



**Office of the New York State  
Attorney General**

**Letitia James  
Attorney General**

April 2, 2026

Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch  
New York City Police Department  
One Police Plaza  
New York, NY 10038

***Via Email***

Re: Executive Law § 75(5)(b) Referral of Captain Timothy Brovakos  
OAG Matter No. 1-794796327

Dear Commissioner Tisch,

We have reviewed your agency's referral of Captain Timothy Brovakos<sup>1</sup> pursuant to Executive Law Section 75(5)(b). Based on our review, we have concluded that Captain Brovakos engaged in a pattern of misconduct during vehicle stops involving unlawful stops and searches in violation of the Fourth Amendment of the United States Constitution, Article I, Section 12 of the New York State Constitution, and NYPD policy.

This determination is predicated upon our review of the following incidents:

- **CCRB 202003306:** On May 2, 2020, Complainant One knocked over a police cone while parking across the street from his home in Brooklyn, leading to an argument with two officers from the 60th Precinct. When he refused to comply with the officers' request for identification and locked himself in his vehicle, Lieutenant Brovakos and several other officers responded. Several unidentified officers handcuffed Complainant One, allegedly twisting his arms past normal flexibility when he eventually exited the vehicle. Officers then transported him to the 60th Precinct stationhouse, where they issued him six summonses: two criminal summonses for disorderly conduct and reckless driving; and four VTL summonses for unsafe backing up, failure to comply with a lawful order, driving through a safety zone, and failure to signal lane change. Under Lt. Brovakos's supervision, officers removed the complainant's vehicle to the stationhouse and searched it. The CCRB investigated this incident and substantiated allegations that Lt. Brovakos abused his authority by impounding Complainant One's vehicle without a legitimate

---

<sup>1</sup> Captain Brovakos was promoted on April 26, 2024. Prior to that, he held the titles of Lieutenant Special Assignment (effective March 18, 2021), Lieutenant (June 5, 2018), Sergeant (May 29, 2012), and Police Officer (January 10, 2007). This Letter refers to title that Capt. Brovakos held at the time as relevant.

basis, in violation of the Fourth Amendment, and that another officer, Officer Nicole Fox, abused her authority by issuing Complainant One a retaliatory summons for disorderly conduct without sufficient legal basis. The CCRB recommended that NYPD impose a Command Discipline A for Lt. Brovakos's misconduct and serve charges against Officer Fox. However, the NYPD closed the case administratively, citing a short SOL and took no disciplinary action against either officer.

- **CCRB 202100053:** On December 12, 2020, Complainant Two double parked a vehicle, exited the driver's seat, and his passenger switched from the passenger's seat into the driver's seat. Lt. Brovakos, along with three other police officers—Khurram Zubair, Joseph McDonald, and Mubbashar Zahid from the 60th Precinct—stopped Complainant Two after he exited his vehicle. Lt. Brovakos and Zahid frisked him. After the officers returned to their vehicle, Complainant Two approached them and repeatedly asked, “Why'd you just run up on me?” In response, Lt. Brovakos threatened to arrest him. The officers did not recover any contraband and did not issue any summonses related to the stop. The CCRB investigated this incident and substantiated allegations that Lt. Brovakos abused his authority by stopping and frisking the complainant based solely on his grabbing his waistband that may or may not have had a “bulge,” which is insufficient legal authority and by threatening to arrest the complainant without a lawful basis. The CCRB also substantiated the allegation that Lt. Brovakos abused his authority by failing to provide his business card to the complainant and noted potential misconduct when he failed to prepare a Stop Report in connection with the incident. Charges and specifications were served on May 24, 2022, and Lt. Brovakos pled guilty to all four charges, forfeiting 13 vacation days. The discipline imposed in the following two cases (CCRB 202100965 and CCRB 202103599) ran consecutively with this one as part of a global negotiated plea, which was approved by the then-Police Commissioner on November 3, 2023.
  
- **CCRB 202100965:** On February 6, 2021, Lt. Brovakos, and Police Officers Jason Schreckenstein and Craig Smith from the 71st Precinct, stopped Complainant Three's vehicle in front of 506-528 Utica Avenue in Brooklyn. Claiming that he smelled marijuana coming from the vehicle, Lt. Brovakos frisked and searched Complainant Three and joined Schreckenstein in searching the complainant's car. They recovered no marijuana or other contraband. During the encounter, Lt. Brovakos called Complainant Three a felon despite lacking any indication that he had been convicted of a felony, which Complainant Three perceived as racially motivated. At the conclusion of the stop, Lt. Brovakos did not return the complainant's vehicle registration, and the officers drove away without arresting him or issuing him any summonses. Complainant Three drove around the area looking for the officers to get his registration back and flagged them down a few blocks away. He and Lt. Brovakos engaged in a verbal argument, and after Complainant Three requested his registration back several times, Lt. Brovakos returned it. During this verbal exchange, Complainant Three told Lt. Brovakos that he should police his own neighborhood, and Lt. Brovakos responded, “Honestly, I wish I didn't have to work down here just so I didn't have to hear this bullshit.” The CCRB observed that Lt. Brovakos used the word “bullshit” to negatively characterize Complainant Three's complaints about his behavior. The CCRB investigated this incident and

substantiated two allegations of discourtesy against Lt. Brovakos for his manner of speech to the complainant during the incident. The CCRB also substantiated allegations that Lt. Brovakos abused his authority when he failed to return the complainant's vehicle registration at the end of the stop without legal justification. Finally, the CCRB also substantiated the allegation that Lt. Brovakos abused his authority by failing to provide his business card to Complainant Three, despite no arrest or summons resulting from this incident. Charges were served on July 26, 2022, and Lt. Brovakos pled guilty to all four charges, resulting in a forfeiture of 9 vacation days.

- **CCRB 202103599:** On April 30, 2021, Lt. Brovakos stopped a vehicle in which Complainant Four was a passenger at East New York Avenue and Kingston Avenue in Brooklyn for excessive window tints. During the stop, Lt. Brovakos frisked Complainant Four. This incident did not result in an arrest or summons. The CCRB investigated this incident and substantiated an allegation that Lt. Brovakos abused his authority when he frisked Complainant Four because he had made no observations during the incident that led him to suspect Complainant Four was armed. The CCRB also substantiated the allegation that Lt. Brovakos abused his authority by failing to provide his business card to Complainant Four and failed to complete a stop and frisk report, making his actions violations of NYPD policy. Charges were served on October 21, 2022, and Lt. Brovakos pled guilty to both charges, resulting in a forfeiture of 3 vacation days.
- **CCRB 202106291:** On May 23, 2021, Lt. Brovakos and several officers from the 71st Precinct stopped a vehicle in which Complainant Five, the driver's daughter's grandmother, was a passenger. One of the officers, Police Officer Aaqib Bhatti, told Lt. Brovakos that he observed pills in an unnamed prescription bottle in Complainant Five's bag, although he could not later recall how he discovered the pills. Lt. Brovakos authorized Bhatti to handcuff and arrest Complainant Five and she was placed in a police vehicle. Soon thereafter, Bhatti investigated and determined that the pills were not controlled substances and released Complainant Five. The CCRB investigated the incident and determined that Lt. Brovakos abused his authority by authorizing Complainant Five's arrest because he did not have probable cause to arrest her. While the CCRB recommended that charges be served on Lt. Brovakos, the statute of limitations had expired, and NYPD closed the case on February 22, 2023.
- **CCRB 202103919:** On June 16, 2021, Lt. Brovakos was on patrol with Police Officers Christopher Rodriguez, Omar Delarosa, Mubbashar Zahid, and Steven Carabello of the 71st Precinct. Outside of 1284 St. John's Place in Brooklyn, Lt. Brovakos and PO Rodriguez each conducted a stop and frisk of two unidentified individuals. Then, Lt. Brovakos and all his officers entered the building's vestibule, where Lt. Brovakos stopped and frisked Complainant Six and PO Rodriguez stopped and frisked an unknown individual. Complainant Six was arrested for possession of crack cocaine, however, the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office declined to prosecute him based on the search and seizure. The CCRB investigated this incident and substantiated allegations that Lt. Brovakos abused his authority when he stopped and frisked Complainant Six based solely on his observation that he had moved an unknown object to his waistband. The CCRB also found that Lt. Brovakos abused his authority when he failed to provide one of the

unidentified individuals he stopped and frisked with a business card, and that he improperly used his body-worn camera (BWC). CCRB recommended that NYPD impose Command Discipline, Schedule B, and Lt. Brovakos forfeited 2 vacation days.

- **CCRB 202104113:** On July 11, 2021, Lt. Brovakos, along with POs Zahid, Bhatti, Rodriguez, and Caraballo, conducted a vehicle stop outside of 457 Schenectady Avenue in Brooklyn. Lt. Brovakos frisked Complainant Seven and the driver of the vehicle. Neither occupant was arrested or summonsed. Lt. Brovakos neglected to provide a business card to either individual. CCRB investigated this incident and found that Lt. Brovakos abused his authority when he frisked both occupants, having failed to articulate any basis for believing they were armed, recommending that NYPD impose Command Discipline, Schedule B. NYPD received CCRB's findings and recommendations on December 20, 2022 and closed the case administratively over one month later on January 23, 2023, citing a short statute of limitations.
- **CCRB 202105350:** On September 5, 2021, several people were gathered at 817 Saratoga Avenue in Brooklyn for a birthday celebration when they were encountered by Lt. Brovakos, POs Delarosa, Bhatti, Zahid, Ryan Selg, Jason Schreckenstein, and other unknown police officers. CCRB substantiated allegations that Lt. Brovakos abused his authority when he stopped and supervised the frisks of seven named individuals and unidentified others, searched two named individuals, and supervised the searches of five named individuals and unidentified others. CCRB also substantiated an allegation that Lt. Brovakos abused his authority when he supervised the search of a vehicle. None of the officers activated their BWCs, filled out a stop report, explained the reason for the stop, or provided their business cards. While a concurrent IAB investigation into allegations that involved officers did not activate their BWC resulted in a substantiated stop allegation against PO Delarosa, IAB did not issue charges and specifications to Lt. Brovakos, who was the supervisor on scene that participated in and supervised the misconduct. Upon receipt of CCRB's findings and recommendations five months after the statute of limitations expired, NYPD did not take disciplinary action against Lt. Brovakos.
- **CCRB 202107559:** On December 4, 2021, Lt. Brovakos, PO Zahid, PO Bhatti, PO Rodriguez, and PO Caraballo conducted a stop of Complainant Nine, who was sitting in the driver's seat of a parked vehicle with two passengers. The officers observed a burnt marijuana cigarette, ordered Complainant Nine out of the vehicle, who refused several times, pulled him out, handcuffed him, and frisked him. Complainant Nine was ultimately released with a summons for VTL § 1227, which prohibits consumption of marijuana in a vehicle. Lt. Brovakos and PO Rodriguez frisked the backseat passenger, and PO Rodriguez frisked the front seat passenger. PO Rodriguez searched Complainant Nine's vehicle. CCRB substantiated Lt. Brovakos' and PO Rodriguez's frisks of the passengers and PO Rodriguez's search of the vehicle as abuses of authority. CCRB, discrediting some of Lt. Brovakos testimony, found that the officers did not articulate facts to support frisks of the passengers, and that there was not a sufficient legal basis to search the vehicle. CCRB recommended NYPD impose Command Discipline, Schedule A, as to Lt. Brovakos, which NYPD imposed, resulting in the forfeiture of 1

vacation day.

- **CCRB 202205715:** On August 26, 2022, Lt. Brovakos unlawfully stopped Complainant Ten outside a store, proceeding to frisk him by touching his torso, legs, and ankles. Nothing was found on the complainant's person. Lt. Brovakos and an unidentified officer then returned to their police vehicle and departed the scene without giving the complainant their business cards. On February 7, 2024, NYPD administratively closed the case citing a short statute of limitations; however, NYPD received CCRB's findings and recommendation to impose Command A Discipline on January 2, 2024, which was almost two months prior to the expiration of the statute of limitations on February 26, 2024.

### Conclusion and Recommendations

Based on the above incidents, we conclude that Captain Brovakos engaged in a pattern of misconduct during vehicle stops, including conducting and supervising unlawful stops, frisks, and searches of individuals and their vehicles, unlawful seizures of vehicles and other property. He frequently was discourteous during those stops.

Capt. Brovakos has been promoted consistently despite continued Fourth Amendment violations of which NYPD was aware during and after his two periods of monitoring. Capt. Brovakos, who began his career at the NYPD as a police officer in 2007, has been the subject of 40 CCRB complaints filed between 2008 and 2025, including 16 substantiated complaints involving his supervision of, and participation in, policy violations and unlawful conduct. Capt. Brovakos was first subject to monitoring between 2014 and 2017 while he was a sergeant. He was promoted to lieutenant in 2018. As a lieutenant, Capt. Brovakos was the subject of 13 CCRB cases, including eight for Fourth Amendment violations, seven of which contained at least one substantiated allegation. On March 18, 2021, Capt. Brovakos was promoted to the position of Lieutenant Special Assignment, a discretionary promotion with a salary increase, for the 71<sup>st</sup> Precinct, where he supervised all the specialty units. In the nine months after his March 2021 promotion, Capt. Brovakos was the subject of 11 CCRB complaints, five of which were ultimately substantiated and involved searches and seizures. On December 2, 2021, NYPD placed Capt. Brovakos in monitoring again for a period of two years.

We reviewed Capt. Brovakos' second Monitoring Package and observed that there was no meaningful monitoring, supervision, or oversight of Capt. Brovakos during his monitoring period. For example, two days after his placement in Level I Monitoring, on December 4, 2021, Capt. Brovakos participated in an unlawful stop and frisk, which resulted in his eleventh CCRB, and fifth substantiated, complaint since he was promoted to the title of Lieutenant Special Assignment less than one year earlier. That complaint was first reported to NYPD's IAB but does not appear in the case notes for the Monitoring Package we reviewed, though it occurred after his placement on monitoring. On August 26, 2022, Capt. Brovakos participated in another unlawful stop and frisk, which was substantiated by CCRB. This incident likewise does not appear in the case notes for Capt. Brovakos' Monitoring Package, although it, too, occurred while he was on monitoring. Additionally, in his request to the Performance Monitoring Unit to remove Capt. Brovakos from monitoring in February 2024, the Commanding Officer of the 62nd

Precinct stated that, since his placement in monitoring on December 2, 2021, Capt. Brovakos “has performed in a competent and professional manner,” without mentioning he had been the subject of two additional substantiated CCRB cases since his placement on monitoring.

On November 6, 2023, the then-Police Commissioner approved a negotiated plea with then-Lt. Brovakos, resulting in the forfeiture of 25 vacation days to resolve three outstanding CCRB cases. However, NYPD received findings and recommendations from CCRB related to a fourth substantiated case on January 2, 2024. Although the statute of limitations did not expire until almost two months later, on February 26, 2024, NYPD administratively closed that fourth case on February 7, 2024, citing a short SOL. Nine days later, Capt. Brovakos was removed from monitoring. Two months after that, he was promoted to Captain.

Capt. Brovakos was promoted to his current rank despite a substantial record of serious substantiated constitutional violations. These repeated promotions to positions of greater supervision and authority send the message that NYPD rewards wrongful search and seizure practices rather than seeking to prevent them, and may also have perpetuated similar practices by others who have served under Capt. Brovakos’s supervision. For example, PO Zahid was a member of the 71st Precinct’s Public Safety Team under the supervision of then-Lt. Brovakos. He participated with Capt. Brovakos in five of the incidents we discussed above. Zahid was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in 2023 and is currently assigned to IAB. PO Bhatti was also a member of the 71st Precinct’s Public Safety Team under then-Lt. Brovakos’ supervision. He participated with Capt. Brovakos in four of the above incidents. PO Bhatti was promoted to the rank of Detective this past October.

While NYPD has enhanced its accountability mechanisms related to stops, frisks, and searches,<sup>2</sup> the Independent Monitor has cautioned that “it is still too early to tell” whether this will result in measured improvements.<sup>3</sup> And, while the Quality Assurance Section (QAS) has increased its accuracy of QAS stop, frisk and search audits, and NYPD’s Early Intervention Committee (EIC) now includes a focus on supervisory responsibility for a subject officer’s stop, frisk, and search activities, there remain significant gaps between QAS, EIC and the commands. The Monitor described the QAS command-level audit process as “mostly an administrative exercise, with little meaningful change occurring at the command level based upon these audits.”<sup>4</sup> The commands imposed little to no discipline for the misconduct identified by QAS audits,<sup>5</sup> and EIC-recommended interventions did not have the desired impact on problematic officers.<sup>6</sup> This is perhaps because officers are receiving mixed messaging described above. On the one hand, QAS flags misconduct and officers received EIC interventions. On the other, NYPD expands the supervisory authority of officers after the Department receives contemporaneous notice of repeated Fourth Amendment violations. Until NYPD provides

---

<sup>2</sup> NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT MONITOR, TWENTY-SIXTH REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT MONITOR (Oct. 14, 2025), *available at* <https://www.nypdmonitor.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/2025.10.14-As-filed-Floyd-26th-Monitor-Report.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* at 6.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> *Id.* at 3, 4, 10-16.

comprehensive accountability for unconstitutional policing, including in its promotional and supervisory processes, the changes the Department makes at the executive level are likely to remain technical solutions that do not result in meaningful improvement at street level.

We encourage NYPD to continue improving and institutionalizing the QAS and EIC mechanisms. In addition, we recommend the following:

- Monitoring: Where an officer has previously completed performance monitoring and is a candidate for being monitored again for the same behavior or within a short time period because their “[p]erformance and/or behavior remains substandard,” that officer should be assigned to a higher level of monitoring than previously assigned on the presumption that the level of monitoring previously employed “will not improve the member’s behavior.”<sup>7</sup>
- Promotions: An officer with a recent history of substantiated stop, frisk, or search allegations should not be promoted. To advance this goal, NYPD should modify the eligibility qualifications to sit for promotion examinations and the requirements for promotion to account for substantiated allegations of misconduct, and deduct seniority points for substantiated allegations of misconduct.

In the event such a member is promoted a thorough review of the member’s performance should be conducted before the end of the probationary period. This review should include examination of the BWC videos viewed by the command, an assessment of any stops, frisks, or searches conducted/supervised (particularly deficiencies identified by QAS) and how they were handled by the command, and any CCRB allegations of unlawful stop, frisks, or searches made against the members concerned before the member is permitted off probation. Where a continued pattern of unlawful stops, frisks, or searches is identified that member should not be allowed off probation and probation should either be extended or the member demoted to their previous rank.

As to Capt. Brovakos, we recommend that there be a notation in Personnel Records that they will not receive any discretionary promotions beyond the rank of captain unless they are free of further substantiated allegations within a meaningful time (i.e., three years), have demonstrated competence and understanding of constitutional requirements, and have received remedial training and meaningful oversight.

[Continued on following page]

---

<sup>7</sup> NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT, SUPERVISOR’S GUIDE TO PERFORMANCE MONITORING 6 (Apr. 14, 2025).

We also recommend that NYPD modify Capt. Brovakos' assignment to minimize his supervision of patrol and his engagement with the public.

We request a written response within 90 days pursuant to Executive Law § 75(5)(c), specifically responding to the concerns outlined above.

Thank you,

LETITIA JAMES  
Attorney General of the State of New York

By: Emily Winograd Leonard  
Assistant Attorney General  
Law Enforcement Misconduct Investigative Office