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Press Contact: Malek Al-Shammary, [press@ibo.nyc.gov](mailto:press@ibo.nyc.gov), (917) 513-7488

## NYPD Officers Ramp Up Overtime as Retirement Nears

Between Fiscal Years 2019 and 2024, NYPD overtime spending ranged from \$600 million to \$955 million — a persistent budget challenge for the City. The New York City Independent Budget Office (IBO) is releasing a [report](#) on how police overtime accrual correlates with officer tenure. The data shows a clear trend: the longer officers stay in the force, the more overtime they work.

IBO found that officers increase their overtime hours around years 12 –14 and again at 21 – 23 years of service. Since NYPD pensions are based on an officer’s last three years of earnings, it creates a strong financial incentive to maximize overtime before retirement, effectively boosting their pension payouts. IBO’s report does not assess whether police overtime reduces crime or effectively addresses staffing shortages.

At the same time, NYPD staffing levels have been declining. As of Fiscal Year 2025, the City [employed 33,689](#) full time uniformed officers — down from 36,383 in July 2019. IBO is continuing to closely track [headcount](#) at NYPD, among other agencies.

The City has consistently underestimated the true cost of NYPD overtime in its financial plans. Last year, IBO identified a [\\$605 million shortfall](#) in the fiscal year 2025 Executive Budget due to unaccounted overtime costs for uniformed agencies. The City is now on track to exceed its budgeted overtime spending by more than [\\$840 million](#) in 2025.

Targeted overtime policies could save the City millions. IBO estimates the City could save [\\$49 million](#) on Governor Hochul’s overnight policing initiative alone with better implementation. If NYPD overtime practices aren’t addressed, it will remain a [major budget expense](#) that costs the City hundreds of millions annually. IBO recently warned that the City’s finances are [tightening](#), with federal uncertainty, state policy changes and shifting market conditions putting the local economy at [risk](#).

