



CIVILIAN COMPLAINT REVIEW BOARD
40 RECTOR STREET, 2ND FLOOR
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10006 ♦ TELEPHONE (212) 442-8833
www.nyc.gov/ccrb

MICHAEL R. BLOOMBERG
MAYOR

ERNEST F. HART
CHAIR

JOAN M. THOMPSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTACT:

Graham Daw
Director of Intergovernmental and Legal Affairs
212-676-8591
gdaw@ccrb.nyc.gov

2009 - A Year of Accomplishment for the CCRB

More Emphasis on Mediation, Community Outreach and Efficiency Initiatives in 2010

New York, NY - January 13, 2010 -- 2009 was a year of significant achievement for the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB), the independent New York City agency that investigates, and sometimes mediates, allegations of excessive use of force, abuse of authority, discourtesy and offensive language by members of the New York City Police Department.

Investigations

Although the CCRB received more complaints in 2009 than at any time in its history (7,674, up 4% from 2008) and had fewer investigators (110, down 9%), the board closed a record number of cases (8,088, up 16%), a significant achievement in challenging circumstances. In addition, more cases were closed through mediation (118, up 5%).

Mediation

The CCRB took a series of steps in 2009 to prepare the way for more cases to be resolved through mediation. The agency had a series of meetings with the New York City Police Department and the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, and in September 2009, Police Commissioner, Raymond W. Kelly, publicly endorsed the CCRB's mediation program, encouraged his officers to participate in the process, and announced that each officer would receive a fact sheet answering a number of frequently asked questions. Since this was issued, 77% of officers offered mediation have accepted it.

"Our mediation program has proved to be a popular choice for police officers and civilians, and effective in improving police-civilian relations. We will be increasing our outreach efforts in 2010 so as to increase community awareness of what mediation is and what it has to offer," said Chair Ernest F. Hart.

Outreach

This program will continue in 2010, with particular emphasis on those communities with higher rates of police-civilian contacts. The board will hold board meetings in all five boroughs in 2010. In addition, it will increase the number of informational meetings held at community forums such as tenants associations and other local groups, and increase board member participation at those meetings. These meetings will explain both the investigative process and the value of mediation as a means of resolving tensions between police officers and individuals.

Efficiency

Interviews and telephone conversations will now be recorded digitally and the Law Department will have secure internet access to copies of the CCRB's closed cases. These two new procedures are both quicker and cheaper than traditional practices, which is particularly important in a time of limited resources.

"I look forward to a further year of significant progress in 2010, and continued collaboration with the NYPD, so as to build on our accomplishments in 2009," said Chair Ernest F. Hart.