



Blakeman: Hochul's Cashless Bail Law Fuels Holiday Crime and Hurts Local Businesses

Career Criminals with Dozens of Prior Arrests Targeting Tourists & Shoppers

New York, NY — Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman, the presumptive Republican nominee for Governor of New York, today slammed Governor Kathy Hochul's cashless bail policies as a direct driver of holiday crime. Shocking new statistics show that more than half of all thieves arrested by the NYPD's Citywide Pickpocket Unit in 2025 are repeat offenders, many with dozens of prior arrests, terrorizing New Yorkers and tourists alike—and draining millions from local businesses during the peak holiday season.

“While families are trying to enjoy the holidays, Kathy Hochul’s soft-on-crime policies are letting career criminals walk right back onto our streets,” Blakeman said. “Under cashless bail, these thieves are released immediately after being arrested. They know there’s no real consequence for their actions, and being released instantly only gives them a green light to steal again.”

Blakeman emphasized that many of those arrested have been apprehended dozens upon dozens of times, according to the [report](#). “One reported offender has been arrested roughly 50 times, including more than 40 felony arrests, was incarcerated, released, and has allegedly returned to a life of crime,” Blakeman said. “Another repeat offender, despite a serious criminal history, has reportedly been arrested more than 20 times for theft and keeps getting released. That is the direct result of Hochul’s cashless bail law.”

“Our police officers do their jobs, make arrests, and put their lives on the line — only to watch the same criminals walk free and return to the exact same crime scenes,” Blakeman said. “This is a complete failure on Governor Hochul’s part.”

Beyond public safety, Blakeman warned that Hochul’s policies are inflicting serious economic damage across New York.

“When tourists don’t feel safe riding the subway, shopping at holiday markets, or visiting our iconic attractions, they stop coming,” Blakeman said. “That means fewer customers, lost revenue, and struggling small businesses, especially during the holiday season when they rely on foot traffic to survive.”

Blakeman pledged that as governor, he would repeal cashless bail, restore common-sense consequences for repeat offenders, and put law-abiding New Yorkers and tourists first.

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