



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



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

November 19, 2025

Good morning,

My name is Jonathan Darche, and I use he/him pronouns. I am the Executive Director of the New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board, testifying here today as our Agency is currently without a Chair or Interim Chair.

I am grateful to have the opportunity to testify here and to address this council. Specifically, I have been asked to speak about Int 1451 – Direct Access to Body-worn Camera Footage.

I want to begin by emphasizing that this issue is extremely important to the Agency and to civilian oversight of police, more broadly. Body-Worn Camera footage is a significant component of our investigative process. In both 2023 and 2024, the CCRB received over 6,000 hours of Body-Worn Camera footage each year, and in 2025, we're on pace to match that mark. That footage has come in via thousands of individual requests – 2,076 so far in 2025.

It's a lot of work. But it matters: Body-Worn Camera footage allows us to close cases on the merits at a higher rate. In 2025 to date, we've been able to render a determination in 80.75% of complaints where there is Body-Worn Camera footage available to view. When we do not have this footage, that percentage drops to 53.71%.

The CCRB has long advocated for the Agency to have direct access to Body-Worn Camera footage, including during our most recent testimony to this Committee in September.

The most important benefit of direct access is that it would strengthen the democratic legitimacy of our investigative process.

The CCRB is a civilian-led police oversight Agency – the largest in the country. When New Yorkers come to us with a complaint regarding potential NYPD misconduct, they know that we are civilians, just like them, and that we are not beholden to the NYPD.

This matters.

That civilian-led independence was baked into our identity by Mayor David Dinkins and this Council when it voted to restructure our Agency in 1993. Since then, we have been guided by the principles of independence and impartiality.

But when our investigators request Body-Worn Camera footage from the NYPD, it is procedurally necessary for the NYPD to enter the investigative process. That independence is tested.

The NYPD must review the raw footage and make a decision on how best to fulfill the CCRB investigator's request. In some instances, the NYPD may be unable to find footage matching a particular date, time, or location.

Even when these decisions are correct or made in good faith, it undermines the CCRB's independence to rely on the NYPD to make those decisions. Having direct access to Body-Worn Camera footage eliminates this disconnect. It means that, from beginning to end, the CCRB is managing its own investigative procedures.

It means that all the decisions made in an investigation are being made by civilians, not the NYPD.

This matters.

This is a positive step, and the CCRB has been clear about the profound impact direct access to Body-Worn Camera footage would have on our work. We appreciate this Council's willingness to act on this issue.

While the CCRB is excited about the prospect of obtaining direct access to Body-Worn Camera footage, I want to note that to fully realize the benefits of the bill, we will require resources and an exemption from New York State's sealing statutes.

But with this bill, the Council is showing a commitment to the ideals of civilian oversight, and it is doing so at a moment when civilian oversight itself is in desperate need of this type of public support.

This matters.

I thank you for that commitment, and I look forward to answering your questions.