



Brooklyn Borough President and a Democratic mayoral candidate Eric Adams greets NYPD officers as participants gather for a march through the financial district July 7, 2021. | John Minchillo/AP Photo

## NYPD releases Adams' disciplinary records

By **ERIN DURKIN** | 08/12/2021 04:24 PM EDT | Updated 08/13/2021 09:58 AM EDT

The NYPD reversed course and released some disciplinary records for Democratic mayoral nominee Eric Adams, detailing an incident in which the former police captain was penalized 15 vacation days for a TV appearance.

Adams, a frequent critic of the department as the founder of the group 100 Blacks in Law Enforcement Who Care, was brought up on charges shortly before he retired from the force. He has said NYPD brass were retaliating against him for his years of agitating for reform.

According to documents released this week, Adams was found guilty in a 2006 departmental trial on one charge of appearing on TV as a representative of the NYPD without authorization. He was found not guilty on two other charges, of improperly divulging official department business and disseminating incorrect information.

Previously, the NYPD had refused to release any records related to Adams' service, despite the repeal of a state law that had kept police disciplinary records secret. They cited invasion of privacy and Adams' status as a retiree. But on Wednesday, Sergeant Jordan Mazur said that "upon further consideration" some records were being released. No further explanation was provided.

The trial decision reflects the longstanding tension between NYPD brass and Adams, who rose through the ranks of the department even as he became one of its most prominent critics.

He had given hundreds of press conferences and interviews as head of 100 Blacks in Law Enforcement Who Care, but was only brought up on charges after speaking out in a CBS interview critical of the response to a terrorist threat during the administration of Mayor Mike Bloomberg.

“It is recommended that the Respondent be found guilty of appearing on a televised news talk show as a representative of the New York City Police Department without permission or authority, and that he forfeit 15 vacation days as a result thereof,” wrote Michael Sarner, the assistant deputy commissioner for trials.

After a terror threat was made against the transit system in October 2005, Adams charged in a press conference and in the TV interview that the NYPD did not equally deploy cops to neighborhoods across the city.

He also said the announcement of the terror threat was politically motivated, coming as Bloomberg was facing reelection and had been criticized for refusing to participate in a mayoral debate.

Adams was identified on TV as the leader of 100 Blacks in Law Enforcement — but ultimately found guilty because he referred to himself as a police captain three times in the interview.

“The Respondent pointed out that in the last year he has appeared on television shows and press conferences to discuss the efficacy and legality of the random bag searches, the lack of diversity in the hierarchy of the NYPD and the Corrections Department, as well as the lack of diversity in City Hall. He asserted that in that time he had not been informed by the Department that his comments were in violation of Department rules,” the trial decision says.

“The Respondent pointed out that he is being charged for the first time for conduct that he has openly engaged in for 15 years.”

The judge cleared Adams of two other charges, saying he had not intentionally given any false information and did not violate a clear department policy on divulging official business.

Rancor between Adams and top Bloomberg administration officials is clear from the trial records. Bloomberg, in response to Adams' criticism, said, “Given the source, it shouldn't be given very much credibility.”

After they raised concerns about diversity within the ranks, Deputy Commissioner for public information Paul Browne allegedly referred to Adams and Anthony Miranda, an advocate for Latino officers, as “dumb and dumber.” Adams filed two complaints in response to the remark, and said that the disciplinary charges against him were in retaliation for those complaints.

The NYPD did not release records for three other investigations involving Adams, in which he was never disciplined. Those included a case where he was probed for acting as an escort to boxer Mike Tyson after his rape conviction.

“Eric was continually targeted by NYPD leadership for speaking out against police abuse and racism in the department, which led to baseless investigations like this in failed attempts to silence him,” said Adams spokesperson Evan Thies.

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