

**Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice  
Local Law 25 of 2018 Report  
February 2, 2026**

**I. Introduction and Reporting**

This report is submitted by the Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice (MOCJ) in accordance with Local Law 25 of 2018, which provides that MOCJ will use “best efforts” to “seek the accuracy of records regarding outstanding criminal warrants,” “facilitate the reduction of outstanding criminal warrants” and “seek access to efficient processes for members of the public to rectify inaccurate criminal warrants.”

As of January 12, 2026, there were 1,287,532 outstanding warrants in the City of New York issued between 1910 and 2025. Summons Court warrants make up 64% of this cumulative warrant count. Across the Summons, Criminal, and the Supreme Courts, the majority of these outstanding warrants were issued greater than 10 years ago.

	<b>Number of Outstanding Warrants</b>	<b>% of Outstanding Warrants</b>
Summons	826,985	64%
Criminal	412,420	32%
Supreme	48,127	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,287,532.00</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>Warrants Issuing Year</b>	<b>Summons</b>		<b>Criminal</b>		<b>Supreme</b>	
	<b>n</b>	<b>% of All Summons Warrants</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>% of All Criminal Warrants</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>% of All Supreme Court Warrants</b>
1910-1995	-	0%	193,814	47%	23,318	48%
1996-2014	659,353	80%	147,700	36%	19,604	41%
2015-2024	152,237	18%	54,224	13%	3,833	8%
2025	15,395	2%	16,682	4%	1,372	3%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>826,985</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>412,420</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>48,127</b>	<b>100%</b>

Of the cumulative outstanding warrant total, 33,349 (3%) outstanding warrants were issued in 2025. Criminal Court warrants make up 50% of these 2025 outstanding warrants; the most common top charge for these warrants was a Class A Misdemeanor. Summons Court warrants make up 46% of these 2025 outstanding warrants; the most common top charge is an

Administrative Code. Supreme Court warrants make up 4% of the 33,349 outstanding warrants issued in 2025; the most common top charge was a Class D non-violent felony.

<b>Warrants Issued in 2025</b>			
<b>Court Type</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Most Common Top Charge Severity</b>
Summons	15,395	46%	Administrative Code Violation
Criminal	16,682	50%	Misdemeanor, Class A
Supreme	1,372	4%	Non-violent felony, Class D

## **II. Background**

Individuals charged with crimes who miss court appearances may be issued criminal warrants, known as bench warrants, for their failure to appear. These warrants can subject individuals to arrest and unnecessary periods of incarceration. Notably, recent policy changes at both the City and State level are likely to have a long-term impact on the number of bench warrants issued in New York City.

In June 2017, the Criminal Justice Reform Act (CJRA), legislation passed by the City Council and signed by the Mayor, went into effect. CJRA gives law enforcement the option to issue civil summonses instead of criminal summonses for a group of common low-level offenses such as open container, public urination, and littering. In the year following implementation of the CJRA, warrants for failure-to-appear on CJRA-eligible offenses declined by 94% in the year following implementation.<sup>1</sup>

In addition, in April 2019, the New York State Legislature passed a series of bills to reform the State’s bail system as well as several other aspects of the State’s criminal procedures. Among other reforms, the new law prohibits courts from issuing a warrant for 48 hours whenever a defendant fails to appear, unless the defendant is charged with a new crime or there is evidence of a “willful” failure to appear. During the 48-hour period, the defense attorney can contact the defendant and encourage a voluntary return. As discussed in further detail below, changes to court operations during the COVID-19 public health emergency have meant that the impact of these reforms could not be properly evaluated and quantified during this reporting period.

## **III. 2025 Updates to COVID**

In 2025, court conditions further stabilized as the court system and criminal justice agencies returned to pre-COVID-19 operations. Following the resumption of in-person court appearances, judges have only allowed virtual appearances only under special circumstances. Warrants are now issued for failure to appear after the applicable adjournment. In most cases, the Courts

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<sup>1</sup> MOCJ NYC. “Summons Reform: One Year After Legislation (CJRA)” 5 Sept. 2018, [https://criminaljustice.cityofnewyork.us/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/summons\\_ref\\_factsheet\\_v3.pdf](https://criminaljustice.cityofnewyork.us/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/summons_ref_factsheet_v3.pdf). Compared to the 2021 total, there was an approximate 1% decline in the number of outstanding warrants for CJRA-eligible offenses in the 2022 total.

provide at least the statutorily mandated forty-eight hours notice before issuing a bench warrant. In the Criminal Court Summons part, if the individual failed to appear on the arraignment date, the matter was adjourned for 45 days, and the individual was notified. The summons was then reviewed for legal sufficiency and if it was deemed legally insufficient, the matter would have been calendared to be dismissed the following week. The individual would have been notified of this dismissal. If the summons survived review and the individual failed to appear on the date the case was adjourned to (45 days after first failure to appear), a warrant would have been issued.