



# MTA Inspector General Carolyn Pokorny

*MTA Board Meeting*

*Wednesday, March 17, 2021*





## Worker Safety – Budget Legislation

Vicious assaults on our hardworking MTA colleagues **cannot be tolerated.**

**Albany must pass proposed legislation increasing the punishments against those who violently attack our transit workers.**

# Worker Safety – Boiler Rooms





## Worker Safety – Asbestos Management

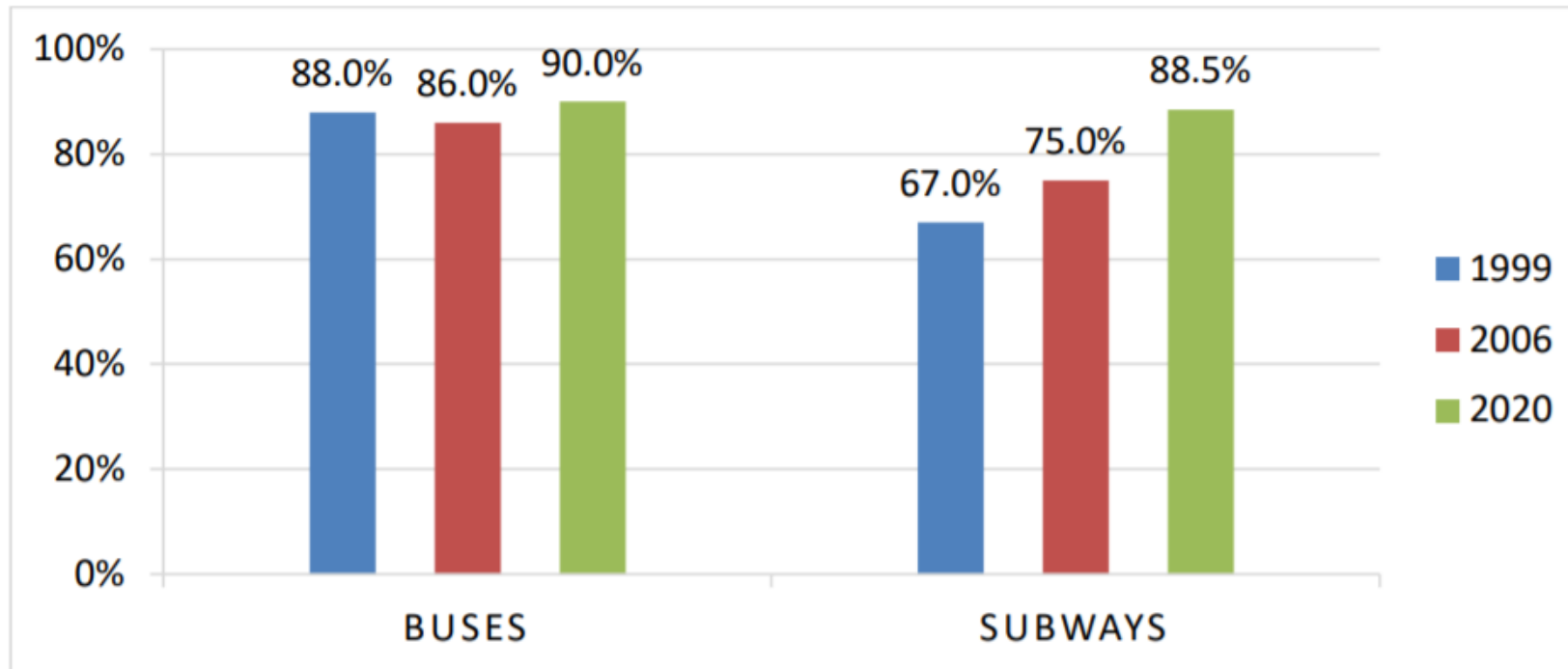
MTA management had ignored its own policy to document and monitor known asbestos in the East New York Bus Depot for years.

There is simply no excuse for leadership to be reactive instead of proactive when it comes to worker safety.

# Worker Safety – Alcohol Testing



*Exhibit A: Percentage of Post-Accident  
Alcohol Tests Delayed, NYC Transit Buses & Subways  
Per OIG Analyses in 1999, 2006, and 2020*



*Source:* OIG analysis of data from Cority records system (NYC Transit) and PeopleSoft (MTA Business Service Center). *Note:* The 2020 figure is for the 3-year period from 1/1/2017 through 12/31/2019.





## Other Disciplinary Reports

- Metro-North Machinist created safety risk: brought woman onto MTA property for intimate meeting, while on overtime; misused personal vehicle. *#2020-27*
- NYC Transit Traffic Checker abused FMLA and sick time to gamble in Atlantic City. *#2020-26*
- Former NYC Transit Subway Conductor charged for allegedly stealing \$114,000 in workers compensation. *People v. Giovanni Seminerio, Brooklyn DA*



## Other Disciplinary Reports

- LIRR foremen claimed excessive OT & double-time pay for “travel time” hours not provided for in their CBA for over \$41,000. **#2019-22**
- LIRR employee claimed excessive OT & double-time pay for “travel time” hours not provided for in his CBA, for over \$26,500. **#2019-25**
- LIRR Utility Worker, on at least 16 occasions, failed to remain on duty during his full shift, including hours he earned double overtime. **#2020-04**



## Other Disciplinary Reports

- LIRR Managing Engineer remained on LIRR payroll while living in North Carolina; LIRR supervisors provided misleading and inaccurate information about his teleworking status to LIRR's Executive Management. *#2020-22*
- LIRR and NYC Transit Employees claimed extraordinary overtime hours fueled by fraudulent claims; defendants were being paid while at home, on family vacations or bowling. The charges are allegations, all defendants are presumed innocent. *United States v. Caputo, et al., SDNY U.S. Attorney's Office*



## Overtime Reform



### Publicly raising the flag:

Integrating timekeeping and payroll systems is a priority initiative which must be given support and attention to help protect the agency against fraud and abuse.

# New Website

# mtaig.state.ny.us



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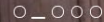
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# Recommendations Dashboard



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## Recommendations Dashboard

### Recommendations issued by MTA OIG 2019 – Present

Updated Quarterly

As of: 12/31/2020

**AGENCY**

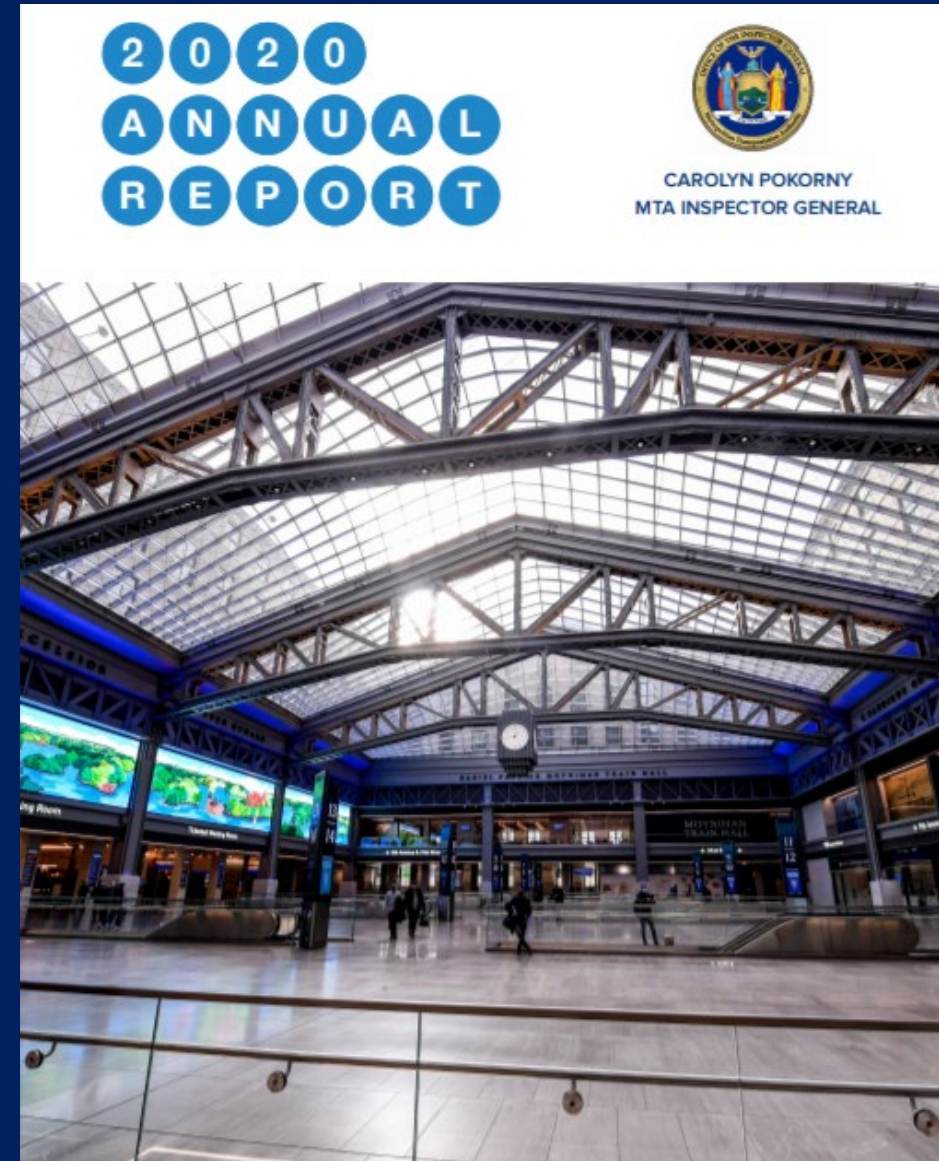
**REPORT DATE RANGE**

**Reset**

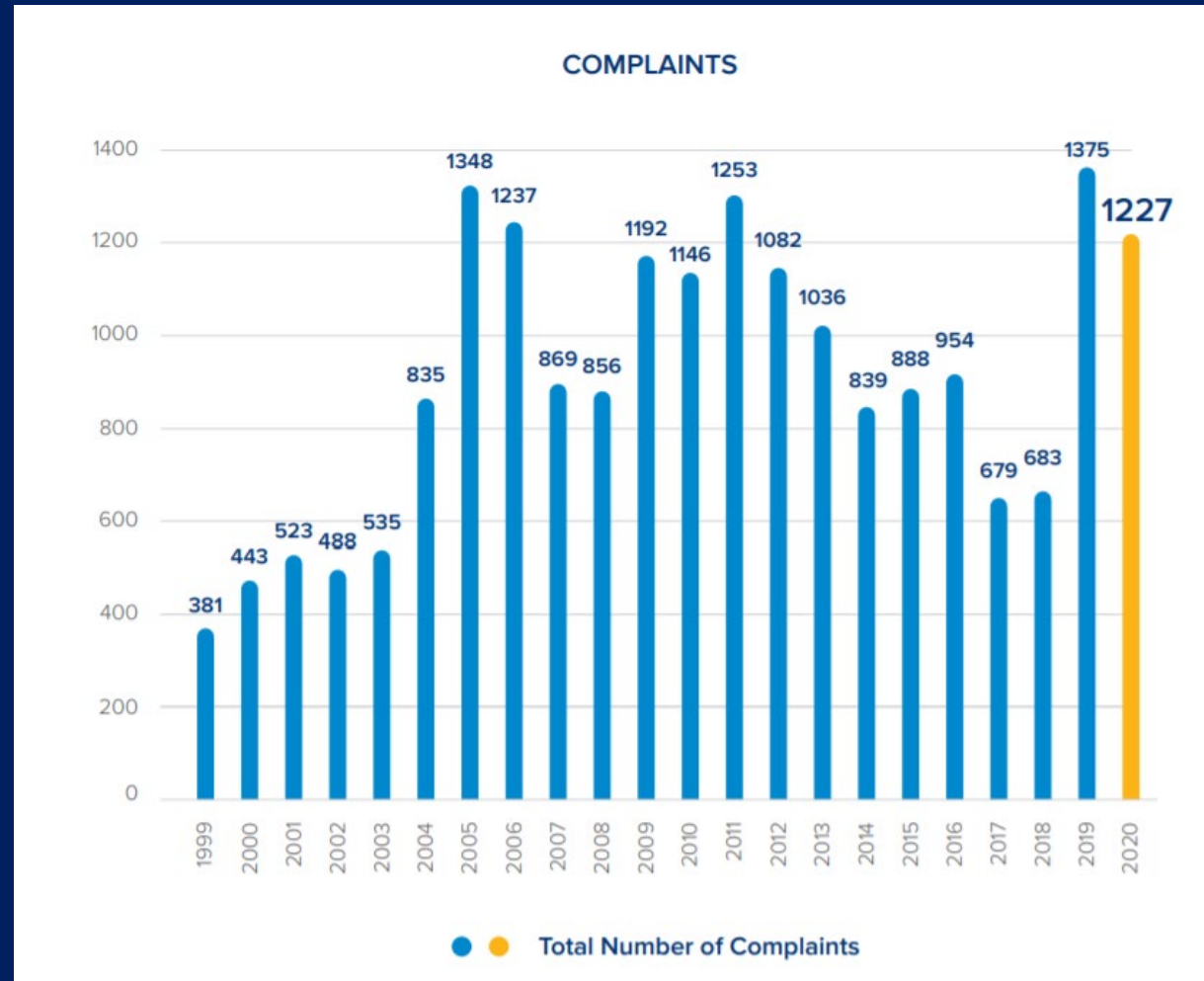
Show  entries

Report Number	Title	Agency	Final Report Release Date	Number of Recommendations	Number Implemented
<a href="#">2020-24</a>	Asbestos Management at NYC Transit East New York Facility	New York City Transit	12/30/2020	5	1
<a href="#">2019-22</a>	LIRR Travel Time Abuse - Four Structures Foremen	Long Island Rail Road	12/11/2020	1	1
<a href="#">2019-25</a>	LIRR Travel Time Abuse	Long Island Rail Road	12/11/2020	1	1
<a href="#">2020-04</a>	Abuse of Time by Utility Worker	Long Island Rail Road	12/11/2020	2	2
<a href="#">2020-22</a>	LIRR Supervisors Dishonest in Seeking Teleworking Approval	Long Island Rail Road	12/11/2020	5	5

# 2020 Annual Report



# 2020 Annual Report



*The second highest number of complaints received in the past 5 years*



# 2020 Annual Report



## OIG ISSUED 30 REPORTS IN 2020:



15 Disciplinary  
Letter Reports



15 Audit  
Reports



13% Safety  
13% Monitoring & Compliance  
17% Management Best Practices  
57% Waste, Fraud & Abuse



3% B&T  
7% MNR  
20% LIRR  
27% MTA-Wide  
43% NYC Transit

## OIG ISSUED 75 RECOMMENDATIONS



56 Implemented



19 Pending



# 2020 Annual Report



## FINANCIAL IMPACT

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**QUESTIONED COSTS/LOST REVENUE<sup>2</sup>: \$286,406,527**

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**MONEY RECOUPED<sup>3</sup>: \$1,859,569**

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**MONEY SAVED ON OUTSIDE SANDY MONITORS TO DATE<sup>4</sup>: \$20,000,000**

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<sup>2</sup> A cost/lost revenue is questioned by the OIG based on the possibility of: (1) an alleged violation of a provision of law, regulation, contract, grant, cooperative agreement, or other agreement or document governing the expenditure of funds; (2) a finding that, at the time of the audit, such cost is not supported by adequate documentation; (3) a finding that the expenditure of funds for the intended purpose is unnecessary or unreasonable; or (4) a finding that a lost revenue could be prevented or addressed in a more efficient or effective manner.

<sup>3</sup> Includes OIG's, joint task forces', and joint matters with law enforcement partners' civil, criminal, restitution, recoveries, settlements, and forfeiture.

<sup>4</sup> In response to a Federal Transit Administration requirement to provide monitors for the projects funded by the \$4.8 billion Hurricane Sandy Recovery Grants, the MTA established a monitoring oversight committee, which includes the OIG. By having the OIG and other MTA agencies do this monitoring work, instead of third-party monitors, internal MTA estimates show the MTA saving \$20 million for current construction projects, and up to \$48 million for total construction projects.

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