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NEWS

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NYC CCRB RELEASES 2010 SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT, DETAILS IMPROVED PRODUCTIVITY, INCREASE IN MEDIATED COMPLAINTS AND MORE POLICE DEPARTMENT PROSECUTIONS OF SUBSTANTIATED CASES.

The New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) today released its semi-annual report for January to June 2010. The report describes the agency's work and details the type, quantity and disposition of complaints received, the racial demographics of people filing complaints, complaint activity by precinct, and the rate of Police Department discipline in misconduct cases substantiated by the Board. The report noted agency improvement in three key areas during the first six months of 2010.

First is the CCRB's success in growing its mediation program, a priority set by Chairman Ernest Hart when he was appointed by Mayor Bloomberg in April 2009. In the first six months of 2010, the agency mediated 91 cases, a 40% increase over 2009 and the most ever for any half year period. In appropriate cases, mediation is offered to civilians as a non-disciplinary method to resolve allegations of police misconduct. During mediations, the complainant and the subject officer talk face-to-face about the alleged misconduct under the guidance of a trained, neutral mediator. Over ninety percent of mediations were successful, with both parties agreeing that the issue has been resolved.

Second, the CCRB's overall productivity increased according to the following measures: Comparing the docket of open cases as of June 2009 to open cases as of June 2010, there was a 31% decrease, from 4,120 to 2,852. The length of time to complete full investigations declined by forty-five days or 13%, from an average of 359 days to an average of 314 days. And investigators each closed an average of 39 cases, up from 33 cases in 2009, an increase of 17%.

Third, the Police Department pursued discipline for all but a few of the cases of substantiated misconduct referred in prior months by the CCRB. Out of 105 substantiated complaints closed by the Department during January to June 2010, the Department declined to prosecute only seven cases, a declination rate of 7%. This is a sharp drop from the 30% declination rate during the prior three years. Under the New York City Charter and New York State law, the Police Commissioner has the sole discretion over whether or not to pursue discipline and the level of punishment.

The report also noted two topics of public concern where the numbers have not changed. First, "stop, question and frisk" complaints still account for roughly 30% of the CCRB's total intake, and they have since 2005. This percentage stayed constant even though the actual number of "stop, question and frisk" complaints was 12% lower in the first half of 2010 than it was in the first half of 2009, or 1,076 compared to 1,222.

The second notable constant was in the racial demographics of civilians filing complaints with the CCRB, which has changed little since 2006. Blacks were still the majority of civilians filing complaints; though their representation in the city's population is 23%, they filed 59% of CCRB complaints.

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