



ERIC L. ADAMS
MAYOR

CIVILIAN COMPLAINT REVIEW BOARD
100 CHURCH STREET 10th FLOOR
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10007 ♦ TELEPHONE (212) 912-7235
www.nyc.gov/ccrb



Dr. MOHAMMAD KHALID
INTERIM CHAIR

**Testimony of the Civilian Complaint Review Board before the New York City
Council Public Safety Committee**

September 22, 2025

Good afternoon to you Chair Yusef Salaam, and to the entire committee. Thank you for the privilege and honor of being here today. My name is Dr. Mohammad Khalid, and I am currently the Interim Chair of the Civilian Complaint Review Board.

First, I wish to take a moment to read to you a few news headlines from this year:

From St. Louis: “City Tells Police Oversight Board to Stop Providing Oversight – Or Face Penalties”

From Iowa: “Iowa City to Dissolve Community Police Review Board to Comply with New State Ban”

From Florida: “Civilian Police Oversight in Florida Crumbles After New Law Kicks In”

Across the country, we are seeing more stories like these. But here in New York City, we are seeing more complaints of police misconduct.

Police oversight is seemingly under attack. But it is also more needed than ever.

As the nation’s largest civilian police oversight board, our most important role is to work on behalf of New Yorkers to provide accountability and oversight of the New York City Police Department.

But we also serve as an example for the rest of the country, working to achieve the goal of better police-community relations. Others look to us as a model that they can follow.

How do we do this?

Perhaps most importantly, this Council’s proposed Charter Revisions would help us in ways that would profoundly impact police oversight here in New York. But crucially, they would also serve as an example for other cities around the country.

First, the proposal to modify our minimum budget from a headcount-based model to a model based on the personnel costs of the Police Department would help our work dramatically. Even as the number of police officers has grown, the CCRB has not been able to keep up. This new model would revolutionize our ability to reduce the time it takes to investigate cases.

Second, the proposal to add two additional members to our board – one designated by the Police Department and appointed by the Mayor, and one appointed by the Public Advocate – would further help our Agency more efficiently handle our sizable workload. This would also help us by expanding the diversity of views on our board, enabling us to demonstrate the importance of thought leadership and discussion to our counterparts around the country.

Lastly, the proposal to alter the quorum requirements to a simple majority, not including vacant seats, would allow the Board to convene more often and at greater convenience – once again giving us the tools to more efficiently complete the vital work that our Agency undertakes.

It is hard to overstate just how transformative these proposals would be to the CCRB. We are pleased to see the City Council's support of our mission, and its desire to back that support up with specific policies.

We appreciate the work of the Commission to Strengthen Local Democracy.

These proposals alone will not enable the CCRB to fully fulfil its mission to receive, investigate, mediate, hear, make findings, and recommend action on complaints against New York City police officers.

We are the largest police oversight board in the country, and the scale of our work is even larger. In 2024, we recorded the highest number of complaints in over a decade. Many of these complaints represent the worst days of someone's life, whether they were being accused of a crime, suffering a mental health crisis, or simply going about their business.

At present, two things constrain our ability to fully represent the people of New York as they request accountability from the NYPD for alleged misconduct.

The first is that we do not have direct access to all the information our investigations require.

For example, after we begin investigating a complaint, our investigators must request access to body-worn camera footage from the police department. While this delay has decreased over time, it still represents a significant roadblock in completing our investigations in a timely manner.

The same is true for other types of records within the NYPD that may come up during an investigation. And many of the records we do request are sealed under statute. This means legally we cannot view them, and we may be unable to investigate serious allegations.

We cannot truly begin our investigation in full until we have access to all necessary records. Having direct access to all records, including access to sealed records, would make the Agency much more efficient and able to fully investigate our cases. The CCRB having direct access also means the CCRB being exempt from New York State's sealing statutes.

Second, the CCRB is empowered by law to make recommendations for discipline to the Police Commissioner, but we do not impose that discipline ourselves. We have seen this recently in CCRB cases such as LT Jonathan Rivera's killing of Allan Feliz.

Without final disciplinary authority in the cases we investigate, even the most serious substantiated allegations of police misconduct can go unchecked.

When this happens, public trust is weakened. People do not trust the CCRB, and they do not trust the other systems of public safety. This weakening of the public trust also weakens the relationship

between the police and the people they serve. This is exactly what the CCRB was designed to help fix.

It is a great privilege to lead the CCRB as Interim Chair. Every day, I see the New Yorkers who my Agency serves – walking down the street, waiting in line at the store, even sitting across from me in this hearing right now.

We are pleased to have partners in this work throughout the government, including in this chamber. We believe that together, we're able to be the voice of accountability on behalf of New Yorkers, and to be a model for other cities around the country to follow.

New Yorkers lead, and we always will.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to join you here today at this vital hearing, and I look forward to your questions.