Public Board Meeting
of the Civilian Complaint Review Board
Wednesday, April 9, 2014
10:05 a.m.
100 Church Street, 10th Floor
New York, New York 10007

BISHOP MITCHELL G. TAYLOR, ACTING CHAIR
TRACY CATAPANO-FOX, ESQ., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA:

- 1. Call to Order
- 2. Adoption of the Minutes
- 3. Report from Chair
- 4. Report from Executive Director
- 5. Committee Reports
- 6. Old Business
- 7. New Business
- 8. Public Comment

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1	BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT WERE:
2	Tosano Simonetti
3	Youngik Yoon, Esq.
4	Janette Cortes-Gomez, Esq.
5	Alphonzo Grant, Jr., Esq.
6	David G. Liston, Esq.
7	Jules A. Martin, Esq.
8	Rudolph Landin, Esq.
9	James Donlon, Esq.
10	Dr. Mohammed Khalid
11	Daniel M. Gitner, Esq.
12	Joseph A. Puma
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BISHOP MITCHELL G. TAYLOR: Good morning, everyone. We are opening now the Public Meeting for the Civilian Complaint Review Board. And so we're calling the meeting to order now.

The first order of business is the adoption of last month's minutes. And if everyone had a chance to review those minutes and concur that they're accurate, someone can make a motion to accept them.

MR. DANIEL M. GITNER: Move to accept.

BISHOP TAYLOR: Dan Gitner.

MR. JAMES DONLON: Second.

BISHOP TAYLOR: James Donlon. All in favor.

(Chorus of Ayes.)

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MR. TOSANO SIMONETTI: I abstain.

MS. JANETTE CORTES-GOMEZ: As do I.

BISHOP TAYLOR: Janette and Tony abstain.

Now we're going to have -- in the absence of our chair, of a chair of the Agency, we have formed, as you know, an Executive Committee made up of Jules Martin, David Liston and myself. And so we do not have an official chair but we are managing and handling all of the relative business that the chair would do until a chair is appointed.

We are glad to be back in our new offices. This is the first meeting -- public meeting in our new

place at 100 Church, and I hope that the Staff enjoyed the coffee and orange juice and things that we provided just to kind of celebrate and christen our new space and place of work. And so we're excited about that.

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Our meeting with the Police Commissioner, one of the things that we requested was to have some future follow-ups with smaller teams from PD with our teams here to move the agenda on some of the bottlenecks in our work together. I must say that the Investigations Department in the requests thereof have been moving much more quickly than in the past. And I think that that is accredited to our meeting with the Commissioner and his desire to assist us in making sure that we have the tools we need to do our work.

We also have a meeting set up with Susan Herman to talk more about mediation and how we could do it better, increase it, promote it, tweak it, if necessary.

So the things that we talked about with the PD, they're moving forward, they're advancing. And so I'm encouraged, I'm excited. I'm looking at a lot of articles that are being circulated about the CCRB in referring to us as "the expanded" or "the

enlarged CCRB". I guess that's a reference to our APU Unit, which is doing a fabulous job. So it's an exciting time. And so we're glad that things are moving in the direction that it's moving.

So at this time, we're going to have the report from the Executive Director.

MS. TRACY CATAPANO-FOX: Thank you, Bishop.

BISHOP TAYLOR: You're welcome.

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MS. CATAPANO-FOX: Good morning, everyone.

Welcome to 100 Church Street. I have to thank the

Board for its tireless efforts to help us get to

this location. And it is a beautiful, professional

and really excellent place for all of us to work in.

I can't thank the staff enough. Everybody worked

really hard to make sure that this move was pretty

much seamless, and I really appreciate all your hard

work and how great you've been. So I thank you for

that as well.

This month, the CCRB received 453 complaints in March of 2014. This is 123 fewer complaints than were received in the same time period from 2013, when the Agency received 576 complaints. During the first three months of 2014, the Agency received 1,333 complaints. This was 301 more complaints than in the same period of 2013 when the CCRB received

1,032 complaints.

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The Executive Committee of the Board has asked me to address the increase in complaint activity and compare statistics for pre-Hurricane-Sandy Agency activity and post-Hurricane-Sandy Agency activity. You'll see in your packet that we have a number of charts that address some of these issues and to show you the numbers. And what you will see is that there has been, in terms of the different charts, we break it down in terms of overall complaint activity. Complaint activity is still down. It is -- you'll see from Charts 1 and 2 that it's down from the high numbers, or the numbers we had in 2012 before the storm.

You will see that complaints to the Police
Department have essentially gone back to where they
were. So the complaints that the Police Department
receives and sends to us has essentially stayed the
same. You'll also see that the online complaint
system, the numbers have stayed the same as well.
There hasn't been -- it dropped off obviously during
this month where we were not in our office and in
full capacity. But they have pretty much come back
to the original numbers.

Where you will see a difference is the voice

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calls, the voice mail complaints that we received. We've been aware that there was an issue after Sandy with Rector Street in terms of Verizon and the different companies trying to get us back to operational phone systems. We've been working on that for months. We know that there have been still issues at that location and that we see that already at 100 Church the numbers have gone back.

So we will be able to -- we'll be able to give you better statistics in the next few months with regard to seeing where the complaints are, but we do recognize that there was an issue with regard to the overnight voice mail systems and the phone systems that came in. And that can attribute to some of the numbers, the decrease in the numbers.

The Board -- in March, the Board closed 515 cases. For the year, the Board closed 1,043 cases. In March, there were -- the Board closed 221 full investigations, 14 cases were mediated, and 280 cases had other dispositions. In the first three months of this year, the Board closed 416 full investigations. This includes 63 substantiated cases and mediated 30 cases. Year-to-date, our substantiation rate is 15 percent of fully investigated cases.

Our report, as you'll see within the packet, it still includes two different forms of reporting dispositions. There's a report that talks about truncation rate and a report that talks about case resolution rate.

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From January to March, the updated truncation rate, which excludes cases closed as complaint withdrawn, is 55 percent. In the same period of that time, the rate was 62 percent. From January to March 2014, our case resolution rate was 42 percent, and in that same period of 2013, the rate was 27 percent.

Now, we're still reporting in the two different ways because we're hoping that the Operations

Committee can perhaps meet next month to talk about how we want to proceed in the future with regard to reporting cases as truncated or reporting them as case resolution rate. So we'll be able to in next month's meeting -- I know, Tony, you wanted, as you've been a strong supporter in terms of looking at these stats and figuring out how you'd want to best report them, maybe in May we can schedule an Operations Meeting and go through that. So that's the reason why we have the two different reports.

By data of the report, 95 percent of our open

cases stem from complaints filed within the last year and 63 percent were filed in the last four months. Of the open cases, 449 were awaiting Panel review, or 17 percent of the docket. 1,966 were being investigated, which is 73 percent of the docket. And 275 cases were in the Mediation Program, or 10 percent of the docket.

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We do want to correct that in February we reported the docket as 2,599 cases. It was actually 2,724. We have addressed this error and reflected and corrected the February docket to reflect the actual values. So you'll see those reports also in the packet.

By date of incident, we have 21 cases in our open docket that are over 18 months. This is .5 percent of our open docket. But out of these 21 cases, seven cases in the docket are in the docket of the Investigations Division. In 6 of those cases, the statute of limitations does not apply because the exception under Public Officers Law 75 applies for those cases. The breakdown of the 7 cases is as follows: 4 cases are on DA hold, 1 case was reopened at the request of the complainant, and 2 cases were filed months after the date of incident.

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Out of the 21 cases over 18 months, 14 are in Panel review. The crime exception to the statute of limitations applies in 5 of those cases. And the breakdown of those 14 cases is as follows: 4 cases are now closed, they were in mediation, but they've been closed; 3 cases were late because the Board has requested further work on those cases; 3 cases were late because of investigation delays; 1 case was late because it was a complex case with the crime exception applying; and then 3 cases were filed months after the date of the incident.

In February of 2014, the NYPD closed 7 substantiated cases involving 7 officers. All 7 of those officers received instructions; and, therefore, the disciplinary action rate was 100 percent for that month, 79 percent for year-to-date. And year-to-date, the NYPD's decline-to-prosecute rate is 21 percent.

In March of 2014, the Board recommended charges in 22 cases. These 22 cases have been added to the APU docket, now leaving an open docket of 175 cases. In 3 of the cases, the Police Commissioner has modified guilty pleas and we are now awaiting formal closure of those cases. In 7 other cases, the guilty pleas have been entered and are awaiting

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approval from the Police Commissioner. In 2 cases, the trial verdict has been rendered and we're awaiting approval by the Police Commissioner. 10 cases have gone to trial and we're awaiting verdicts. 4 trials have been commenced but still have not been completed. 36 trials are scheduled and 18 cases are scheduled for calendaring for court appearance and 67 cases are awaiting their initial court appearance after the charges have been served. Charges were filed in 7 cases and 21 cases were awaiting the filing of charges.

One of the issues that was brought up last month was a request to find out whether or not we have a higher inventory of cases at DAO than cases that they are sending back to us. I'm sure, Mr. Gitner, you're going to notice that there were only 7 cases released to us this month.

We did an internal search and based upon our numbers, we find that there's 162 cases that appear open that are in DAO's docket; however, I am working with Deputy Commissioner Schwartz to make sure that those cases have not been closed and we just weren't notified or that there's been some other disposition. So by next month, we will have a more accurate report of what DAO's docket is and where are those cases

when those cases were voted by the Panels. In our reports, we give you a chart that tells you those cases out of the 7. In the future, we will also report when the Panel, when the Board, voted those cases out.

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MR. GITNER: I think that's great. Thank you for paying attention to that.

MS. CATAPANO-FOX: Other than that, I think that's my report. Thank you very much. Yes?

MR. SIMONETTI: In looking at the cases over 18 months, I notice 4 are still on DA hold. And I know that's always been a concern, you know? And I know we should be visiting that again and to try to come to some resolution or try to develop a policy that we feel that after -- if they're procrastinating and just sitting on these cases and not telling us about them or no one seems to be doing any work on them, I think we should have a policy where we tell them, "Listen, we're going to proceed with the case," and we should go ahead and continue the investigation on the case.

But in analyzing these four cases, one is a long-term case that was a shooting resulting in the death of a female and that case is still on DA hold, and understandably so. Another one of those cases,

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my understanding is there's going to be a trial very shortly, probably next week, and that case will be resolved. That should be the resolution of that case. The third one is the Galati case, and we're waiting to hear back from the Chief of Department on exactly what's going to be happening with that case. The fourth case, interesting case, the officer was indicted for his actions in connection with that case. So that case is literally -- has been -- should be removed from our docket.

I'll tell you what's encouraging about -- as I look at some of the stats. At the beginning of 2014, you had 107 cases that were 14 months and older. Okay. And what's interesting, that number's down to 52 today. It's been cut in half. And I think that's -- a lot of that has to do with the program that you and Denis had instituted with the intake to expedite those cases. And of those cases, 14 are on review of the 52; 14 were late reports over 8 months; and 4, as I said, were on DA hold.

So it looks like we're starting to put a good dent in these old cases and getting them off our docket, which is important that we do. And I think with the decrease in the caseload, the number of

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cases coming in, we should be able to more effectively deal with some of those other issues. But I'd still like to see us discuss and talk about what we can do with DA hold cases because I think we came close many years ago to trying to get it resolved by telling -- after we were telling investigators they had to call the DA every month and find out what the status of their hold was. And if in their mind and with the managers and in consultation with the Chief of Investigations that some decision be rendered, that we're going to proceed and go forward with the case. So I think we should continue with that discussion and come to some resolution.

MS. CATAPANO-FOX: Thank you, Mr. Simonetti. I will say I have to thank the team managers for staying on top of their cases and they have a meeting regularly with Denis and I to go over their dockets and make sure that we're all moving forward, especially on the oldest cases. I have to thank Jayne Cifuni and Nina Mickens, the Supervisors of the Intake Department, for training their new staff and making sure that they're moving those cases forward as well. So I appreciate the hard work of all of those teams. I have to thank Sarah Peterson

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for getting the reports to us so timely and doing the statistics for us on these. And I also want to mention -- I should've mentioned before -- we had a bit of a flood. You know, I don't know if pestilence and famine are next, but we did have a flood over one of the weekends. And I have to thank the IT team, Sorin and Sarah. I have to especially thank Brian Connell and Sheshe for making sure that the office -- this area was completely flooded two weeks ago and you would not know it. So it's a testament to how hard they worked around the clock to make sure that this happened and that we were able to meet today. So I want to thank them for that. appreciate how some of our units, Denise's CMU; HR, Josie's HR unit; and IT and Operations were all moved and that they handled the move very well. And, again, we're moving forward, so I really appreciate their hard work.

MR. SIMONETTI: I guess I'll wait for under old business and then ask if other Panel Members, other Board Members, have any comments on DA holds, you know, because I'd like to hear from other people about that.

MR. CATAPANO-FOX: Thank you, Tony.

MR. GITNER: I have a question about the report, if now is a good time. It's the report page. It's

not numbered. It starts with "Officers against whom the CCRB substantiate allegations." I asked the question about a similar page last month. It says that the Board substantiated 29 cases involving 46 identified subject officers. And last month, I think we were told that in the last five years or so the typical rate has been -- that we've been, I think, recommending charges in 66 percent of the cases. I think that's -- is my memory right?

MS. CATAPANO-FOX: Yes.

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MR. GITNER: It's hard to -- I had to sort of count here. I could be wrong. But as I read this, we're recommending charges again this month, as we did last month, in many more than 66 percent of the cases. And I think the month before that was the same. And so it seems to me that the historical average of 66 percent at least in the last few months is being blown out of the water a little bit. And I'm not saying that's a good or bad thing. It just seems that there's got to be a reason for it. And I'm wondering if anybody has thought about it, or maybe it's because we now have an APU, there are different incentives for different kinds of recommendations, or are we recommending charges for kinds of cases where years ago we would not have?

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And should this be studied? There doesn't necessarily have to be an answer now; in fact, there probably isn't. And I recognize the statistics could be misleading. There could be a whole host of reasons for this. But I do think it's worth some study by the staff who have more access to the information to try to figure out exactly what's going on over the last few months.

MS. CATAPANO-FOX: I can give two possible explanations for it. One, you're correct, this month we subbed with charges 22 out of 29 cases. We have a 76 percent sub rate. What I will say is that Denis and I in meeting with the teams have made a concerted effort to make sure that all older substantiated cases, cases that are 14 to 16 months and older, are being reviewed expeditiously. reviewing those cases. And so proportionately you may be getting an increased number of cases with substantiations in Panels than you might have in the other few months because we started doing this in January, where we took those cases and I started reviewing them and getting them out guicker. So I think that there's been an increased number out of your proportion of cases that are substantiations just because we're moving those cases along.

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would say in another quarter, because we really have gone through a significant portion of those cases, you might see less of an increase because we've been able to resolve and close a lot of that bulk of cases that were sitting there with substantiations. So the numbers may go down because I think the Panels will be more equal in terms of unsubs and subs. But --

MR. GITNER: I suppose that could be one explanation. But it does seem that -- and just from these numbers -- that the Panels are not just substantiating whatever percentage of cases but that they're recommending charges in a significantly higher percentage of the cases that are substantiated. Last month, I think it was 90 percent. I don't -- my head does not allow me to figure out the percentage from this month on my own. But it's definitely higher than 66 percent, I think.

MS. CATAPANO-FOX: It was 76 percent.

MR. GITNER: And the month before that, I think, was higher. And so, again, it could just be that's because the nature of the cases the last three months. But there could be other statistical or systemic reasons and I personally think it's worth looking at.

MR. SIMONETTI: Yeah, Dan, I looked at those numbers, too, and I was -- my concern was it seems to coincide with the implementation of the APU.

MR. GITNER: Exactly.

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MR. SIMONETTI: And I'm just wondering if there's some connection between the two, which could be. We certainly have to look into that and see if there is. Just because now we have the responsibility of the prosecution of those cases, we don't up the ante --

MR. GITNER: Right.

MR. SIMONETTI: -- and prefer more charges.

MR. GITNER: Right. My concern is if that is a reason, I do think it would be unfair if that's why we are upping the ante, to borrow that term; and also, it would seem that we would be pushing more cases to the APU, which would unduly burden them, whereas when the APU was created, I think it was probably expected that given the historical average, the numbers would remain at a certain level and it looks like they may be going up. Again, I'm not saying anything's good or bad but it's worth study so we can understand it and react to it.

BISHOP TAYLOR: Great. Excellent.

So we're going to have now committee meetings --

committee reports, rather. I guess we'll start in alphabetical order, APU.

Thank you. The Memorandum MR. LISTON: Sure. of Understanding that created the APU gave it the power to prosecute substantiated cases in which the Board recommended charges, has a provision in it pursuant to which we, the CCRB, are to make reports quarterly to the NYPD regarding the status of the cases that we are prosecuting. And the first quarterly report for 2014 is due. We are in the process of preparing that report. We are circulating to the Board a draft report. Once we get the okay from the Board and any comments or proposed edits, we intend to forward that report to the Police Commissioner, correct?

MS. CATAPANO-FOX: Yes.

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MR. LISTON: And we also intend to make the report public at that point. And other than that, and Dan can speak to the Investigations Committee, but suffice to say he and I remain in touch and look foward to having a joint meeting shortly. That's my report.

BISHOP TAYLOR: Excellent Any questions for Dave Liston on APU?

(No response.)

BISHOP TAYLOR: All right.

That's a good seque into Dan, Investigations.

MR. GITNER: Nothing new to report other than Mr. Liston and I had some informal conversations and we have sort of an informal agenda of a few items that we think are worth talking about that effect both the Investigations and potential issues related to the APU.

BISHOP TAYLOR: Excellent. Mediation.

MR. JULES A. MARTIN: Lisa.

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MS. LISA GRACE COHEN: I will be giving the Mediation report this month. Thank you. The CCRB has always had three consistent goals regarding the Mediation Program, to grow the program, to process cases efficiently and to provide a mediation alternative to investigation that is effective in creating understanding between police officers and the communities they serve.

In order to grow the program, we assess the following: The rate at which mediation is offered to civilians, the rate at which mediation is accepted by civilians, the rate at which officers accept mediation, and the pool of cases that are eligible and suitable for mediation.

The CCRB, unique among other police oversight mechanisms in New York, is a complainant-driven

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process. When a case is eligible and suitable for mediation, the investigator informs the complainant about both the mediation and investigation options. Investigators stress that mediations are non-disciplinary, voluntary and confidential. The rate at which investigators offer mediation is year-to-date at an historical high, 68 percent. average offering rate for the years 2009 to 2013 was 53 percent. The complainant then has the choice whether to participate in the mediation or have the case investigated. Year-to-date, our complainant acceptance rate is 49 percent, which is 5 percentage points lower than the 5-year average of 54 percent. However, on a monthly basis, the acceptance rate has increased from an average of 51 cases per month in 2013 to 58 cases per month in year-to-date 2014, indicating that we are headed in the right direction. Taken together, the increase in the offering rate and the decrease in the acceptance rate, tells us that we need to focus more on investigator training and civilian outreach. The next part of the process is a review of the

The next part of the process is a review of the case by the Mediation Unit and the ADR Panel of the Board for eligibility and suitability.

Generally speaking, a case is not eligible for

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mediation if there is an allegation of physical injury or property damage or if the allegations raised by the complainant arose from an underlying arrest. A case may not be suitable if the complainant is suing the City and the suit relates to the complaint filed with the CCRB. Year-to-date, of the complaints received by the CCRB, 41 percent were eligible and suitable for mediation. number has remained relatively stable and is consistent with the 5-year average of about 40 percent. Another assessment is made by the Department Advocates Office of the Police Department for their determinations of the officers' suitability to participate in mediation. Year-to-date, the DAO has not rejected any officers. Over the last five years, this number has been steadily declining from 11 in 2009 to 2 in 2013.

The next step in the process is to offer the mediation to the subject officers. Our current officer acceptance rate is 79 percent, a significant increase over the 2008 rate, which was below 70 percent. Our assessment of case processing starts by looking at how long it takes to process a case. In the first quarter of 2014, the average number of days from the date the incident was

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reported to the date the mediation session was conducted was 180 days, which was a decrease by 31 percent compared with 2013 when the average number of days was 274. We believe that the unprecedented 274-day case-processing time in 2013 was due in large part to a significant turnover in personnel. With the addition of another mediation coordinator last year, we believe we can reduce completion time to below the 6-month mark.

We have also reviewed the way our mediation cases are processed and are working with the Department to implement a new processing method that reorders the way cases are approved, which should significantly reduce the case-processing time. In order to assess the effectiveness of the program, the CCRB conducted a review of the Mediation Program and its effects on deterring additional complaints. The resulting studies found that officers who accepted mediation were less likely to receive another complaint. The Policy Unit is planning to conduct a follow-up study.

Another indicator of effectiveness is the success rate of the program. A mediation is considered successful when both parties have articulated that the mediation session has addressed

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their concerns and the case is closed as mediated. 2014 year-to-date, the mediation success rate is 93 percent, which is consistent with a 5-year average of about 92 percent. The CCRB also utilizes a post-mediation satisfaction survey given to both officers and civilians to assess the success of our The survey results show a great deal of program. satisfaction by civilians and officers with both the process and the outcome of the case. And I pardon the statistics, but 85 percent of civilians and 91 percent of officers were satisfied with the outcome; 90 percent of civilians and 93 percent of officers were satisfied with their mediation session; 87 percent of civilians and 90 percent of officers would recommend mediation to others; and 98 percent of civilians and 97 percent of officers felt that they had had an opportunity to explain their point of view.

Going forward, the CCRB remains committed to its Mediation Program and to addressing challenges. As Commissioner Taylor said, next week, staff and Board Members are meeting with Deputy Commissioner of Collaborative Policing Susan Herman to discuss ways in which the CCRB can work with the Department to increase civilians' and officers' knowledge of an

accessibility to the Mediation Program. A detailed description of the Mediation Program is given in every Outreach event and Mediation staff are often participants. We have implemented weekly investigative training and have recently conducted a mediator refresher course. We believe that these efforts will help to effectively and efficiently grow the Mediation Program and thereby increase communication and understanding between police officers and the communities they serve. Thank you.

MR. SIMONETTI: I want to thank you for sending me that list of cases that are eligible for mediation and those that are not. It's quite an extensive list and if you haven't seen it in a while, I got to kind of remind myself what's on there and what cases are not eligible. So I think it's worth the while if we circularize that to the

BISHOP TAYLOR: Thank you so much. Wow.

MS. COHEN: Sure.

whole Board.

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MR. SIMONETTI: And I would like to suggest the ADR Committee and particularly the Operations Committee meeting next month, before next month's meeting, that we put that on as an agenda item. So if people get an opportunity to look at the list,

because there are cases that are on the prohibitive list that I think we could include in Mediation.

And I think if we took a look at that, maybe, and then we could come up with some ideas to try to expand the program.

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And I was wondering, Tracy, in your meeting with the First Vice President of PBA and their attorney, did mediation come up as a discussion issue?

MS. CATAPANO-FOX: It did and they have -- they always have been very supportive of it, and I have to thank our Director of Mediation, Lisa Cohen, for working with them to have a positive and growing program with the officers. They have actually been very interested in finding ways to also work with We want to do some more outreach in terms of discussing mediation to the civilians and with the police officers to encourage them at roll calls and other opportunities, and they have agreed to work with us. And I know that the ADR Committee and Lisa have been working to get the Detectives Unit more involved as well, because although they have a small number of our cases, percentage-wise they are not as receptive to mediation as they might be. And I think in the future there's been a showing by the Police Commissioner and his deputies that they are

1 going to work hard to try to increase those numbers 2 as well. 3 BISHOP TAYLOR: Excellent. MR. MARTIN: I would like to thank Lisa for a 4 5 wonderful report, very comprehensive, very 6 informative. Thank you very much. 7 MR. LISTON: Agreed. BISHOP TAYLOR: I want to second that. 8 9 MS. COHEN: My pleasure. BISHOP TAYLOR: Mediation is such a valuable 10 11 tool. We have now after Mediation, we have a Personnel 12 13 Committee. I'm not sure if you guys remember, 14 before Dan resigned as chair, he appointed a 15 Personnel Committee to look at personnel issues and 16 Al Grant was the chair of that committee. I think, 17 Tony, you're on that committee. Is there anybody else on that Personnel Committee here? Were you on 18 that, James? 19 20 MR. DONLON: No. 2.1 BISHOP TAYLOR: Do you want to talk a little bit 22 about anything in terms of --23 MR. ALPHONZO A. GRANT, JR.: Well, we haven't 24 done anything yet. And one of the reasons why was

we wanted to have the committee established to begin

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know, manual procedures for when employees are leaving; how cases are reviewed; if employees leave under unfavorable circumstances, so to speak, is there a procedure or process in place for looking at their cases, et cetera; and just the manner and the process in which we hire managers or executive level individuals. And the decision was made that we would postpone doing anything until Tracy came on board and was able to get settled and get a full understanding of what's going on. And I think we had more than enough time now, right?

(Laughter.)

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MS. CATAPANO-FOX: I have to thank Mr. Grant. He's been wonderful in terms of helping us and assisting us with getting performance evaluations together, he's been working with us in terms of setting up standards for hiring and promotional opportunities. And he's always been a great resource to me and the other staff members in terms of moving forward with some of the very important hiring positions we've had and really moving with our employee manual. And I can't thank you enough for your assistance.

MR. GRANT, JR.: My pleasure. So we'll continue

to formulize that stuff and once we have a report that we can present to the Board of where we are, what the policies and procedures are, we'll do so as soon as possible.

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BISHOP TAYLOR: Excellent, excellent. Tony.

MR. SIMONETTI: Last month while I was in Florida, I was able to watch the meeting via podcast live down in Florida. It was quite an interesting meeting. And then after the meeting ended, I called Tracy and I made a comment. I said, "You know, Tracy, I never realized that being so close, you know, when we're all sitting here, sometimes you don't see through the trees through the forest." And I said, "What was very evident was you were the only female of all the people sitting up here and I've been on the Board over 17 years now and I can tell you we always had three or four female members on the CCRB." So just being cognizant of it, the discussion we had, and I know the Mayor hasn't appointed a Deputy Mayor yet, and it's difficult to get some of these issues over to City Hall and let them know. But in light of the memo that they sent to all Agency heads, you know, talking about these issues and diversification and all those things, I think it's a very important issue. And I think --

Al and I had a brief discussion and we have to look at our own personnel here in terms of the supervisory people and the investigative staff and make sure that we apply the diversity fairly across the Board with that. So I hope they get a deputy mayor soon or somebody that we can talk to over at City Hall.

BISHOP TAYLOR: Excellent. Excellent.

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Now we're going to have a report from Outreach.

Outreach has been very, very busy and very

successful in that business. I want to ask Brian

Connell if you can give us an update on that.

MR. BRIAN CONNELL: We have had a number of -- a lot of diversity in the Outreach. We've been doing more religious institute -- religious places, we've been doing a lot of schools, we've gone to senior centers, and we're doing many more community boards. I think we've done about 30 community boards, if I'm correct. And we're doing -- we have plans to do another maybe 10 or 13 within the upcoming month. So those are in the evenings, so if anyone's available to attend those, you're welcome.

And we have on average about 25 Outreach events per month. We are encouraging our volunteers throughout the Agency to participate. So we're

making a lot of strides in doing Outreach.

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BISHOP TAYLOR: Excellent. Thank you. And just to give you a more concise breakdown, between

January and March 2014, there was -- 23 percent were presented at nongovernment organizations; educational institutions, 38 percent; religious institutions, 7 percent; and government institutions, 32 percent. And you know, the

Outreach is very important because if we're here and people don't know that we're here, then it doesn't make sense to be here. And I think that getting the message out clearly and to the right populations is very, very important. So thank you so much, Brian, for your work and your efforts in that department.

It's been really, really robust.

Okay. So now we're moving to -- did I miss any committees? Operations and Reports.

MR. DONLON: Reports and recommendations.

BISHOP TAYLOR: I'm sorry, James, Reports.

MR. DONLON: Marcos Soler and the staff members are working on three possible areas that we can report on. The topics are the use of I-cards by the Police Department when they're trying to -- or when they are in the process of conducting an investigation, they use a so-called I-card to locate -- well, I'm not

explaining this very well. An I-card would identify a person of interest in a particular investigation. The typical pattern is the detective would go to the residence or the place where the person is known to frequent and then there's typically an interaction between family members. Frequently the person is not there. But it does generate a significant number of complaints we believe but we're looking into the data on that. And that is one area.

The other area is the use of pepper spray. I believe there's a report that was issued many years ago and that's an area which can be updated. And that's also being worked on.

And the third is a possible report on searches that occur in the process of car stops. And that also is an area which generates a substantial number of complaints.

So those three areas are the ones that are being looked into and hopefully we'll have reports on those in the future.

And that's the report. Thank you.

BISHOP TAYLOR: Thank you. Any questions for Commissioner Donlon?

(No response.)

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BISHOP TAYLOR: No. Okay, did I get all the

committees? Excellent.

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So now we're moving to old business, and I think, Tony, you wanted to have more conversation about the APU under old business. You want to open that up now?

MR. SIMONETTI: And not the APU in particular, more about the DA hold cases.

BISHOP TAYLOR: I'm sorry, the DA holds, right.

MR. SIMONETTI: The DA hold case. I'd just like to know Board Members' feelings about the DA hold, many of you having been ex-prosecutors, so, you know, you're familiar with what goes on both at the local DA's office and the federal DA's office -- the federal prosecutor's office. So if you can share some of your ideas, and do you think we're on the right track in terms of at some point -- and by the way, it has to be case by case, obviously, and in some cases where we can go ahead and continue with our investigation.

BISHOP TAYLOR: So are you kind of suggesting that if there's a DA hold that has been sustained that we take another look and just --

MR. SIMONETTI: Well, first I would suggest that we get a process report every month, that the investigator contact the DA, you know, and they got

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to be a little more definitive in terms of what they're doing with the case. And then at some point, maybe we bring it to the Operations Committee or -- I don't want to form another committee but there are enough committees that could take a look at this and then we make a decision to go ahead and continue with the investigation and come to a conclusion. I think if we do it, the DAs will get the message.

MS. CATAPANO-FOX: Tony, I think that Denis has been reporting to Dan Gitner and the Investigations Committee in terms of those cases.

MR. GITNER: I think the way we report on this a little while ago, I think the DA hold issue is very complicated, actually, because DA holds can be very legitimate, and not necessarily because of a district attorney being lazy or slowly moving the case. It could be, for example, because the case should move slowly or because the court systems are moving slowly. And a CCRB investigation could actually interfere with an appropriate and proper criminal prosecution. And we have to be very careful in that balance.

At the same time, we have our job to do and we want to make sure we do our job without interfering.

And there could be times -- I do agree with you.

There could be times where a DA hold is

illegitimate. And we need to push a little bit and

tell the DA, "Look, it's your fault. We're going to

move on." I think that those cases are probably

fewer than many.

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But I do agree probably there should be a better system in place whereas if a DA hold is in place for "X" number of months -- and we can decide that right now and you can pick a number, four, five, six -then the investigator or supervisor should be calling the DA and asking for more than a boilerplate request for an extension, asking for, you know, basically saying, "Why?" and asking for a few sentences perhaps in writing. And then perhaps that should go to -- we don't have -- I don't think we should form another committee either. Maybe it goes to a Panel. The Panels are already meeting and in addition to reviewing the whatever number of cases, one thing they review is a report from the investigator that says, "This case has been on hold for 'X' reasons." The DA says, "It should still be on hold for whatever reason. Do you agree or do you want to go forward?" And the Panel can decide and then report back to the DA, "We're going forward, so

either move your case or there's going to be interference." And if the DA feels strongly about it, frankly, they'll come back to us and tell us -- they'll have a supervisor call in and say, "Please don't," and then we can reassess.

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But that's how I think things should happen. That would, I think, strike an appropriate balance between not letting cases fall into -- below the statute because of an illegitimate DA hold, at the same time not letting our investigations interfere with an appropriate prosecution when there's no need for such interference.

MR. SIMONETTI: If I can relate a case anecdotally about -- that could speak to this point, when I was still active in the Department as the First Deputy Commissioner, all retirements had to come through my office. I was notified because everybody has to give 30 days' notice before their retirement becomes effective. And that gives the Department and all agencies an opportunity to look at that person to see if there's any pending criminal action, to see if there's any serious charges pending within the Department; and lo and behold, we had an officer who put in his papers to vest, not to retire. He had 17 years in the Police

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Department and he was going to vest. You can vest at 15 years. And it came to my attention that this officer was the same officer that was involved in the Baez case up in the Bronx. Those of you who remember that case, it was a couple of young men tossing around a football, the radio car stops, and an altercation pursues and the officer gets one of the young men in a strangle hold and he dies because of that strangle hold. He was tried at state court. He was exonerated in state court.

When it came to our attention, I went to the Police Commissioner. We went to the Mayor and we told him, "Listen, this can be a very embarrassing situation. Here's a guy that's probably going to vest at" -- 30 days, by the way, you can't stop the clock. That 30-day clock runs and at the end of 30 days, if you haven't taken any action, he gets his pension, or he gets his vestment. So Mayor Giuliani was the Mayor at the time. Him having been the federal prosecutor in the Southern District, and Mary Jo White was the then current sitting person, he called her up and he -- because we had a hold on the case. We had a DA hold. She was pursuing some civil rights charges against him. And he told her, "Listen, we're going ahead with this case. We're

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bringing it into the trial room and we're going try him for the strangle hold." AND she says, "You can't be doing that." He said, "Well, I'm telling you we're going to do it. So you can do whatever you like, but we're going in." And we did and he was found guilty of the strangle hold and he was dismissed from the Police Department prior to being able to retire or vest.

And that's a really exaggerated case. Most cases, if you look over my years here at the Civilian Complaint Review Board, I bet there are very few cases that are on DA hold that finally wind up in indictments, very few. I mean, this one that we have pending now with the homicide of the female, where police killed the female, that's understandable. That case has got a -- we got to continue on a DA hold. But the other cases in my experience are certainly nowhere near the Baez case and certainly nowhere near a death in custody or a death by police.

MR. GITNER: I think the majority of DA hold cases do not involve situations where the criminal prosecution is against the officer. The majority of DA hold cases, I think, involve situations where there's a prosecution against somebody else and one

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of the officers involved in that case has a complaint against him or her. So I think it's -- I know the Baez case a little bit, and it's a good illustrative case. But probably most cases are a little different. What I would do, I think, is institute a system where we respect the request at least initially every time, 100 percent of the time, let's say for three of four months. And then after three or four months passes, it automatically goes through this process where the investigator makes this phone call we just discussed and it goes to the Panel. And that can happen every month. That's not a severe burden, particularly given the number of cases that are on DA hold. And the Panel can then decide.

At some point, it will get closer and closer to the statute of limitations issue and the balance may change according to the Panel, and I think the case should stay with the Panel that initially ruled on it so there's some history of it so they understand the dynamic. That's what I would do. That's the system I would institute.

MR. LISTON: If I may?

BISHOP TAYLOR: Yes.

MR. LISTON: I just want to thank Commissioner

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Simonetti for raising this important issue. want to echo all the points that Commissioner Gitner has made. This is a very serious issue. I used to be a prosecutor. Many of us were prosecutors. we respect the importance of a DA hold. Prosecuting cases is difficult enough without having to worry about your officers being pulled into other proceedings, making statements that somehow complicate the prosecution of a very serious case. Having said all that, we've got to balance that against the mission that our agency has, which is to investigate these cases and prosecute them. some point, it may just be difficult, but we may have to say to a prosecutor, "We're going to go forward, " as Commissioner Simonetti suggested, "and you'll just have to deal with this as best you can."

I also like the proposal you suggest, Dan.

Another variation and another point I want to make is that this also has implications for the APU because we're going to end up getting these cases later, we are getting them much later, if at all, than we otherwise would, and that only makes the job of prosecuting those cases more difficult. Memories fade, witnesses disappear. So this is as much an issue for Investigations as it is for the APU. So

either we go with your idea of sending it to a

Panel, which has its benefits, or a variation, a

joint review by the Investigations Committee and the

APU Committee of these particular items. And what's

good about that is then you have a more unified

approach. If you send it off to different Panels,

you might have different reactions. But if we get

our committees together and we begin to see trends,

we can start to identify a good way forward.

Whether it's my way or your way, I think it's good

that we give this the attention it needs.

MR. GITNER: I think that's a perfectly good idea. Having the consistency is not something I had thought of when I was talking. I think it's a good idea. I wouldn't necessarily want to divest to the Board Members who are not on either of those committees, you know, being involved in these decisions if they wanted to be --

MR. LISTON: Sure.

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MR. GITNER: -- which is one reason I suggested the Panels because then I think it would be evenly spaced out. But either way works for me.

MR. LISTON: And I think the way our committees work, if I'm not mistaken, is even if you're not officially on a committee, you could --

BISHOP TAYLOR: You could attend. 1 2 MR. LISTON: Yes, so the more the merrier. 3 BISHOP TAYLOR: Excellent. Doesn't the clock 4 stop when we get a DA hold? 5 MS. CATAPANO-FOX: 6 MR. LISTON: That's another problem. 7 MS. CATAPANO-FOX: But in those cases where there's a crime exception --8 9 MR. SIMONETTI: It's only if there's a crime 10 exception. But I think it would be hard for us to 11 prosecute those cases too, not being an attorney, but I think it would be hard for us. I think if 12 13 that went through an appeal course, I don't think it 14 would hold up, that you can go ahead and prosecute 15 the case, just because it was a crime exception. 16 don't think that would hold up. I mean, that's my 17 own personal feeling. MS. CATAPANO-FOX: You think that they would 18 19 make a motion to dismiss based upon the statute of 20 limitations? 2.1 MR. SIMONETTI: Not the statute of limitations, 22 the fact that you passed the statute, you're saying 23 it's a crime. Unless it's a very serious offense. 24 MS. CATAPANO-FOX: Believe it or not, I mean,

I've done the research on this and the case law has

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been very clear that even if the person is no-true-billed after indictment, even if they're found not guilty after trial, it doesn't matter. As long as the officer's actions could've constituted a crime even though he's never been found guilty or there's been adverse findings, it doesn't matter.

MR. SIMONETTI: Oh, the officer's conduct?

MS. CATAPANO-FOX: I'm sorry?

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MR. SIMONETTI: The officer's conduct?

MS. CATAPANO-FOX: It's always the officer's conduct. In those cases -- we do have scenarios potentially where a complainant's conduct is the reason why the DA has asked for a DA hold or the officer's conduct doesn't rise to the level of crime. And those are the DA holds that are more complicated for us. I will tell you that independently we always make sure that there are requests from the DA. We did have a case recently where an officer came in and claimed that the officer at the DA had told him that the case should be on a DA hold and so he shouldn't give an interview. But the team was very professional. They handled it very well. They came to me and Denis, they asked us if that was the process and we said, "No. Until the DA actually asks for the DA

hold, go ahead with the interview. There's no reason not to." And they did.

MR. LISTON: Just so I could be clear, when there's a DA hold, my understanding is that the clock continues to tick.

MR. SIMONETTI: Yes.

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MS. CATAPANO-FOX: It is a courtesy. A DA hold is really just a courtesy from us. It's not a court order telling us that we can't proceed. It's the DA --

MR. LISTON: So we're trying to be responsible, right, and balance what we're trying to do with what other people are trying to do, as well we should, but I've asked this before and I'll ask it again and I think it's something we should keep our eyes on. When I was a prosecutor, I remember dealing with 30.30, which was the law that requires the cases, as many of us know, be prosecuted within a certain period of time. And I deal with that as a prosecutor but I also had certain exceptions to that rule, and there were a lot of them. And these were exceptions for pursuant to which the clock stopped ticking. And that was important so that certain things could happen without the clock ticking. I don't know why the clock continues to tick while

1 we're doing the responsible thing and allowing the 2 DA to do what they're supposed to do. 3 BISHOP TAYLOR: The courtesy, exactly. 4 MR. LISTON: I wish there was a way, and I think 5 there has to be a way to revisit this. MR. SIMONETTI: That's in the CPL, I would 6 7 assume? MR. LISTON: Under the CPLR, we have certain 8 9 exceptions. 10 MS. CATAPANO-FOX: The court -- the judge can 11 always say that the time is tolled, the time is stayed, and the DA will often ask for that. And if 12 13 a judge orders that, that's one thing. If there's 14 discovery pending, the judge can decide to toll the 15 time while discovery motions are pending or 16 discovery is being exchanged. 17 MR. LISTON: The list is as long as my arm. the point is that it's just that long. There are so 18 19 many exceptions that stop the clock, and as well they should. 20 2.1 MR. GITNER: There aren't that many --22 MR. LISTON: I don't know why we don't have 23 them. 24 Right. We don't have them, MR. GITNER: 25 unfortunately, unlike in the 30.30 world. And it's

unfortunate and I think maybe the law should be changed.

MR. LISTON: Maybe we should press to have it changed.

MR. GITNER: I agree with that, and/or I think there is some value to asking the Police Department to agree to essentially toll the statute during the course of the hold. I think even if the individual officer doesn't agree to the stay --

BISHOP TAYLOR: That's true.

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MR. GITNER: -- if the Department agrees to the stay on behalf of the officer -- it's probably never been tried by a court or a judge -- but I think there's a good legal argument that the Department can bind the officer for whom the officer works. You know, the Department can agree to the stay and the clock would not tick. And perhaps we should negotiate with the Department to have them essentially agree to stays whenever there is a DA hold that we respect.

MR. SIMONETTI: If I can suggest, your meeting with Susan Herman next week, next Monday, that that be brought up with Susan. By the way, I worked with Susan for many, many years when she was in the Police Department. She was Special Counsel to the

Police Commissioner and we developed the domestic violence policy that's currently in the Police Department way back then. So she's a very smart person, and you suggest something like that to her, she'll take that under serious consideration.

MR. LISTON: Excellent. We'll do that.

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BISHOP TAYLOR: Okay. Any more discussion on -- any more on old business?

MR. GRANT, JR.: Just the one thing that I'm concerned about is, you know, we talk about doing all these things then two months from now everybody forgets. So all I'm asking is that we document these procedures in a memo, that six months from now we can go back and look at the memo and understand what our procedures are.

The other thing I wanted to highlight was, if someone can -- I don't know if Denis or Dan -- but I assume this is the case, that even though there's a DA hold, there are other aspects of the investigation that can still go forward; and are we making sure that we're doing that to its fullest so that when the hold is lifted we're not that far behind the eight ball; for example, getting videos, speaking to other witnesses, things like that. I just wanted to make sure that that's in the

procedures, that's documented. And in terms of that memo, it should really have some sort of a cutoff point, right, whether it's six months out or whatever, that we now say, "Look, we've got to go forward."

So I just want to see that. I'm getting just inundated, guys, generally about all the things that are happening, which is great. We're moving very fast. But what I'm seeing here is repeated discussions coming up. And the example I can give is that one of the things we talked about when Katrina happened is we got hit with the all of these cases and we realized that there wasn't a statute of limitations in place, a carve-out, for this, for, you know, an act of God, and every other agency, I think, had it and we didn't.

MR. LISTON: There wasn't an exception. And we still don't.

MR. GRANT, JR.: Right, and we still don't. And so I know that's one of the things we talked about with General Counsel, one of the first things we're going to need him to do, and certainly the statute of limitations' carve-out for this instance would doincide with that.

But, again, I just want to make sure when we're moving forward as a board and we're laying out these

things, there has to be -- it has to culminate in a memo laying out the process and procedures that's we've come up with so that we're not doing this over and over again.

MR. GITNER: I took -- you're point is good, that we shouldn't just talk, we should do. Of course I agree with that. I just want to say that with regard to the DA hold, I do think that Investigations probably can do some things during the course of the

probably can do some things during the course of the hold but just I'm not sure it's a good policy to say that they should automatically talk to any witnesses,

by-case basis, as you know.

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MR. GRANT, JR.: I agree. I agree. I agree with that.

for example. I think it really has to be on a case-

MR. GITNER: I just want to make sure that that's --

MR. GRANT, JR.: But, you know, generally, I'm saying there's certain things --

MS. CATAPANO-FOX: We can make document requests, video requests.

MR. GITNER: Yes.

MR. GRANT, JR.: Whatever it is. But I know, Dan, you're going to be thorough with it. I just want to make sure that the memo's there so that

three years from now, you know, when another crew's in here, they're not doing this all over again.

MR. SIMONETTI: We'll rely on the wisdom of the Investigations Committee when those cases come to you guys and that you can report back to us.

MR. GITNER: That's fine. Hopefully I have some wisdom.

MR. LISTON: You do. You do.

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BISHOP TAYLOR: Okay. So we're moving on now to new business.

MR. SIMONETTI: I guess it's a question rather than a statement. The Police Department has undertaken some kind of a survey currently, and the only thing I know about is what I read in the paper. And I guess it has something to do with satisfaction, public satisfaction of services they receive. Maybe it has something to do with morale because that seems to be a very timely issue that's percolating around town. So I'm just wondering -- you know, many years ago, we attempted to do something with CCNY. We had a professor that was willing to come in and look at the Agency and look at our relationship with -- particularly with the people that we were serving our complaints to do something. That never materialized. It never came

1 to be. So I'm just wondering if we can get some information in your meeting Monday, if you can ask 2 3 Susan about some of the particulars of the survey 4 that they're going to be conducting, if we can kind 5 of tailor something like that maybe for this agency. 6 MR. LISTON: That's a great idea. 7 MR. SIMONETTI: You know, it's been in the pipeline as long as I've been here, but we've never 8 9 done anything about it. MS. CATAPANO-FOX: We do it for Mediation. 10 11 You're right. And that's something we could branch 12 out. But that is something that --13 MR. LISTON: What we're doing for Mediation 14 could be a perfect model for other parts of what we 15 do. 16 BISHOP TAYLOR: Exactly. Are we finished with old business? 17 MR. SIMONETTI: I'm finished with all business. 18 BISHOP TAYLOR: So we're moving on to new 19 business. 20 2.1 (No response.) BISHOP TAYLOR: Any -- no? 22 23 (No response.) 24 BISHOP TAYLOR: Okay. So now we're going to 25 open up to public comment. And we have on our list

a very lengthy public comment of 10 people. But we're going to call Mr. Dunn first.

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MR. CHRIS DUNN: I'll take up all 10 of their...

Tony, welcome back. I can barely see you but I can hear you clearly. You're channeling the NYC right down to gender representation on the image that people see on television as we speak.

MR. SIMONETTI: I mean, I didn't steal anything from the ACLU.

MR. DUNN: No, I love hearing you say it.

So on the new place, congratulations. I know moving to a new place is a big deal. I have to tell you that I remain concerned -- and I've talked to Tracy about this -- about public access to the Agency. And I know that Tracy is concerned about this and there's been discussion about it, but -- and I know she's taken some steps to try to address some things.

Starting with the paint scheme, which given that orange is the new black, it's a little bit unfortunate prison-like message that gets sent. I know the waiting room got repainted, so that's good. The fact that you got people behind glass in what looks like almost like a cell, I think is not a good start. But even downstairs, I'm telling you you

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have to step back and understand the difficulty of getting in here. I come to this building all the The Law Department's here. I come here all the time. This is not a space that is something that people can easily get to from the street. This is the only space you have in the City of New York for people to come in and engage with you. everything from the rigmarole at the desk to having to have your photograph taken, which I understand was not supposed to be the case, and I think you're going to have a separate entrance at some point, which maybe that will not be the case, but I really would encourage you as Board Members, you kind of get into things and you're the privileged people here and you have a pass and you just whisk in. let me tell you, I would encourage you to step back and say to yourself, "How welcoming is this? How is this a space, and someone who is a typical complainant is going to feel trying to get in here?" And I would really encourage you as you go forward -- I know there'll be lots of tweaks. a new space. You're dealing with floods. dealing with pestilence. You're dealing with famine. I get it all. But I really think you want to try to pay a little more attention to that.

Okay. On the report, on the 18-month cases,

Tony, I see that -- and you missed several meetings

and discussion about this -- but kind of the 14-,

15-, 16-month numbers have come way down, which is

great, because that, of course, means you're going

to have par fewer things come into the end for the

process.

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But there are still a lot of 18-plus-month cases on there, and I was a little confused. I mean, I see you're trying to put more information on the report about the 18-plus-month cases. There now seems to be a new category, the Mediations Awaiting Board Review. And you have three cases I think, maybe four, that are Mediation cases, that are 18-plus months. And I just have not seen that before. Are those one that have gone through Mediation and the Board has to sign off on it? Is that something that's awaiting Board approval so it can go into Mediation? I just --

MS. CATAPANO-FOX: Those cases were closed by the Panels last night, the Mediation Panels. So when we say "pending Board review," they were awaiting their closure. So they're actually not -- they shouldn't be on the list as of today because they closed last night at 4:00.

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MR. DUNN: So but the thing, Tracy, I didn't quite get, why would you have an 18-plus-month Mediation case? I just would not have thought that any Mediation case would get anywhere near that old. And you got cases that were filed -- two of them I think are one day after the incident, one of them is two days after the incident. You don't have to answer that question. I'm just -- when I look at the report, I'm struck by how old some of these cases are.

And on that point, you didn't talk about your City Council testimony but you mentioned that there were 21 statute of limitation cases in calendar year 2013. And I took it that through the testimony, there was 21 substantiated cases where the statute of limitations was blown. There wasn't any more detail about that but I was just trying to remember it and I just didn't have the report with me. Do you recall how many total substantiated cases there were in 2013; like 200, less than 200?

MR. MARCOS SOLER: The total number of substantiations? 300 total cases.

MR. DUNN: 300 total cases, okay. And so there were 21 cases in 2013 -- presumably, 21 of those 300, the statute of limitations is blown.

1 MS. CATAPANO-FOX: Is that an exact number though? I mean, I don't want to just --2 MR. SOLER: I can check the number. 3 4 MS. CATAPANO-FOX: So it's an approximation. 5 MR. DUNN: Here's my point: 21 cases -- if you have any like, 2, 3, 350 total subcases in which 21 6 7 had the blown statute of limitations, that, to me, I'd just say that's a huge number. Again, I see 8 9 that you're working on it and I understand that. 10 And I see maybe the problem is fixed when you look 11 at the 14-, 15-, 16-month cases, but I just continue to think that is a huge concern. Similarly, the 12 13 number of cases are coming through from the 14 Department. Tracy, I hear you saying you're talking 15 to DAO and Julie's going to tell you something, and 16 I'm happy to have Dan take this up and I'm glad that 17 he's been raising questions about it. I, for four or five months, have been pointing out that four, 18 five, six cases a month are coming through from the 19 20 Department and I just -- with all due respect, it 2.1 should not take four months to figure out why 22 there are no cases coming from the Department. 23 That's a phone call. It's a huge change in the 24 numbers you're getting from like 25 a month. 25 There's got to be some obvious explanation there.

just think we need to get to that.

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On the APU report, page that's in the report, there's a mention about three modified -- I don't know if it's post-trial or post-plea cases.

MS. CATAPANO-FOX: Post-plea.

MR. DUNN: Post-plea, okay. So what I didn't see was any cases, and maybe this is just a function of the categories, where the Police Commissioner had approved something that was a final disposition from the CCRB process. And I don't know if there had been any such cases but that category, which is at the top of the list, suggests that at least there are three pleas that have gotten to the Police Commissioner, all of which have been modified by him. But I don't know. Does he use the term "modify," there to mean that the Police Commissioner has not accepted the plea you negotiated and has changed the plea?

MS. CATAPANO-FOX: Yes.

MR. DUNN: Okay. I think there needs to be some reporting to the public and discussion amongst you about what the Police Commissioner is doing with your plea negotiations. Because needless to say, if you're doing all this work and you're pleading these cases out, which you all know can be a big process,

and then it goes upstairs and he says, "Nah," that completely cuts you out in terms of your effectiveness in negotiating pleas. And the unions will know that and they're going to change their practices in negotiating with you on pleas. So I would just encourage you to take a look at that.

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On the testimony, on the City Council testimony, as I mentioned, there was no discussion about that, but there were two things I was struck by. happy to see the five-borough initiative. I didn't see a lot of detailed discussion in there about what that would actually do. And I saw what was in there. And then there was a field investigation piece also. And again, Tracy, I know you have talked about this and other members have supported You know, I think what you're trying to do in the boroughs is great. I just feel like there's been a discussion about this for a very long time and as we stand here or sit here, there's not a space outside of this space right now where you could meet with people, that you do meet with people, who are complainants and it's just a huge problem. And I think it is a mistake. You simply wait for the City Council to give you more money to do it. I think you've got to find some way with the

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resources you have. Maybe they'll give you some more resources so you can do more. But you're redeploying people here so they get out of this space and they get out to the communities where people are having encounters with the police and you can engage with complainants. I'm just telling you it is a waste. When you're here -- and I understand why you're here -- but when you're here, you are just completely separated from most of what you should be doing.

The third thing that's mentioned in the testimony is hiring some more lawyers, always happy to hear the CCRB wants to have more lawyers. Good for you. But it did raise a question because it said that many of your cases involve legal issues. I'm just curious where things stand on the memo we discussed for public meetings about the summons and frisk issue, which at the last couple of meetings, Tracy, I think you said the Board was looking at and there would be discussion about an -- is that on the list or...

MS. CATAPANO-FOX: It's on the list but it's related to an individual case, as we've discussed.

MR. DUNN: Well, as you know, I'm raising the broader policy issue. And I'm with Mr. Grant in

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saying that you guys have a million things going on, to your credit. I mean, you're really -- there's a lot more activity, which is great. One of the challenges with that is a lot of things get talked about in a Board meeting and then the world of business keeps going on and things get lost. So to the extent there's an institutional memory here and I'm part of it, I'll keep reminding you. I'll try not to nag but I do want to not lose track of that.

MR. GITNER: Are you asking the Board to make a legal determination about whether a stop in connection with a summons is right or wrong? Is that what you're basically asking, like an advisory opinion as to whether or not we think in general that's a good or bad thing or in violation of the 4th amendment or something like that? Is that what you're asking? I just want to make sure I understand what you're saying.

MR. DUNN: Sure. What I'm responding to is a memo written by a high level staff person that took the legal position that officers were free to frisk people who have been given a summons without any suspicion that the person presented a danger that would otherwise allow a frisk and took the position that in those circumstances, misconduct should not

be substantiated because that was a permissible frisk. So there is an Agency document right now that takes the -- I'm not sure if it's a legal position, I would treat it as a legal position -- that says, what I've been told, is in an individual case but it does not have any particulars about any individual case, but says --

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MS. CATAPANO-FOX: Except for the case number.

MR. DUNN: It's got a case number on it. That's it.

MS. CATAPANO-FOX: That's pretty particular.

MR. DUNN: It says, "It is fine to frisk in these circumstances. Do not substantiate."

MS. CATAPANO-FOX: Mr. Gitner, that's what -what happened was a memo was put in a file by a team
attorney who was reviewing a particular case and
wrote a memo to the investigator about the
particular case and gave a legal analysis of an
issue that that team investigator -- team attorney
believed was relevant in the similar way that team
attorneys might give case law or case decisions.
That went into a case file and then somehow got to
Mr. Dunn.

BISHOP TAYLOR: Wow. That's great. Great police work.

1 MS. CATAPANO-FOX: So the issue that Mr. Dunn and I discussed is whether or not the Agency and the 2 3 Board had made a change in policy with regard to a 4 legal determination about these types of frisks. 5 And my position, and please forgive me if I'm speaking for the Board, was that at no time did the 6 7 Board make a legal determination, rather a team attorney did what that team attorney was hired to 8 9 do, which was give legal advice on a particular case 10 which was provided within the internal document file 11 of that particular case. 12 MR. LISTON: Right. That's not the same thing 13 as the Board embracing this --14 MS. CATAPANO-FOX: That's correct. MR. LISTON: -- Agency-wide as our official 15 16 policy. 17 MR. GRANT, JR.: And that memo was not circulated wider? 18 19 MS. CATAPANO-FOX: No, sir. It was put in the file. 20 2.1 MR. GRANT, JR.: Just in the file, okay. 22 MR. DUNN: Just so we're clear, not that I don't 23 mind creating the misimpression that I have access 24 to CCRB files, but I do not. That memo was 25 circulated amongst staff and it is not a memo that

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says, "Here's a case with the following facts. What do I do with it?" It's a memo -- and, Dan, I will send it to you. I brought it a couple meetings ago. It says, "What is the answer to the question, 'Can a police officer frisk somebody in issuing a summons without suspicion that the person presents a danger or has a weapon?'" And it is a memo that is a straight legal memo that you've seen a million of, Dan, that is completely devoid of any facts and is a straight legal analysis.

So if the suggestion is that that is something that just has no consequence in the Agency, the Agency has no position about this, and people are just going about their business, well, you can say that. I think that given that the issue of frisk activity by the Police Department is a significant issue, given this memo got circulated amongst staff and there was confusion, as it was reported to me, about the extent to which this represented Agency policy, and to the extent as is true, the Agency previously has dealt at the Board level with this policy issue. I don't think you can just say, "Well, that was a nonevent that you can ignore."

But you'll deal with it as you please.

Tony, thank you for raising the DA holds. I

think DA holds are an issue. I will say that the DA holds are pretty small in number. And from my perspective, I've been raising the issue about DA holds. I think you're right in what you were saying and what Dan is saying about trying to be a little more aggressive with the district attorneys. They raise complicated legal issues.

I frankly think that if I were the one making decisions about what the Agency was really going to focus its time on, it would be more on the truncation problem and less on the DA hold problem just because the numbers are so different. But I'm with you on the DA holds. And you mentioned Francis Livoti. Francis Livoti, of course, is the police officer in the Baez chokehold case. Just to introduce a little moment of levity, as you may recall, he now goes by Frankie Sands and is now a wedding singer. That is the legacy of Francis Livoti and his Anthony Baez chokehold.

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MS. CATAPANO-FOX: How do you know that?

MR. DUNN: The Wall Street Journal did a story about a year ago on Frankie Sands and his wedding performances.

Finally, I just wanted to mention about

Mediation, because this relates to this. I would like to get, if possible -- I don't know if you, Lisa, were reading something, but I don't know if that's going to be provided. I don't think there was something in the packet.

MR. LISTON: There'll be a transcript.

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MR. DUNN: Well, there'll be a transcript, but to the extent that she read something, I would ask that you make that available to the public. There were a lot of statistics in there and my head was swimming halfway through it. I will say, what I understood Lisa to start with was saying that you were offering mediation to 68 percent of complainants? Maybe I misunderstood that.

MS. CATAPANO-FOX: (Answers with a nod of the head).

MR. DUNN: Okay, so I misunderstood that. I see Tracy is nodding her head for purposes of the transcript.

MS. CATAPANO-FOX: And there are charts. There are Mediation charts that might explain some of the things that Lisa explained.

MR. DUNN: Okay. That's fine. It's just that I will raise this -- and, Tony, I'm not sure what is behind your request for everyone to see the

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categories of mediation-eligible complaints. But we continue to be very concerned about the expanding use of mediation, not because mediation can't be good in many cases, it can. And we're not completely anti-mediation, but we think categorically there are a number of types of complaints that should not be eligible for mediation under any circumstances.

And I just want to repeat again -- I said this at the last meeting -- the big downside for your purposes of mediation is you don't get a full investigation; and therefore, you don't know what happened. You have a closed process in which the officer comes in, the complainant comes in, they have a conversation, they walk away. And there can be circumstances, and I recognize where that's the best thing for everybody. But as a general, mediation is not a good thing in terms of thinking about the broader issues about police reform.

Because it's something where everyone just walks away, you lose the opportunity to learn something about a practice or a policy that you should pay attention to.

And the more there's mediation, the less there's investigation, which is the flip side of the

truncation problem, from my perspective, the less you folks all know.

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And the final thing I'll say just in closing,
Jim, I'm thrilled that you're talking about these
policy areas that the Board is going to focus on.
You know, this is something we keep talking about.
I was a little surprised the City Council testimony
didn't mention additional initiates in looking at
policy issues because I think that there do need to
be more resources spent in that area.

But, Jim, I was happy to hear what you said and I really hope that one of the things that comes out of the new world that we're all now in is that the group of you are spending more time and paying more attention to policy issues. And with the Inspector General showing up, there's going to be a new person in town who's going to have responsibilities that overlap with you and I hope that means that the competitive juices start flowing as opposed to people saying, "We don't have to worry about that anymore. That's somebody else's problem," because you guys have a unique ability to investigate policies and practice and you have a unique ability to have a voice in public discussion about the Police Department discussion that nobody else does.

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Sorry I took so much time, but thank you.
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           BISHOP TAYLOR: Thank you so much, Mr. Dunn, for
 3
       public comment.
 4
           Anyone else here for public comment?
 5
           (No response.)
 6
           BISHOP TAYLOR: No?
 7
           (No response.)
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           BISHOP TAYLOR: All right. Well, this meeting
       is adjourned. Thank you so much for coming.
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           (Whereupon, the meeting concluded at 11:22 a.m.)
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2	CERTIFICATION
3	
4	STATE OF NEW YORK)) ss.:
5	COUNTY OF RICHMOND)
6	I, DANIELLE CAVANAGH, a Notary Public
7	within and for the State of New York, do hereby
8	certify:
9	I reported the proceedings in the
10	within-entitled matter, and that the within
11	transcript is a true record of such proceedings.
12	I further certify that I am not related
13	to any of the parties to this action by blood or
14	marriage and that I am in no way interested in the
15	outcome of this matter.
16	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set
17	my hand this 15th day of April 2014.
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21	DANIELLE CAVANAGH
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