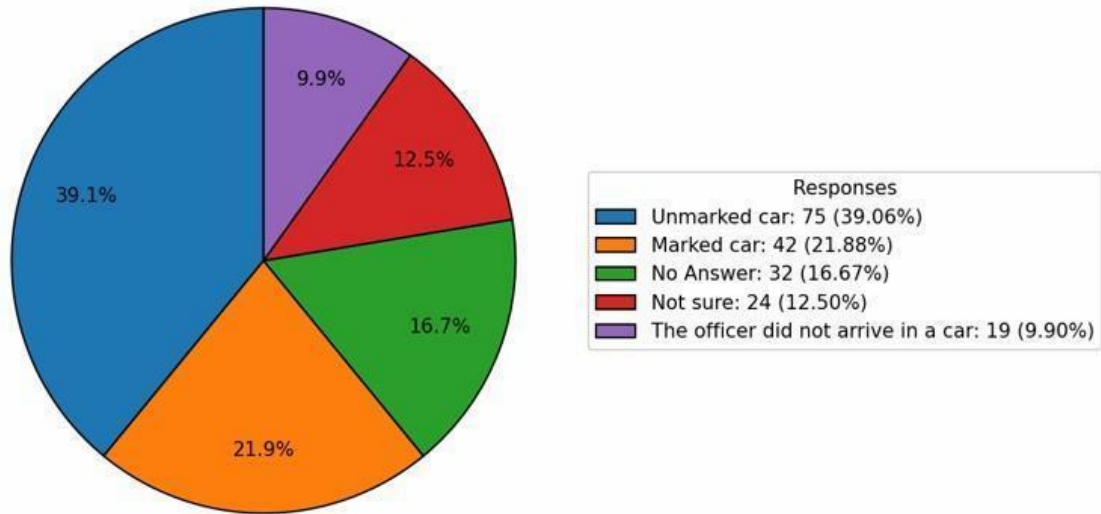
Where did this encounter occur? (n=192)



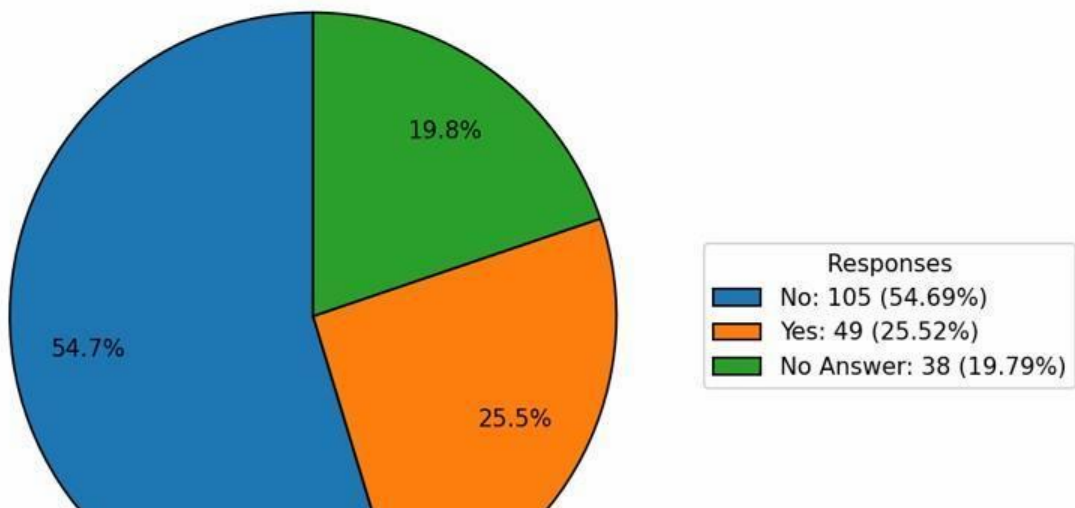
Borough of Precinct (n=192)



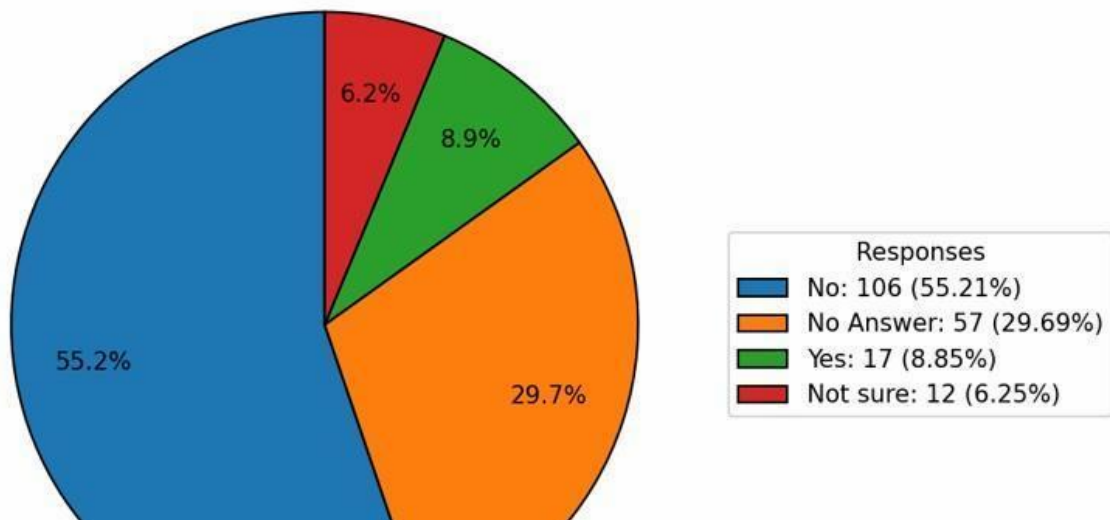
Officers in marked or an unmarked car? (n=192)



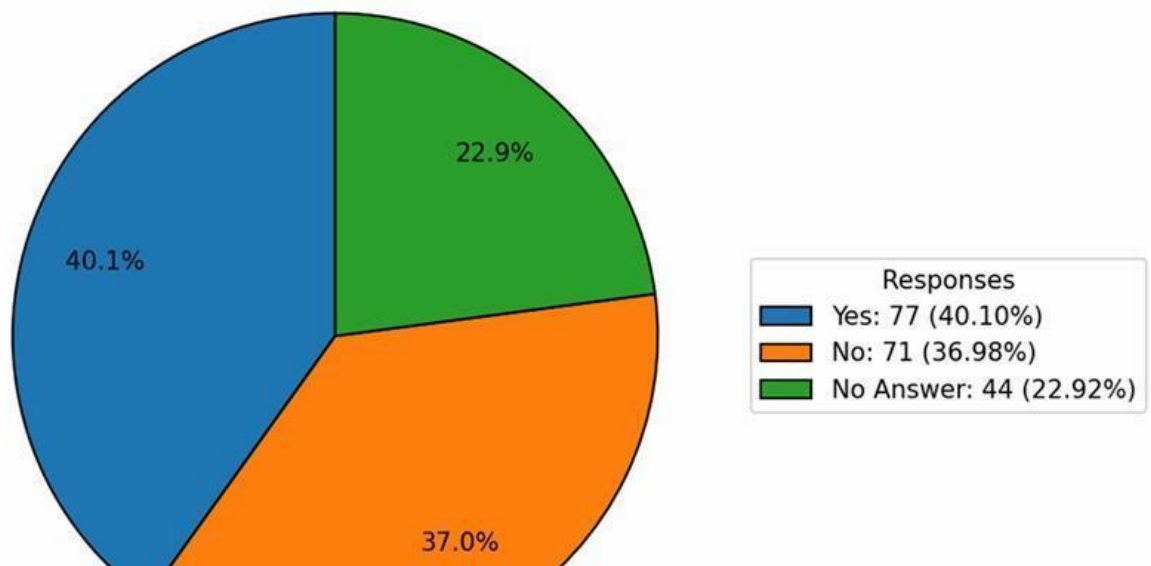
Did you feel free to leave? (n=192)



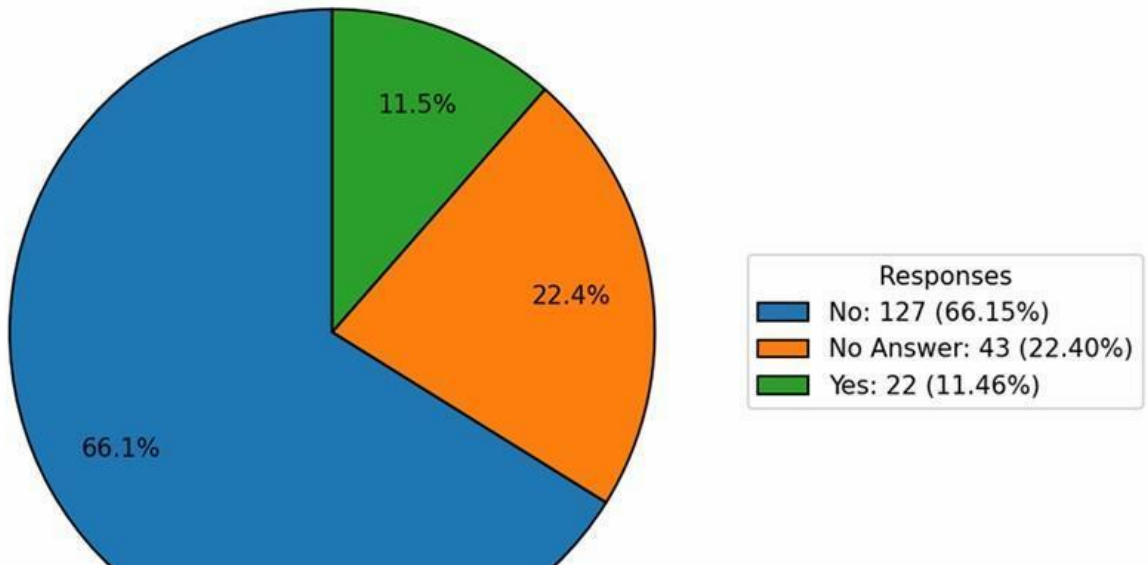
Officer/s ask for consent to search? (n=192)



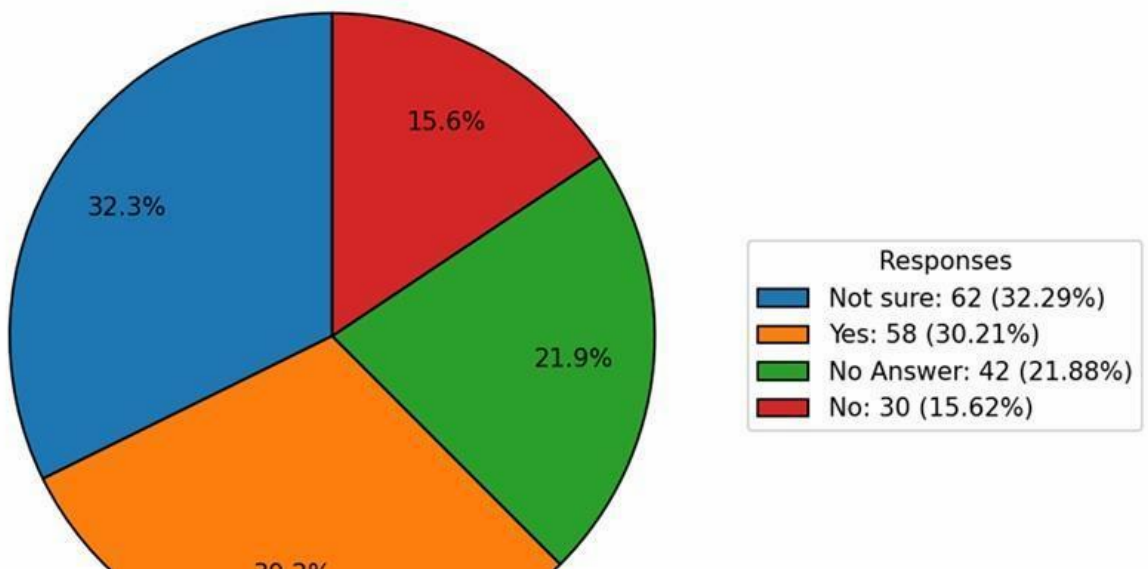
Did they ask you for your ID? (n=192)



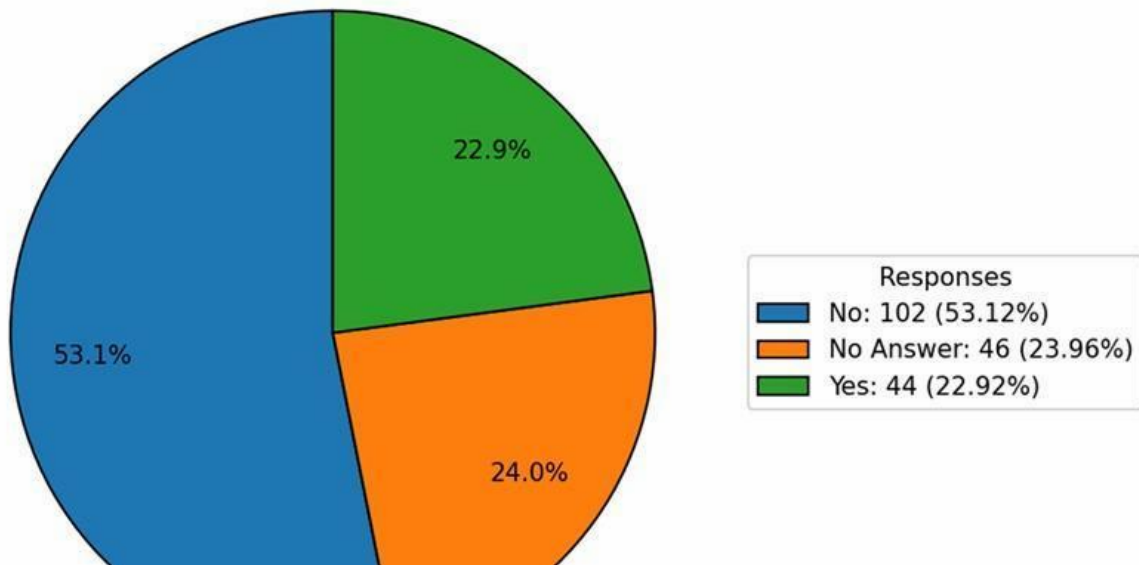
Police offer you a business card? (n=192)



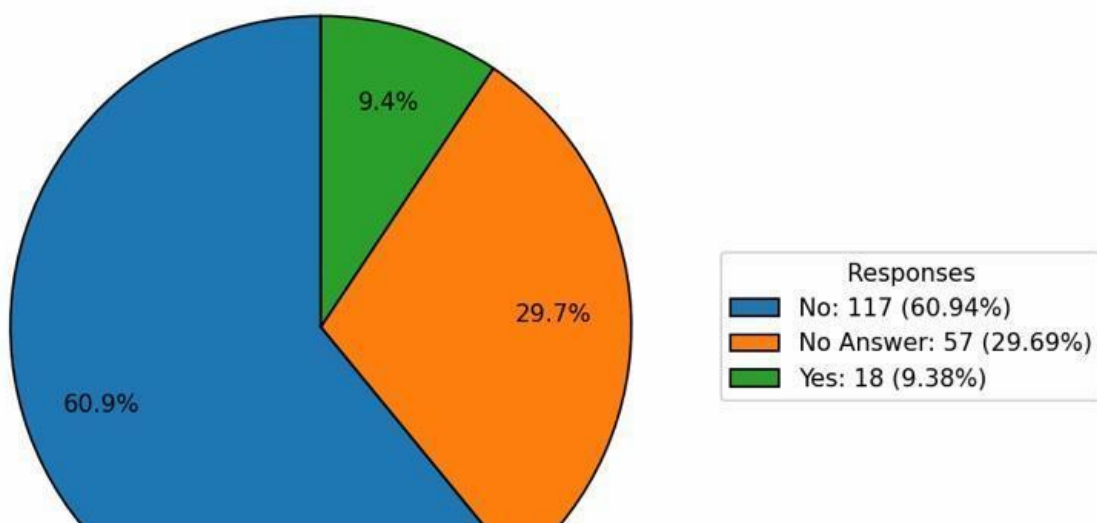
Were body-worn cameras turned on? (n=192)



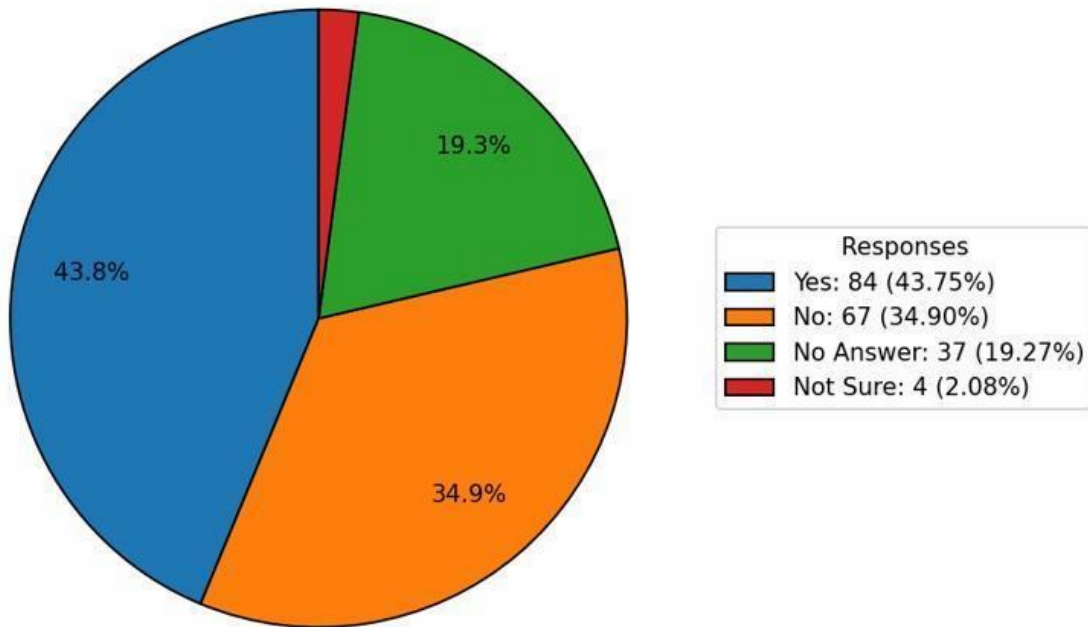
Encountering officer/s professional? (n=192)



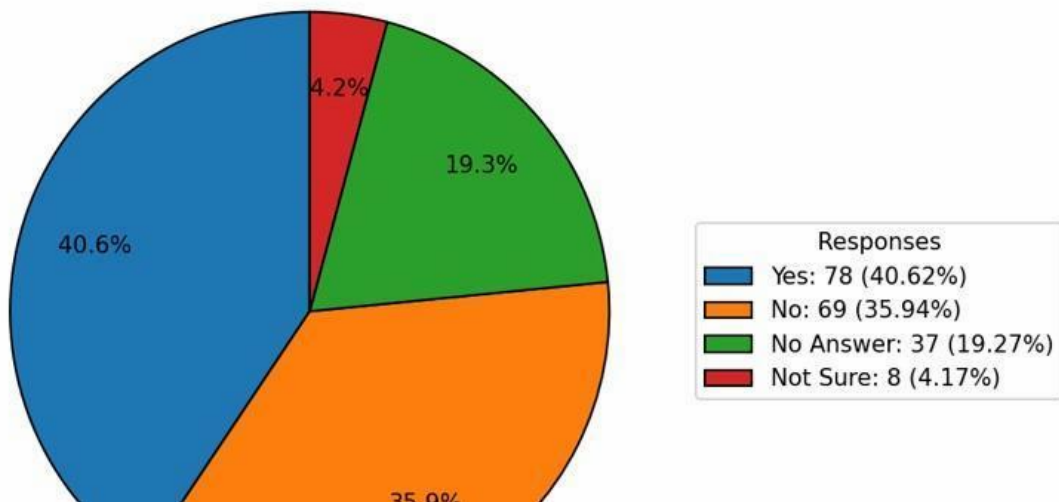
Did you provide your consent? (n=192)



Were you frisked during this encounter? (n=192)



Searched during this encounter? (n=192)



Were you with others? (n=192)

