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THE CIVILIAN COMPLAINT REVIEW BOARD ISSUES REPORT ON LGBTQ-RELATED COMPLAINTS

Most Complaints Generated from Some Precincts Known to Have Visible LGBTQ Populations. Audio along with video is crucial to prove the conclusiveness of allegations related to the use of LGBTQ-related slurs.

Today, the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) issued a report on LGBTQ-related complaints. The report, "PRIDE, PREJUDICE AND POLICING: An Evaluation of LGBTQ-Related Complaints from January 2010 through December 2015" analyzes 466 civilian complaints wherein members of the public reported experiencing police misconduct that involved discrimination or harassment based on sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression.

The Report provides data on characteristics of the complaints, including the location of incidents by borough and precinct, as well as demographic information of both victims or alleged victims, and subject officers. The report also makes recommendations for the CCRB and the NYPD.

"This groundbreaking report is one of the first by any police oversight agency in the country focusing on issues facing the LGBTQ community vis-à-vis police encounters," stated Acting Chair Deborah Archer. "We've come a long way in ensuring that the rights of members of the LGBTQ community are protected, and the report identifies some additional areas for improvement."

The Report reveals that a greater number of complaints were generated in some precincts known to have LGBTQ populations, such as the 6th Precinct, encompassing the West Village, and the 77th Precinct.

"In addition to our first symposium, *The Rainbow Crossing: Police Accountability and the LGBTQ Community*, we produced this report to identify specific areas for improvement regarding police relations with the LGBTQ community," stated Executive Director Mina Malik.

“This is a topic that historically has needed more focus and attention. Our hope is that this report and its recommendations will ultimately lead to better police-LGBTQ relations across New York City.”

Other findings in the report show that Black people and Hispanics composed the majority of victims and alleged victims in LGBTQ-related complaints, and that public space was the most common location for alleged police misconduct.

Additionally, the report highlights that the presence of audio along with video is crucial to prove the conclusiveness of allegations related to the use of LGBTQ-related slurs.

The CCRB makes the following recommendations to the NYPD:

1. The Department’s expansion of its body-worn camera program in 2016 should place a great emphasis on audio as well as video.
2. The Office of the Inspector General for the NYPD (OIG), along with expert advisers, should conduct audits of the Department to ensure that the 2012 changes in the Patrol Guide regarding the treatment of transgender individuals are being properly and consistently implemented.
3. The Department should increase the LGBT Liaison Unit’s capacity to engage both the community and police officers.
4. The CCRB should continue to expand its investigative and outreach capacity to better serve the LGBTQ community.
5. The NYPD’s new LGBTQ sensitivity training curriculum and its corresponding Student Guide should be vetted by LGBTQ organizations for accuracy and best practices.

Additional Highlights of Received Complaints – January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2015:

- The 466 complaints were identified by the use of text-based queries regarding slurs specific to sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, or a disregard for a complainant's preferred gender pronoun and/or name, as well as CCRB’s specific allegation related to misconduct involving sexual orientation.
- In December 2015, CCRB added optional sexual orientation and gender identity questions to complaint forms. Prior to this, from 2010 through 2015, 64% of victims or alleged victims within the complaints examined identified as male, and 19% identified as female. Sixteen percent provided no gender information.

- Members of service at the rank of police officer at the time of incident accounted for 72% of the subject officers in the LGBTQ-related allegations under examination.
- Brooklyn accounted for a third of the LGBTQ-related complaints examined (33%), followed by 31% from Manhattan, 20% from the Bronx, 13% from Queens, and 3% from Staten Island, similar to overall complaint data.

The CCRB is the largest police oversight agency in the nation and is empowered to investigate prosecute, mediate, make findings and recommend action upon complaints alleging misconduct by NYPD officers. See NYC Charter § 440(c)(1). The agency's jurisdiction includes: Excessive and unnecessary force, abuse of authority, discourtesy and use of offensive language. To further this mission, CCRB issues monthly, biannual, and special statistical and qualitative reports analyzing trends and recurring issues arising from the many thousands of civilian complaints it receives. These reports act as a barometer of police-civilian encounters in a number of ways, including the police practices that civilians find most troubling. In its role as an independent investigator of misconduct allegations, CCRB is uniquely positioned to identify the circumstances that generate civilian complaints, to assess whether officer conduct is improper, and to offer recommendations to redress misconduct.

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