

In Re May Public Meeting NYC - Civilian Complaint Review Board  
May 10, 2023

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CIVILIAN COMPLAINT REVIEW BOARD

PUBLIC MEETING

MAY 10, 2023

6:30 P.M.

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HELD VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

AND

THE RESTORATION PLAZA COMMUNITY ROOM

1368 FULTON AVENUE  
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11216

B E F O R E:

ARVA RICE, INTERIM CHAIR

JONATHAN DARCHE, ESQ., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Transcribed by:

Julia M. Speros

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PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA

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1. Call to Order
2. Adoption of the Minutes
3. Remarks from the Chair
4. Remarks from the Executive Director
5. Presentation from the Director of  
Outreach on the CCRB
6. Comment from Community Groups
7. Public Comment
8. Old Business
9. New Business
10. Adjourn to Executive Session

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BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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1. Arva Rice, Interim Board Chair
2. Joseph A. Puma, Board Member
3. Esmeralda Simmons, Esq., Board Member
4. Joe Fox, Board Member
5. AU Hogan, Board Member
6. Michael Rivadeneyra, Esq., Board Member
7. Charlane Brown-Wyands, Esq., Board Member
8. June Northern, Board Member
9. Kevin Jemmott, Board Member
10. John Siegal, Esq., Board Member
11. Frank Dwyer, Board Member
12. Herman Merritt - Board Member

Presenters:

Jahi Rose - Director of Outreach  
New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board

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SPEAKERS

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1. Assembly Member Stefani Zinerman, District 56
2. Ms. Robin, Community Member
3. Council Member Alexa Aviles, District 38
4. Assembly Member Monique Chandler-Waterman,  
District 58
5. Tyler Campbell, Case Manager, Project Restore  
Bed-Stuy (Bridge Street Development Corp.)
6. Jason Bostic, Justice Ambassador, Project  
Restore Bed-Stuy (Bridge Street Development  
Corp.)
7. StacyAnn DeSouza and Mario Menjivar, Brooklyn  
Youth Advocate, Youth Advocacy Corps, MHAP
8. Marva Brown, Public Defender, Legal Aid  
Society
9. Somia El-Rowmeim, Founder, Women's  
Empowerment Coalition NYC (WECNYC)
10. Sara Barrett, Saint Nicks Alliance Workforce  
Development Center, YouthBuild Program
11. Diana Irving, Community Liaison at the  
Connect Program, IDCC Interborough

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SPEAKERS CONTINUED

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- 12. Andrew Case, Supervising Attorney at Latino-Justice PRLDEF
- 13. Antoniqua Roberson-Dancy, MAP Engagement Coordinator, Red Hook Community Justice Center
- 14. Sofia Bailey, - Community Member
- 15. Cyrus Smith, Founder, Brownsville Thinktank Matters/D.R.U.M.
- 16. Rudy Racine, Founder and CEO of Watch The Block
- 17. Nicole Sharpe, SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University
- 18. Anthony Jennings, Youth Development Specialist and Gang Specialist, Life Camp, Queens, New York
- 19. Pamela Stevens, Assembly Member Monique Chandler-Waterman, Public Safety Task Force
- 20. Idris Abdullah, Member, 79th Precinct Community Council

1           SPEAKERS CONTINUED

- 2           =====
- 3           21. Miesha Morales, Constituent Advocate, NYS
- 4                 Senator Jabari Brisport
- 5           22. Terrell Guise, - Representative, Black
- 6                 Opportunity Project
- 7           23. Ms. Jones, Resident, Flatbush Gardens
- 8           24. Santana Browne-Peyton, Board Member,
- 9                 Community Board 3
- 10           25. Daniel Heredia, Representative,
- 11                 Council Member Farah Louis
- 12           26. Assembly Member Brian Cunningham,
- 13                 District 43
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1 PROCEEDINGS

2 MS. ALVAREZ: Good evening,  
3 everyone. For those joining us and  
4 utilizing ASL interpreters, our  
5 interpreters today are Allison Zilg  
6 (phonetic) and Craig Ridgway.

7 You can pin their video and -- or  
8 move them into the equal sign in the  
9 equal view for Webex, and CART services  
10 are -- information (sic) are in the  
11 chat. Thank you.

12 CHAIR RICE: Good evening and  
13 welcome. My name is Arva Rice. I use  
14 she/her pronouns and I am the Interim  
15 Chair of the Civilian Complaint Review  
16 Board. I would like to call the CCRB's  
17 May Public Board Meeting to order.

18 Would the rest of the Board Members  
19 like to introduce themselves, starting  
20 with Joe?

21 MR. PUMA: Oh, sorry. Good evening,  
22 everyone. My name is Joseph Puma. I'm  
23 the City Council Appointee on the Board  
24 from Manhattan.

25 I happen to be a public housing

1 resident hailing from the Lower East  
2 Side and it's great to be here in  
3 Brooklyn tonight.

4 MR. FOX: Good evening. My  
5 apologies. I was speaking with Joseph  
6 and got him in trouble for not starting  
7 on time.

8 My name is Joe Fox. I'm the Police  
9 Commissioner, Keechant Sewell,  
10 Appointee. I did 37 years with the NYPD  
11 and I'm retired for five years. Thank  
12 you.

13 MR. HOGAN: AU Hogan, the City  
14 Council Appointee from Queens. I'm from  
15 southeast Queens. I've been working for  
16 the City for 20 years and welcome  
17 everyone.

18 MR. RIVADENEYRA: Good evening. My  
19 name is Michael Rivadeneyra. I am the  
20 City Council Designee from the Bronx and  
21 I hail from the Bronx. My pronouns are  
22 he and him. Thank you.

23 MS. BROWN-WYANDS: Good evening. My  
24 name is Charlane Brown-Wyands. I am the  
25 Police Commissioner Designee. I hail

1 from Queens, but I was born in Brooklyn,  
2 so I'm back home in Brooklyn and I  
3 retired from the NYPD after 26 years.

4 MR. DARCHE: My name is Jon Darche.  
5 I'm the Executive Director of the agency  
6 and I use he/him pronouns.

7 MS. NORTHERN: Good evening. My  
8 name is June Northern. I'm a Mayoral  
9 Appointee and I'm from Brooklyn.

10 MR. JEMMOTT: Good evening. My name  
11 is Kevin Jemmott. I'm a Mayoral  
12 Appointee and I'm from Queens and spent  
13 my whole life in New York City.

14 MR. SIEGAL: Good evening. John  
15 Siegal. I'm an Appointee of the Mayor  
16 and I practice law in Manhattan.

17 MR. DWYER: Good evening. My name  
18 is Frank Dwyer. I'm a Police  
19 Commissioner Designee and I spent four  
20 years on the corner of Atlantic and  
21 Washington going to high school.

22 So, there were a lot of fond  
23 memories to come back here and I wish I  
24 had bought a house back then for  
25 \$50,000.

1 MR. DARCHE: Esmeralda will be on  
2 soon -- Ms. Simmons will be on soon, but  
3 She's having some technical  
4 difficulties.

5 CHAIR RICE: Terrific. Thank you  
6 and thank you to the Board Members and  
7 thank you for all of you all for joining  
8 us here in-person this evening. It's  
9 great to be back in Brooklyn.

10 I'd like to ask for a motion to  
11 approve the April Board meeting minutes.

12 BOARD MEMBER: The April Board  
13 meeting minutes are approved.

14 CHAIR RICE: Can I get a second?

15 BOARD MEMBER: Second.

16 CHAIR RICE: I'm sorry, I forgot to  
17 ask if there were any -- are there any  
18 changes or corrections to the minutes?

19 (No response.)

20 CHAIR RICE: No -- all right. So,  
21 we'll go with the motion. We have a  
22 motion and we have a second.

23 Hearing none, all those in favor of  
24 approving the minutes as presented, say  
25 "aye".

1 (Chorus of "Ayes".)

2 CHAIR RICE: All those approved --  
3 all those opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 CHAIR RICE: The April Board meeting  
6 minutes are approved. Thank you.

7 On April 24th, the Administrative  
8 Prosecution Unit began their trial  
9 against Police Officers Thompson and  
10 Davis for the killing of Kawaski  
11 Trawick. One week before, Deputy Trial  
12 Commissioner Maldonado tried to dismiss  
13 the wrongful entry specifications  
14 against both officers.

15 In Court, CCRB prosecutors argued  
16 why the CCRB should have the right to  
17 argue the charge and prevailed. The  
18 trial will restart tomorrow morning.

19 Since our last Board meeting, City  
20 Hall has revoked the additional four  
21 percent peg, but still is proposing  
22 cuts. Unfortunately, the current  
23 proposed budget leaves the CCRB with  
24 only 32,000 for overtime budget, which  
25 would not cover our current operating

1 costs and certainly limit us from hiring  
2 more positions.

3 The team this affects the most is  
4 our new unit on racial profiling and  
5 biased-based policing. We originally  
6 requested over 50 positions for this  
7 team and the City Council budgeted 33.  
8 Thus far we have hired 13 team members  
9 and have no budget left to round out the  
10 team.

11 Based on the proposed budget, the  
12 agency intends to resume referring  
13 profiling allegations to the  
14 Department -- the Police Department --  
15 at the end of the fiscal year. This is  
16 not a decision made in haste, but this  
17 agency owes the people of the City an  
18 honest assessment of our ability to do  
19 the work.

20 We are grateful for the City  
21 Council's support as the Council  
22 proposed increasing the agency's budget  
23 by an additional eight million and  
24 allowing us to hire over 90 positions.  
25 We hope for support from OMB on this

1 matter as we currently will have the  
2 funding to fulfill our Charter mandate.

3 The agency is hopeful that this  
4 (sic) circumstances will change so that  
5 we do not have to take this step. I  
6 will update you all at the June Board  
7 Meeting about this situation.

8 I would also like to take a moment  
9 to mourn the death of Jordan Neely and  
10 send my deepest condolences to his  
11 family.

12 Over the past several days, New  
13 Yorkers have exercised their right to  
14 peacefully protest Jordan Neely's death  
15 and how the case has been handled.  
16 Unfortunately, we have already received  
17 several complaints regarding NYPD  
18 intervention during these protests,  
19 including the arrest of a credentialed  
20 photojournalist.

21 The CCRB is here to protect New  
22 Yorkers' rights to peacefully protest  
23 and will work to hold officers who  
24 violated that right accountable.

25 Thank you to Blondel Pinnock, CEO of

1 Restoration Plaza, and Marlon Rice, and  
2 all of the Restoration staff for hosting  
3 us this evening.

4 We will now hear from Executive  
5 Director, Jon Darche, on other agency  
6 updates. Jon?

7 MR. DARCHE: Thank you, Chair Rice.

8 Access to key evidence has been one  
9 of the leading factors delaying CCRB  
10 investigations and protecting  
11 misconduct. Often, records are sealed  
12 because police misconduct took place,  
13 but the CCRB does not have access to  
14 sealed records.

15 In order for the agency to get  
16 access to sealed records, we have to  
17 file unsealing motions, which can take  
18 months, if not years to process.

19 One case that continues to be stalled  
20 for this reason is the CCRB's  
21 prosecution of the officer responsible  
22 for the death of Delrawn Small.

23 The CCRB filed an unsealing motion  
24 in October 2021. After a  
25 year-and-a-half, the Judge decided to

1 unseal the evidence. Unfortunately, the  
2 Patrolmen's Benevolent Association  
3 appealed this decision. The  
4 disciplinary proceeding against the  
5 officer who killed Mr. Small continues  
6 to languish while the appeal goes  
7 forward.

8 The State Legislature currently has  
9 a bill that would grant the CCRB an  
10 exemption from sealing statutes and we  
11 hope for the Legislature's support on  
12 this issue.

13 BWC footage is another key piece of  
14 evidence that is essential to CCRB  
15 investigations. CCRB investigators are  
16 in the best position to search for  
17 body-worn camera footage relevant to  
18 each case. Direct access to body-worn  
19 camera footage would mean cases are  
20 resolved more quickly and more  
21 accurately.

22 The percentage of cases decided on  
23 the merits, which is where the CCRB can  
24 determine, by a preponderance of the  
25 evidence, what actually occurred, goes

1 up, not just substantiations, but also  
2 determining that officers' conduct was  
3 within NYPD guidelines when we have  
4 body-worn camera footage.

5 There is a bill pending before the  
6 City Council now that would give the  
7 CCRB direct access to body-worn camera  
8 footage. This bill is a very strong  
9 bill and we thank the Council for  
10 recognizing it -- recognizing the need  
11 for direct access and hope the bill  
12 passes.

13 Before the meeting resumes, I just  
14 want to inform you of a few quick  
15 things.

16 Our office is open for walk-in  
17 complaints, but it is also possible to  
18 file complaints online at  
19 [nyc.gov/ccrbcomplaint](https://nyc.gov/ccrbcomplaint) -- that is N-Y-C,  
20 dot, G-O-V, slash,  
21 C-C-R-B-C-O-M-P-L-A-I-N-T -- or by  
22 telephone at 1-800-341-2272 or by  
23 dialling 311.

24 If anyone wishes to file a complaint  
25 tonight, we have three investigators

1 on-hand ready to take new complaints or  
2 information about complaints we've  
3 already received. Those investigators  
4 are Emma Stydahar, Rob Bryan -- oh, we  
5 have four people here today -- Ethan  
6 Waterman and Delali Madison.

7 We have to end this meeting by 8:30  
8 tonight because there is an extremely  
9 complicated case the full Board needs to  
10 review in executive session, so I'm  
11 going to ask you all to respect your  
12 neighbors and keep your comments to  
13 four minutes.

14 If you're watching this online and  
15 wish to make -- and wish to participate  
16 in the public comment portion of the  
17 meeting, please make sure you use the  
18 raise your hand function.

19 I want to thank the staff of the  
20 CCRB for their hard work and thanks  
21 again to the members of the public who  
22 came here tonight. We truly appreciate  
23 your interest.

24 CHAIR RICE: Thank you, Jon.

25 Does anyone have any questions of

1 our Executive Director?

2 (No response.)

3 CHAIR RICE: Do any Board Members  
4 have any questions for the Executive  
5 Director?

6 (No response.)

7 CHAIR RICE: Okay -- all right.  
8 Seeing none, we're going to have a  
9 presentation --

10 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: (Indiscernible.)

11 CHAIR RICE: Ma'am, we're going to  
12 have an open portion of the meeting  
13 shortly in just a few moments. Okay.  
14 Thank you so much.

15 We're going to have a presentation  
16 from our Director of Outreach, Mr. Jahi  
17 Rose. Jahi?

18 MR. ROSE: Good evening, everyone.  
19 Thank you for attending. Thank you very  
20 much, Chair.

21 My name is Jahi Rose. I am the  
22 Director of Outreach for the Civilian  
23 Complaint Review Board. I go by he/him  
24 pronouns and we're just going to share  
25 some information about what the CCRB

1 does, so bear with me for one moment.

2 So, the CCRB is a City agency. We  
3 are the largest oversight entity over  
4 the largest police force in the country.  
5 The CCRB investigates, mediates, and in  
6 some cases administratively prosecutes  
7 allegations of misconduct alleged  
8 against members of the NYPD.

9 The CCRB is governed by a 15 member  
10 Board. You've met many of our Board  
11 Members today. Five Board Members are  
12 appointed by the Mayor; five are  
13 appointed by the New York City Council.  
14 Three are designated by the Police  
15 Commissioner and one is appointed by the  
16 Public -- New York City Public Advocate.  
17 The Chair is jointly appointed by the  
18 City Council and New York City Mayor.

19 The CCRB can accept allegations of  
20 force against members of the NYPD. The  
21 allegations that we can investigate are  
22 FADO, force, abuse of authority,  
23 discourtesy, and offensive language.

24 As I mentioned, FADO is actually a  
25 helpful reminder to help you to remember

1 what our -- what the jurisdiction is.

2 Just a few facts about the

3 Right-to-Know Act:

4 The Right-to-Know Act was a law that  
5 went into effect in October of 2018.

6 The law impacts interactions between  
7 members of the public and the New York  
8 City Police Department, which include  
9 officers identifying themselves, such as  
10 providing their name, badge number,  
11 rank, command to members of the public,  
12 and in -- in some -- with some  
13 exceptions, officers should be telling  
14 you the purpose of the encounter or the  
15 intersection.

16 Officers should in some cases inform  
17 you of a right to say "no" when they're  
18 asking you to search -- for your consent  
19 to search your person, property, and/or  
20 home, or vehicle -- and officers, in  
21 certain circumstances, should be  
22 offering you a business card.

23 This business card has identifying  
24 information for the officer and  
25 information as to how you can file a

1 comment and/or complaint about the  
2 interaction with you and that officer.  
3 Civilians can request these business  
4 cards in all encounters.

5 This is a copy of what the business  
6 card looks like. (Indicating.)

7 Now, there are few different ways to  
8 file complaints to the CCRB. Just to  
9 name some of the easier ways, one is by  
10 going online and filing it at  
11 [nyc.gov/ccrbcomplaint](https://nyc.gov/ccrbcomplaint). You can also  
12 call the CCRB's hotline at  
13 1-800-341-CCRB, also 1-800-341-2272.

14 Remember, if you see footage of  
15 misconduct on social media or on the  
16 news, you can feel free to file a  
17 complaint, even if you were not there in  
18 person. Our typical hash -- our typical  
19 handle for the CCRB is `ccrb_nyc`.

20 Other ways to file a complaint with  
21 the CCRB are by calling 311. You can  
22 also come to the CCRB's office in lower  
23 Manhattan at 100 Church Street on the  
24 10th floor.

25 You can also file complaints with us

1 on social media. Our platforms are  
2 Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. As I  
3 mentioned, the handle is typically  
4 ccrb\_nyc. You can also file a complaint  
5 in the mail by sending it to 100 Church  
6 Street, 10th Floor, New York, New York,  
7 zip code 10007.

8 You can also file a complaint at any  
9 local police precinct. It does not have  
10 to be the precinct where the interaction  
11 may have taken place. Officers are  
12 required to accept CCRB complaints at  
13 all precincts. You can also request a  
14 complaint form and a postage-free  
15 envelope.

16 If you'd like an Outreach  
17 presentation or informational  
18 presentation about what the CCRB does  
19 for virtually anyone in your community,  
20 community organizations, friends,  
21 family, feel free to reach out to the  
22 CCRB's Outreach Team at  
23 outreach@ccrb.nyc.gov. You can also  
24 follow the CCRB on social media on  
25 Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook.

1 Thank you -- thank you, Chair.

2 CHAIR RICE: Do the Board Members  
3 have any questions of Mr. Rose?

4 (No response.)

5 CHAIR RICE: All right. Thank you  
6 -- thank you for the presentation.

7 I want to ask our Assemblywoman for  
8 -- that represents this community, Ms.  
9 -- Assembly Member Stefani Zinerman, if  
10 you would like to make a public comment.

11 MS. ZINERMAN: Good to see you.  
12 Good evening, everyone. It is wonderful  
13 to see this room filled. This is a very  
14 important civic moment for our community  
15 to host the CCRB for this month.

16 I am the sitting Assembly Member for  
17 Bedford-Stuyvesant and Northern Crown  
18 Heights, the 56, and I want to first  
19 start out by just thanking these  
20 wonderful public servants that are  
21 sitting behind the microphones.

22 Across this -- thank you --  
23 absolutely. It's important to know that  
24 we have about 700 municipalities just in  
25 New York State. There's only about 200

1 CCRBs across the nation and so it just  
2 really underscores just how important  
3 this work is.

4 We've all lived through a pandemic.  
5 We've lived -- if you're as old as I --  
6 at least a half century of looking at  
7 police abuses across the country, some  
8 very deadly ones that we all remember  
9 and we still say their names -- and so  
10 what they do and what you do as a  
11 community is so important.

12 We don't ever want to get to a point  
13 where we are too afraid to raise our  
14 voices, to use the resources that are  
15 available to you through the CCRB.

16 And I know sometimes when people  
17 have been terrorized, and hurt, and are  
18 ashamed because they were victimized --  
19 they don't want to come before another  
20 municipal body in order to make a  
21 complaint -- but we've invested time and  
22 money in their ability to sit before  
23 you, and listen to what has happened to  
24 you, and advocate on your behalf.

25 So, I thank you for trusting this

1 process and coming here tonight, and  
2 please spread the word, and as always,  
3 we thank you all for what you do as  
4 well. Thank you so much and have a  
5 great meeting.

6 (Indiscernible audio.)

7 CHAIR RICE: Ms. Robin, you wanted  
8 to make a comment as well.

9 MS. ROBIN: Good evening, everyone.

10 Certainly, as the Assembly Member --  
11 as the Assembly Member has spoken, in  
12 terms of that it's important to raise  
13 your voices.

14 So, I just want to say good evening  
15 to all of you and thank you, Ms. Rice,  
16 and for the members of the Board, thank  
17 you for being here this evening, and all  
18 of you that have assembled because so  
19 often that we're in the street  
20 protesting and then we say, "Who do we  
21 protest and have a voice to say  
22 something to".

23 So, I just want to say this, when I  
24 was in the City Council, there was no  
25 CCRB, but then we were able to because

1 people raised their voices, there became  
2 a CCRB. So, you have an opportunity  
3 this evening to speak up and say what's  
4 on your mind and what's on your heart.

5 And, as I saw that -- they talked  
6 about what your rights are -- even if  
7 you see something on footage and you  
8 think it's not the right thing, you have  
9 an opportunity to speak on it.

10 So, have a good evening and please  
11 speak up. Thank you.

12 CHAIR RICE: Thank you so much for  
13 those comments and for encouraging  
14 people to speak up and to speak out.

15 We also have, joining us virtually,  
16 City Councilwoman Alexa Aviles, if she  
17 wanted to make her comments virtually.

18 MS. AVILES: Hi, everyone. Good  
19 evening. I'm happy to be here. My name  
20 is Council Member Alexa Aviles. I  
21 represent District 38 in South Brooklyn  
22 encompassing the neighborhoods of Red  
23 Hook and Sunset Park.

24 Just glad to be here and listen to  
25 the conversation and the services that

1 CCRB offers our citizens. So, thank you  
2 so much.

3 CHAIR RICE: Thank you and thank you  
4 for joining us. We appreciate it.

5 We will now hear from local  
6 community leaders and we want to thank  
7 you so much for joining us.

8 As a reminder, as you heard from our  
9 Executive Director, we want to keep your  
10 comments to four minutes, and, Yojaira,  
11 I'm going to ask you if you could please  
12 call on our first speaker.

13 MS. ALVAREZ: Thank you, Chair.

14 First, we will be hearing from Tyler  
15 Campbell, who is joining us in person,  
16 and then followed by Assembly Member  
17 Monique Chandler-Waterman.

18 CHAIR RICE: I believe I missed  
19 Assemblywoman Monique Chandler-Waterman.

20 MS. CHANDLER-WATERMAN: Yes, hello?

21 (No response.)

22 MS. CHANDLER-WATERMAN: Hello?

23 CHAIR RICE: If he can make his way  
24 to the podium, that will be fine, and  
25 before you go, we're just going to ask

1           our Assemblywoman if she could make some  
2           remarks. Thank you.

3           MS. CHANDLER-WATERMAN: Okay. Thank  
4           you so much. Thank you all so much for  
5           organizing. Thank you to the CCRB team.  
6           Thank you to my colleague, Assemblywoman  
7           Stefani Zinerman, for all the things she  
8           has done in that district.

9           So, I want to first say that I have  
10          been working with CCRB for a very long  
11          time in our street engagement and I had  
12          the privilege of working with Jahi Rose,  
13          Director of Outreach, and then passed  
14          onto Venus Scantlebury, who I understand  
15          will be our Outreach coordinator here in  
16          District 58 covering East Flatbush,  
17          Carnasie --

18                 (Transmission Disruption.)

19          MS. CHANDLER-WATERMAN: Can you hear  
20          me?

21          CHAIR RICE: Just one moment.

22          MS. CHANDLER-WATERMAN: Hello --  
23          hello, can you hear me?

24          CHAIR RICE: We can still hear you.

25          MS. CHANDLER-WATERMAN: Hello, can

1           you still hear me?

2           CHAIR RICE: You were explaining the  
3           territories that you -- the districts  
4           that you represent.

5           MS. CHANDLER-WATERMAN: Hello --  
6           yes. Okay. Perfect. It sounded kind  
7           of low, so I'm going to continue  
8           talking.

9           So, I had the privilege to work with  
10          CCRB. We have done -- I have a mental  
11          health task force that I've created  
12          since I've been in office, and a public  
13          safety task force, and CCRB has been  
14          very instrumental in those task forces  
15          and we have task force members in the  
16          group right now. They're in front of  
17          you today.

18          We've also got "Occupy the Corner"  
19          and a safety alliance, where we've  
20          blocked off streets and we flood with  
21          resources in hot spot areas. CCRB has  
22          been very instrumental in going to  
23          community members, hearing their  
24          complaints.

25          As you know, our community is

1           overrun by police brutality and just by  
2           having that lending voice and the  
3           resources that they can use and be armed  
4           with information, so I really appreciate  
5           the services and action on the ground --  
6           being on the ground speaking directly  
7           and connecting people where they're at.

8           I really appreciate that and I'd  
9           like to continue our partnership with  
10          CCRB in any way we can further partner,  
11          I'd be greatly appreciative.

12          So, thank you, again, to Jahi Rose  
13          for your leadership in our district and  
14          I look forward to working with Venus  
15          Scantlebury. Thank you so much,  
16          everyone.

17          CHAIR RICE: Thank you -- thank you  
18          so much for the comments and for your  
19          partnership.

20          And so we're going to go to our  
21          community leaders in the room. So, if  
22          you could just state your name once  
23          again and bring your comment.

24          MR. CAMPBELL: Thank you. Good  
25          evening, everyone. My name is Tyler

1 Campbell. I come to you all on behalf  
2 of Project Restore Bed-Stuy, which is  
3 sponsored by the Bridge Street  
4 Corporation for Development.

5 I had a set of remarks that I was  
6 going to say today, but I was challenged  
7 with speaking from the heart, and so  
8 that's what I'll do. I'm going to keep  
9 it brief, but I want to say I am --  
10 often come to events like these cause  
11 I'm often disillusioned by what actually  
12 happens and what comes of these kinds of  
13 conversations.

14 But what I will say is that in my  
15 work that we do inside of Project  
16 Restore, we work with, what you might  
17 label, at-risk young men, but I call  
18 them the young men who the City casts  
19 aside -- right -- and one of our young  
20 men just recently had a situation --  
21 regular situation actually with Brooklyn  
22 police where he was accosted, illegally  
23 searched, and beaten by police -- right  
24 -- and I asked him to come here. I  
25 asked him to speak. I asked him to file

1 a complaint.

2 You know what he said? He said,  
3 "Hell, no". He said, "I would not do  
4 such a thing". I look around this room  
5 right now and I can count on my hand the  
6 number of young people in this room,  
7 right.

8 So, I'm curious what we're doing in  
9 terms of how are we reaching out to  
10 young people, and how are we really  
11 getting outside in our communities, and  
12 what are we actually doing in the first  
13 place -- right -- because this is what  
14 I'm concerned about the most.

15 But instead of me taking up -- cause  
16 I only have four minutes -- I want to  
17 pass it to one of my young people who  
18 was brave enough to come here and speak  
19 on some of his beliefs and, you know,  
20 thoughts on actually what we can do  
21 about this.

22 So, I'll pass it to you, Jason.

23 MR. BOSTIC: How are you all doing?  
24 Good evening. My name is Jason Bostic.  
25 I'm a -- my name is Jason Bostic,

1 Justice Ambassador and I said a  
2 post-interaction should be prominent on  
3 problem-solving more than problem  
4 escalating.

5 I said, the most common problem in  
6 my community on a marginal society is  
7 stereotyping. Everybody on my  
8 four-block radius is considered  
9 criminals. After I work two jobs and go  
10 to my internship at Columbia University,  
11 I shouldn't be harassed by police after  
12 a long day of activities.

13 I'm judged based on how I look with  
14 dreadlocks and tattoos, than rather who  
15 I am. Detectives don't follow the New  
16 York State law in my community and stop  
17 and frisk anyone who looks suspicious,  
18 but it's usually people who look like  
19 me.

20 I've been hopped-out and followed  
21 before to my apartment door with my  
22 shirt being pulled up and crouch being  
23 grabbed. It became so traumatizing that  
24 I changed how I dress. I said, what the  
25 CCRB can do to build trust and

1 awareness, and train these police in our  
2 neighborhoods who are from other  
3 communities, in social skills.

4 These cops are normal people taking  
5 tests to become cops and not taking  
6 actual assessments to control the  
7 situation. These cops are scared of us  
8 and the community we're in. Train these  
9 cops in sociology to allow them to learn  
10 skills to see when a person is scarred  
11 from trauma and have disabilities, and  
12 not causing a problem -- and that goes  
13 for people who are war veterans and  
14 people who are troubled kids in the  
15 middle of the United States who shoot up  
16 schools.

17 MR. CAMPBELL: Give it up for Jason  
18 -- give it up for Jason -- give it up  
19 for Jason, you all.

20 MR. BOSTIC: Thank you for this  
21 opportunity. We appreciate it.

22 CHAIR RICE: -- Tyler and thank you,  
23 Jason, for coming and representing for  
24 so many young people. We do appreciate  
25 your comments.

1 I'm going to ask if Jon wants to  
2 talk at all about our Youth Advisory  
3 Board and see if there are any other  
4 members of the Board who want to make a  
5 comment as well.

6 MR. DARCHE: Thank you, Madam Chair  
7 chair.

8 So, Jason, I just wanted to thank  
9 you for sharing your truth with us here  
10 today. I thought it was very powerful,  
11 and, Tyler, you know, one of the things  
12 that -- we don't just come to the  
13 community every other month when we're  
14 doing Board meetings. Our Outreach Team  
15 goes to groups like yours to talk to  
16 people and let them know about the  
17 agency.

18 And so if there is -- if there --  
19 there's a way for Jahi, or Venus, or  
20 anyone else from our Outreach Team to  
21 come to your organization and other  
22 organizations in this neighborhood that  
23 have people who need to hear about our  
24 agency and what we do, we will go there.

25 And one of the great things about

1           these Board Members is that they also  
2           serve as advocates and ambassadors for  
3           the agency -- and I know that Mr.  
4           Jemmott is doing something in his  
5           neighborhood tomorrow night and has  
6           invited Jahi to join him -- so, these  
7           are -- this is a giant city and we do  
8           not have a lot of resources.

9           There are less than 250 people at  
10          the CCRB to have oversight over a police  
11          force with 50,000 employees and in a  
12          City of 8 million people. So, we need  
13          your help to let people know that we are  
14          here, and just by being here, you folks  
15          are helping us educate the community  
16          about what we can do and why we're here.

17          One of the other things the Chair  
18          mentioned is a Youth Advisory Council  
19          that we have because we know it is  
20          important, not just to hear from the  
21          leaders and elders of our community, but  
22          also from the young people who are kind  
23          of at the sharp end of encounters with  
24          the police and we need to hear from them  
25          what they are feeling and what they are

1           experiencing.

2           MR. CAMPBELL: Quickly, just to go  
3 back to that point that you just made, I  
4 appreciate you responding like that and  
5 I want to ask, right, what is actually  
6 going to come of, you know, increasing  
7 this CCRB, cause my question is -- right  
8 -- to me, what this shows -- right -- as  
9 you said, right, you only have a certain  
10 number of people who over see this work  
11 -- and I appreciate you all for doing  
12 this work -- but isn't that emblematic  
13 of where are our resource and where our  
14 attention actually goes?

15           If we have 50,000 officers -- right  
16 -- NYPD, but we have how many people  
17 that are supposed to be doing this work  
18 to hold them accountable, right. I  
19 mean, we wonder why our communities  
20 aren't safe.

21           But I think it's so interesting,  
22 right, if you come and you walk through  
23 Roosevelt Projects, you walk through  
24 Brevoort, you walk through Marcy, you  
25 know what you'll run into, police

1           everywhere and you know what happens in  
2           all those neighborhoods, crime and  
3           violence. You know why, because they're  
4           not preventing crime at all.

5           They're merely just responding --  
6           right -- and when they respond, they're  
7           often -- as Jason mentioned -- harassing  
8           the wrong people and we come to these  
9           places -- we come to these things and we  
10          always want to, you know, have our  
11          voices heard. But my thing is, as one  
12          of the people who was up here a moment  
13          ago -- we've been talking about these  
14          issues since, what, 1990 -- 1980, 19  
15          whatever -- you feel what I'm saying --  
16          19 whatever, we said -- right -- you  
17          feel what I'm saying?

18          It has been the same issues, the  
19          same problems. We get the body cams.  
20          We do this thing. We do that thing and  
21          we hear about the bad apples. Oh, the  
22          bad apples -- right -- and my question  
23          is -- not my question, but my statement  
24          really is, the full bad apple analogy  
25          that we love to talk about is, so many

1 bad apples spoil the rotten tree --  
2 right -- and if we were talking about so  
3 many bad apples, it's not a few bad  
4 apples. It's the actual tree itself.

5 And so if I can leave you all with  
6 anything, it's that I truly believe and  
7 know the NYPD is in fact the biggest  
8 gang in New York City and we have all  
9 these gang task forces that are designed  
10 to, you know, shut down and get on gang  
11 forces, but we don't actually look at  
12 NYPD -- right -- and the governing body,  
13 you all, whose job it is, is  
14 under-resourced and doesn't have enough  
15 money to do so.

16 And so my challenge to the City  
17 really is, you know, how are we going to  
18 do that -- right -- and so I apologize  
19 for taking up more time, and, you know,  
20 by me putting my face up here, I might  
21 become a target of NYPD. So, if you all  
22 want to come get me, you all know where  
23 to find me. Free to God.

24 CHAIR RICE: Thank you, Tyler, for  
25 your comment.

1 I believe Board Member AU had a  
2 response.

3 MR. HOGAN: (Inaudible) -- actually,  
4 it might've been 1790 since we've been  
5 having these conversations.

6 I want to coin this phrase to you,  
7 Tyler. There's a phrase that says,  
8 "Culture eats strategy for breakfast".  
9 You bear witness to that?

10 MR. CAMPBELL: Yes.

11 MR. HOGAN: Yes - and so when you  
12 look at the culture of policing and the  
13 culture of young people, I don't want  
14 the young brother to change his identity  
15 cause part of how he dresses is who he  
16 is and that's his identity.

17 So -- but you can't be afraid  
18 also -- and I'm not saying you, but our  
19 people -- afraid to look at agencies  
20 that really are representing them and  
21 because of the bureaucracy, it looks  
22 like that we're not.

23 Okay. So, you can Google us. You  
24 see we're doing the work outside this  
25 meeting. You know, we dressed up for

1           you. We didn't dress up for us. All  
2           right. We're dressing up for the public  
3           to make sure that we look enough --  
4           respectful enough that when these things  
5           that happen -- these things -- we are  
6           almost traumatized by the stuff that we  
7           have to vote on.

8           We are traumatized by the budget --  
9           and if you go into OMB -- Office of  
10          Management and Budget -- there is a  
11          question why so much money is going here  
12          and so much money is not going. It's  
13          intentional and so how do we galvanize  
14          the population to look at the  
15          intentional things that happen in these  
16          seven congressional districts that --  
17          where most of the crime comes from and  
18          where most of the policing is present.

19          So, it doesn't show that policing is  
20          stopping the crime. So, now if you know  
21          and are aware of the Summer of Violence  
22          -- we're in it now, right -- that each  
23          -- there are five precincts in Brooklyn,  
24          three in the Bronx, three in southeast  
25          Queens -- that are getting 40 new police

1 officers daily to address the crime that  
2 mostly, when the Mayor says, that the  
3 crime is leaving.

4 So, let's just be careful and really  
5 make sure that we take care of us and  
6 ours and don't be afraid to invite more  
7 people and -- what Jahi Rose -- the  
8 brother that does the strategy of going  
9 out and getting people to be aware and  
10 conscious of what CCRB does, don't be  
11 afraid to get young people to become a  
12 part of that because that's what is.

13 As Jay Hughes says, there's levels  
14 to this and young people got to learn  
15 the levels to it. Thank you, Brother.

16 CHAIR RICE: We have our -- Yojaira,  
17 can we have our next person?

18 MS. ALVAREZ: Yes, Madam Chair.

19 Next, we'll be hearing from StacyAnn  
20 DeSouza and Mario Menjivar for Youth  
21 Advocacy Corp. of the Mental Health  
22 Awareness Project.

23 MR. DARCHE: I know there are people  
24 who want to make comments and there will  
25 be an opportunity for that at the end.

1 We will hear from folks who are in the  
2 room.

3 MR. MENJIVAR: Yes, hello. My name  
4 is Mario. I go by he/him pronouns and  
5 I'm with Youth Advocacy Corp., such as  
6 StacyAnn.

7 MS. DESOUZA: StacyAnn. I go by  
8 she/her.

9 MR. MENJIVAR: It is -- so far, it's  
10 an amazing work that CCRB does and I'm  
11 proud to be here today.

12 For the Youth Advocacy Corp., I'm  
13 representing MHAP, which is the Mental  
14 Health Awareness Project here and it's  
15 created to increase the importance of  
16 mental health awareness and our project  
17 works to normalize conversations around  
18 mental health and guarantee that those  
19 who need it can get to it and ensure  
20 that everyone knows that it's okay to  
21 not be okay.

22 And speaking of conversations from  
23 before, something that should be brought  
24 to the community member, likewise,  
25 should be town halls where we share

1 concerns on police officers and  
2 patrolling in the neighborhoods and all  
3 that directly -- all this has direct  
4 contact with the community members.

5 This is something that we have seen  
6 and experienced on the ground -- me and  
7 StacyAnn -- that students during the  
8 mental health workshops share that they  
9 don't feel safe with policing in their  
10 schools. They share the feelings of  
11 anxiety throughout our workshops and  
12 overall, there's no police community  
13 bond in the schools that we have visited  
14 and -- which is something that does need  
15 improvement.

16 Passing onto StacyAnn on this  
17 matter.

18 MS. DESOUZA: All right. Here are  
19 some of the topics that I -- all right.

20 So, one of the main concerns was  
21 definitely students feeling anxiety and  
22 stress about having heavy policing in  
23 the classroom, heavy policing by the  
24 train station.

25 So, when they come out of the train

1 station, they don't mind having police  
2 officers at the train station, but,  
3 like, when they come out of school and  
4 they have, like, a whole group, like,  
5 it's very overwhelming for them.

6 So, they suggested to reduce the  
7 amount of officers and find ways to  
8 communicate with the young adults and  
9 the youths in a positive way so that  
10 they have -- the officers have empathy  
11 and to have less biases in diverse  
12 communities so that they know how to  
13 handle situations and to make the  
14 students feel safe.

15 One of the ways that the City can  
16 improve their communication with the  
17 community is definitely increasing and  
18 expanding the resources available. We  
19 learned about CCRB from Venus and she  
20 came to our program and did a workshop.  
21 So, that's where we learned about it as  
22 a group.

23 So, I think it's important for us  
24 to, like, share it with our community  
25 and find more ways to get the young

1 people involved by letting them know  
2 about their rights -- and even the  
3 adults, for them to know their rights  
4 fine, and creative ways to do it at  
5 resource fairs -- maybe the Advisory  
6 Board for the youths -- to come out and  
7 do, like, maybe, like, plays or videos  
8 to kind of, like, send a message in  
9 different ways so that the community  
10 could receive it in different ways as  
11 well -- and that's it.

12 MR. MENJIVAR: And I have one last  
13 thing to add to wrap it all up is that  
14 police officers should lead by example  
15 with and without their uniforms, and to  
16 give -- and to get respect, they have to  
17 give respect.

18 MS. DESOUZA: Yes, like Sergeant  
19 Clark and Venus, they set examples and  
20 they help us to really see the community  
21 in a different way, no matter the color  
22 of our skin.

23 CHAIR RICE: Thank you so much,  
24 Mario and StacyAnn for that presentation  
25 and for your thoughtful strategies for

1           ways in which we can do a better job of  
2           getting the work of CCRB out, as well as  
3           to improve policing community relations.

4           So, I want to thank you so much for  
5           your thoughtfully put together  
6           presentation.

7           Jon, did you have anything you  
8           wanted to add?

9           MR. DARCHE: No, that -- but I did  
10          hope that you guys are interested in the  
11          Youth Advisory Committee for the CCRB  
12          and think about joining when we next  
13          open our applications.

14          CHAIR RICE: As Jon stated, we are  
15          going to have those folks who have not  
16          already signed up to speak that are in  
17          the room, we'll definitely have your  
18          opportunity to speak.

19          So, when I call out for Yojaira, I'm  
20          asking her to let us know those folks  
21          who have already signed up to speak, but  
22          we will get to everyone.

23          So, Yojaira, would you please call  
24          on our next speaker?

25          MS. ALVAREZ: Yes, our next invited

1 speaker is Marva Brown, Public Defender  
2 at Legal Aid Society.

3 MS. BROWN: Good evening, everyone.  
4 My name is Marva Brown. I am a lawyer  
5 with the Legal Aid Society.

6 I've been a practicing attorney for  
7 16 years and in that time, I've been a  
8 public defender representing clients who  
9 have been arrested by the NYPD and I've  
10 also done work with City Council  
11 members, the Brooklyn Borough  
12 President's Office, to help them with  
13 their constituent affairs in instances  
14 where the clients may not have been  
15 arrested and have criminal charges  
16 pending against them, but they have had  
17 interactions with NYPD officers where  
18 they want to make complaints because  
19 they have been wronged or abused by  
20 officers of the NYPD.

21 I am also a resident of the North  
22 Crown Heights community. This year  
23 makes 20 years of me living in Brooklyn  
24 and I'm a proud Brooklyn resident. I  
25 work in our community. I'm a member of

1 Brooklyn Community Board 8. I'm on the  
2 Board of the Families and Friends of the  
3 Wrongfully Convicted. I do work with  
4 Save Our Streets and other  
5 community-based organizations where I've  
6 had the opportunity to speak to young  
7 people.

8 I think the men that spoke already  
9 did well to address the problems that  
10 are had within our community. So, I'll  
11 move onto what can the City do to  
12 improve community relations between the  
13 police and the community, and the one  
14 thing I wanted to point out to you all  
15 is that the CCRB and the police should  
16 not let police get away with lying.

17 The CCRB must investigate and the  
18 NYPD must root-out and punish false,  
19 misleading statements that are made by  
20 officers.

21 We heard from Mr. Jahi about abuse  
22 of authority, but I did not hear him  
23 mention the change that came into effect  
24 on March 26, 2021 where abuse of  
25 authority now includes untruthful

1 testimony and written statements made  
2 against members of the public.

3 As a public defender, I can't count  
4 how many times I've met a client in  
5 arraignments and I read a Criminal Court  
6 Complaint to them, and they said,  
7 "That's a lie. I didn't do that.  
8 That's not what happened. That's not  
9 where I was. That's not what I had",  
10 and then we are left with -- charged  
11 with trying to prove a person's  
12 innocence based on false and misleading  
13 statements.

14 We know that false and misleading  
15 statements by police officers make  
16 people lose their liberty, their  
17 inability to take care of their  
18 families, be home, take care of their  
19 children and work so that they can  
20 support their families.

21 The scourge of criminal contacts is  
22 a terrible thing because we see in the  
23 media every day what society thinks of  
24 criminals. Also, we know that lying  
25 officers lead to wrongful convictions.

1 I know that sometimes a person who  
2 has pending charges against them does  
3 not cooperate with the CCRB. They don't  
4 make statements to the CCRB because that  
5 is in protection of their constitutional  
6 rights and CCRB investigators need to be  
7 trained to understand why people do not  
8 make statements against them when there  
9 are allegations against the officers.

10 False misleading statements during  
11 CCRB interviews, or false statements  
12 during court proceedings, must be taken  
13 into consideration by the CCRB, whether  
14 it's in official paperwork or Criminal  
15 Court Complaints, or even lying on the  
16 stand when they're testifying at trials  
17 and hearings.

18 As an attorney, I've represented  
19 clients where, in court, officers are  
20 found in-credible. This needs to be  
21 addressed by the CCRB and the NYPD. We  
22 have hosts of cases of officers who have  
23 been found in-credible. Gun suppressed,  
24 charges dropped, cases dismissed because  
25 officers are lying on the stand. What

1 is the CCRB doing about that? What are  
2 the investigators doing? Are they  
3 trained to investigate and recognize  
4 false and misleading statements?

5 CCRB investigators must also weigh  
6 civilian testimony equally against  
7 officer testimony. Where they meet with  
8 civilians, they should give the same  
9 weight to civilian testimony as they  
10 give to officers. CCRB investigators  
11 should be trained on the impact of  
12 pending criminal charges on their  
13 investigations and let the public know  
14 how it impacts their determination  
15 findings.

16 Finally, if the City wants to build  
17 police/community relations, the  
18 Commissioner's frequent deviation from  
19 CCRB recommendations must stop -- must  
20 stop because it is an impediment to  
21 change. Thank you.

22 CHAIR RICE: Thank you, Ms. Brown  
23 for that powerful testimony and your  
24 underscoring of the newest area that the  
25 CCRB has power and authority, and that

1 is in false and misleading statements  
2 and I'm going to have our Executive  
3 Director speak a little bit about our  
4 work in that area.

5 MR. DARCHE: Thank you, Madam Chair.

6 Ms. Brown, one of the things the  
7 agency does when civilians have -- make  
8 complaints, or alleged victims of  
9 complaints that have been made by other  
10 people, but still have pending criminal  
11 charges, is we allow them to close the  
12 case pending the completion of that  
13 litigation and then we follow-up with  
14 them and reopen those cases and conduct  
15 investigations so that we can get to the  
16 final determination after the civilian  
17 can make a statement without impacting  
18 their criminal case, and that is a  
19 relatively recent change that we made --  
20 or maybe I'm just very old and it is not  
21 so recent.

22 Our Chief of Investigations looked  
23 at me when I said "relatively recent"  
24 and shook his head. So, that's why I  
25 realized it's probably not as recent as

1 I thought it was.

2 The -- the other thing about how we  
3 credit civilian and member of service  
4 testimony is we do not favor one party's  
5 statement over the other. We -- we look  
6 for whether it is extrinsic evidence  
7 that can confirm or deny parts of a  
8 person's story or we look at the  
9 elements of the story itself so that we  
10 can find out what has happened in an  
11 event.

12 One of the real things that has  
13 helped the agency make those  
14 determinations is the expansion of the  
15 presence of video in our lives, not just  
16 body-worn camera video, but surveillance  
17 video and the video camera that almost  
18 all of us carry in our hands these days,  
19 and the agency has made real strides in  
20 not just accepting the video from the  
21 public and getting the video from the  
22 police department, but in how we analyze  
23 that video and it's one of the things  
24 that the Investigations Unit is very  
25 good at and that I take a lot of pride

1 in.

2 But we have also trained our  
3 investigators to use trauma-informed  
4 investigative techniques so that we --  
5 our investigators, when they're talking  
6 to civilians and getting their  
7 statements, are cognizant that the  
8 civilian -- the person we're speaking to  
9 may have encountered a real trauma  
10 before they came to us, whether it is  
11 the incident that they're complaining  
12 about or other traumas in their lives  
13 and we really focus on -- in using that  
14 to inform how we get the information and  
15 we evaluate the information.

16 So, with regard to untruthful  
17 statements made by members of service,  
18 the agency has jurisdiction not only  
19 over untruthful statements made to the  
20 CCRB, but as Ms. Brown noted, we have  
21 jurisdiction over untruthful statements  
22 made by members of service in other  
23 entities.

24 So, if an officer makes a false  
25 statement on a Criminal Court Complaint

1 or while they're testifying at a hearing  
2 or a trial, those are -- that is  
3 misconduct that falls in the CCRB's  
4 jurisdiction and if we receive a  
5 complaint about it, we will investigate  
6 it.

7 CHAIR RICE: Thank you -- thank you,  
8 Jon, and thank you, again, Ms. Brown,  
9 for your testimony.

10 Yojaira, would please call the next  
11 speaker?

12 MS. ALVAREZ: Thank you, Madam  
13 Chair.

14 Our final invited speaker before  
15 going into public session is Somia  
16 El-Rowmeim, founder of the Woman  
17 Empowerment Coalition.

18 MS. EL-ROWMEIM: Good evening,  
19 everyone. In the beginning, I want to  
20 say thank you so much for CCRB for the  
21 work that they do and for reaching out  
22 to the community to educate them about  
23 their rights and what they can do if  
24 they face any issue with the policing.

25 As a community activist who has been

1 working with the Arab community in South  
2 Brooklyn for more than 15 years, I have  
3 been witnessing a lot of issues when it  
4 comes to policing, especially when it  
5 comes to the domestic violence survivor.

6 I have been witnessing that a lot of  
7 domestic violence survivor who have been  
8 through abusive relationship, they tried  
9 as much as they can, not to reach out to  
10 the police and call on their husband  
11 because they do not feel safe. And  
12 especially, like, you know, when --  
13 like, there is some, like, you know,  
14 cases that have happen and they call the  
15 police.

16 Like, you know, the police officers  
17 who came to the house, whether they  
18 don't speak the language and they end up  
19 hearing from the abuser and ignoring  
20 what the survivor is saying or they  
21 don't understand with the culture, there  
22 is a culture barrier, which is a huge  
23 thing and ending up taking the woman to  
24 the precinct and that's -- that has  
25 actually happened in my community.

1           While she's -- like, you know, she's  
2           the survivor. She gets hit by her  
3           husband and end up, they take their  
4           kids, like, and they, like, stood by the  
5           husband because there is a relationship  
6           between the husband and the police  
7           officer. He know him.

8           That's exactly what happened and  
9           it's really sad to see that happening  
10          and when we had that -- like,  
11          (indiscernible) came over to our  
12          organization to start doing these type  
13          of training about what they can do, we  
14          start hearing a lot of stories about,  
15          like, you know, how -- like, our  
16          community do not trust police. That's  
17          really sad. We need to build this  
18          trust.

19          How we can build it, there are a lot  
20          of things that we can do. We need to  
21          train the police officers, whether --  
22          when it comes to culture things or it  
23          comes to how to deal with the Muslim  
24          women -- hijab-wearing women. That's  
25          one of the things that we need to, like,

1           you know, talk about it deeply.

2           The second thing, there is no one  
3           should be above the law. Everyone has  
4           to follow the law and I don't understand  
5           why NYPD, like -- it's not all of  
6           them -- some of them, they actually  
7           always, like, you know -- they think  
8           themselves, that they are law and they  
9           do whatever they think is right when  
10          it's, like, you know -- and you start  
11          talking to them.

12          I'm, as a person of color, who came  
13          to this country in 2007 -- I had a  
14          police officer who followed me after I  
15          parked my car and followed me, like, to  
16          in front of my office to say that, "oh,  
17          you made -- you actually -- you were  
18          using your phone while you are driving",  
19          while actually I have a Bluetooth in my  
20          car and I don't have to use my phone or  
21          hold it.

22          So, he followed me in front of my  
23          office and made me return back to my car  
24          to give him my registration and my ID  
25          number to give me a ticket, and I told

1 him, "Like, I didn't do that", and I,  
2 like, you know -- I'm also, "Like, why  
3 you wait until I stop my car and I  
4 walked two blocks and you followed me  
5 with another officer", and he said, "I'm  
6 going to arrest you if you are not going  
7 to go back to the car and bring the ID  
8 and the registration number".

9 So, I don't understand how that  
10 function, but, like, we need to hold  
11 police accountable. We want to make  
12 sure that even, like, the precinct where  
13 they hire police officers, they have to  
14 hire people who understand the culture  
15 in the area and the district that they  
16 are working in, and also at the same  
17 time, we hope that the CCRB can push to  
18 have the commanding officers to be  
19 elected person, not appointed because  
20 that way we can help hold this person  
21 accountable.

22 Our community can hold them  
23 accountable when we elect those people  
24 and that's what we hope to see and we  
25 had this conversation with our Mayor,

1 Eric Adams, and I felt that he's also  
2 supportive for this idea and we hope to  
3 see him implementing in the future.

4 Thank you so much for your time.

5 CHAIR RICE: Thank you so much,  
6 Somia, for your comment and your  
7 testimony.

8 Is there anyone, including our  
9 Executive Director, who wanted to  
10 respond to her comments?

11 (No response.)

12 CHAIR RICE: Okay. Thank you so  
13 much for sharing that with us. We  
14 appreciate it.

15 Yojaira, is that correct, that all  
16 of the invited members have spoken and  
17 we can open up to those who are in the  
18 room?

19 MS. ALVAREZ: Correct.

20 CHAIR RICE: That is correct. Thank  
21 you.

22 So, if there is anyone who would  
23 like to share with us, once again, we do  
24 have a four-minute limit on your  
25 comments, but we are here to hear your

1           comments and feedback.

2           So, if you could just state your  
3           name.

4           MS. BARRETT: Hello, everyone. My  
5           name is Sara Barrett. I work for St.  
6           Nicks Alliance Workforce Development  
7           Center and I work for a program called  
8           YouthBuild.

9           I didn't start the job not too long  
10          ago, however, I've seen and heard a lot  
11          of stories from our youth about police  
12          involvement. We've also had the  
13          pleasure of having Venus in our building  
14          to explain to them what the CCRB does  
15          and also explain to them their rights  
16          and knowing them.

17          I do think that there are many  
18          issues that we have with the youth  
19          involving the police, but one thing that  
20          I don't think that a lot of people -- or  
21          a lot of youth know is how the system  
22          operates and how -- and what we can do  
23          to help it.

24          I do think that it's a great idea  
25          that the CCRB has an Outreach Team to

1 speak to different students because our  
2 students walked away with a lot of  
3 information after the one meeting,  
4 however, there are tons of youth, my age  
5 and even, you know, in the age range  
6 that, you know, don't have resources or  
7 don't have things that are just being  
8 looked at as a report on a paper instead  
9 of as a person.

10 So, I do think that in terms of  
11 representation in terms of the police  
12 being involved in different aspects of a  
13 young person's life, also may help with  
14 the encounters that we have and then  
15 also may help with the fear that we have  
16 of the police.

17 I do think that not only in schools,  
18 but those people that are on the streets  
19 or not -- don't have direct links to any  
20 type of support -- may be underneath  
21 those harassment files as well, but  
22 don't really necessarily know how to  
23 speak for themselves -- and then we also  
24 have, you know, people in our center who  
25 also advocate for them as well.

1 I think that the main problem is --  
2 is like getting to the person and not  
3 seeing them as a case or a file,  
4 understanding where they're coming from,  
5 understanding whether or not they are  
6 educated or are in school.

7 You know, there are 18-year-olds  
8 that are on the streets that do not have  
9 any type of education, who have dropped  
10 out of school, that are looking for  
11 work, that are looking for jobs and  
12 because they have background -- because  
13 they have a history, they're not  
14 provided with the right information or  
15 don't know where to go.

16 So, I do think that it is crucial  
17 that the -- not only the CCRB, but also  
18 the Police Department, provide young  
19 people with resources that will allow  
20 them not only to get off of the streets,  
21 but to also be educated in other things  
22 in terms of alternate learning, getting  
23 their GED if they don't have it, or even  
24 just trying to step out and explore the  
25 world more than what is in New York and

1           what is in the streets.

2           So, I do think that there is a  
3           connection for all the youth to be able  
4           to learn something more. Like I said, I  
5           haven't been in this job for long, but I  
6           have realized the impact that we can  
7           make and my whole staff is also youth as  
8           well. We're young adults.

9           I do think that there's an impact  
10          that we can make in terms of bringing  
11          individuals that do cross paths with law  
12          enforcement a better housing -- or a  
13          better opportunity for them to reach out  
14          and also learn more about themselves.  
15          And learn more about the law  
16          enforcement, and also learn more and  
17          educate themselves more about what they  
18          can do better for society. So -- yes.

19          CHAIR RICE: Thank you so much,  
20          Sara, for your comment.

21          May I ask you just a quick question  
22          -- so, you said you're a staff person at  
23          YouthBuild?

24          MS. BARRETT: Yes, I am a staff  
25          member. I'm the Recruitment and

1           Retention Specialist at Saint Nicks  
2           Alliance YouthBuild Program. This  
3           program just started -- or was just  
4           awarded in 2020.

5           So, so far we have brought in up to  
6           30 or 40 individuals in our healthcare  
7           and construction program that are trying  
8           to look for a better life for them.  
9           They're also graduating this coming June  
10          with their construction and healthcare  
11          certifications.

12          Most of them have had encounters  
13          with the police or are just involved,  
14          and what we give them is a better  
15          understanding to what they can do in the  
16          world to make it better -- a better  
17          place for themselves and also what they  
18          can do in terms of -- like, when Venus  
19          came in -- with the law enforcement in  
20          order to, like, actually speak to them  
21          and know their rights, so --

22          CHAIR RICE: Thank you -- thank you  
23          so much for your comments and YouthBuild  
24          is lucky to have you.

25          MS. IRVING: Good evening, everyone.

1 I'm going to speak kind of loud so they  
2 can hear in the back.

3 Okay. So, my name is Diana Irving  
4 and I am the Community Liaison at the  
5 Connect Program over at IDCC  
6 Interborough. It's an outpatient mental  
7 health facility.

8 The first thing I want to say is  
9 change. Change brings uncomfortability  
10 (sic), right? Change makes people  
11 uncomfortable, right? So, before I say  
12 what I want to say, I want to say to my  
13 community -- right -- change has to  
14 start in our homes because when the cure  
15 violence groups are going to these  
16 shooting responses, these are the  
17 children from our homes and our  
18 communities.

19 If we do not take charge of our  
20 homes, we're going to have 50,000 more  
21 George Floyds and everybody else on that  
22 list. Take charge of your homes because  
23 these children with these behaviors do  
24 not just fall out of the sky -- okay --  
25 and I had to say that because you have

1 to get uncomfortable in order to get  
2 change.

3 Okay. The second thing I want to  
4 say is, police. When I was growing up,  
5 the police would come to our daycare, to  
6 our schools, and we knew them. They  
7 were friends' brothers. They were  
8 friends' dads and uncles.

9 Now, they come from other states  
10 where they watch the news and they see a  
11 place like my hometown Brooklyn -- I'm a  
12 Brooklyn girl till we die, right -- they  
13 see Brooklyn on the news and then they  
14 move here and then they take a job here.  
15 They have a preconceived notion about  
16 what Brooklyn is all about.

17 So, when they come into contact with  
18 our young people, they're afraid. The  
19 human response is to be afraid, so I  
20 don't want to take that away. It's okay  
21 to be afraid, but you have the job where  
22 when the danger happens, you're running  
23 straight to it while everybody runs away  
24 from it.

25 I do want to acknowledge that the

1 police are human, so they are allowed to  
2 be afraid, but accountability and  
3 change, and then not just taking a job  
4 because you passed a test.

5 Okay. So, I would like to touch on  
6 the fact that the City does not take  
7 into consideration that the police of  
8 yesterday used to actually be from the  
9 neighborhoods they worked in, but now  
10 there's so much of a culture shock  
11 placing people to police neighborhoods  
12 that they may have -- already have a  
13 preconceived notion about.

14 Most of them already have a fear of  
15 the unknown, as in being afraid of the  
16 very people they are paid to protect and  
17 serve, not actually knowing where the  
18 distrust of community and NYPD started.  
19 All of these things play a big part in  
20 the disconnect and it will continue if  
21 things aren't shaken up and moved  
22 around.

23 The police should stop into daycare  
24 centers and schools and become familiar  
25 with the kids to build relationships.

1           If the kids have regular conversations  
2           with them, they will see them as people  
3           and begin to care for them in a  
4           different light.

5           Sometimes taking a page from the old  
6           days works and that would definitely  
7           build bridges. Thank you.

8           CHAIR RICE: Thank you so very much  
9           for those comments and some concrete  
10          strategies for building police community  
11          relations.

12          I understand that we do have a Board  
13          Member who has been on the line.  
14          Unfortunately, we have not been able to  
15          get her camera to work, but Esmeralda --  
16          Ms. Simmons -- if you can hear us, if  
17          you wanted to just introduce yourself.

18          (No response.)

19          CHAIR RICE: (Inaudible) -- to  
20          acknowledge that the Public Advocate  
21          Appointee, Esmeralda Simmons, from the  
22          great borough of Brooklyn, is listening  
23          in and is in attendance for our Board  
24          meeting today. Thank you so much.

25          MR. CASE: Thank you. My name is

1 Andrew Case. I use he/him pronouns. I  
2 am the Supervising Attorney at Latino  
3 Justice PRLDEF.

4 I want to start with something  
5 positive cause we always come in and  
6 criticize the CCRB, but I want to thank  
7 you and I want to thank your staff for  
8 the incredible response you have had to  
9 the repeal 50-a.

10 This agency has been a model of  
11 transparency and producing document. I  
12 know it's hard work. I've made a lot of  
13 FOIL requests of you. I've gotten great  
14 responses and I know it is a challenge  
15 to do that and I know not every agency  
16 in the City and not every agency in the  
17 State is following that. So, I do want  
18 to thank you for what you're doing in  
19 terms of transparency.

20 I want to thank Mr. Rose, who  
21 reminded me, or told me on the way in,  
22 that he had seen me, when I was the  
23 Outreach Director of the CCRB, give a  
24 presentation at York College 16 years  
25 ago and it's incredible to think that

1 the work that the CCRB does lasts like  
2 that and I know that he is reaching far  
3 many more people than I did when I was  
4 in that position and he is making a much  
5 greater impact than I did because of the  
6 abilities that you have now to reach out  
7 and reach many more people than we did  
8 in my day. So, I want to thank you for  
9 that as well.

10 I want to tell you what I'm here  
11 for, which is that this afternoon Latino  
12 Justice, on behalf of the Grassroots  
13 Advocates for Neighborhood Groups and  
14 Solution, the gangs' coalition, filed a  
15 complaint based on findings that were in  
16 the Inspector General's report on the  
17 gangs' coalition -- I mean, sorry -- in  
18 the gangs' database a couple of weeks  
19 ago.

20 In that report, the Inspector  
21 General for the NYPD identified discrete  
22 acts of misconduct, that are within your  
23 jurisdiction, and did not recommend any  
24 discipline for the officers involved,  
25 and so we are asking you to investigate

1           those now.

2           To -- for those who did not see the  
3           gangs' database report by the OIG, it  
4           found that there is a great deal of  
5           noncompliance with the NYPD's own rules  
6           for how people are supposed to be put  
7           into the NYPD gang database -- rules  
8           that we find too lax to begin with.

9           But there were seven instances  
10          identified in that report where an  
11          officer got someone placed into the gang  
12          database by simply writing a DD5 that  
13          said, "Officer "X" places Person "Y" in  
14          the database", even though the NYPD  
15          rules state that an officer must  
16          identify the evidence by which he is  
17          relying on to put that person in the  
18          database. These seven entries are  
19          written statements made against members  
20          of the public in the performance of  
21          their official duties, and, therefore,  
22          are abuses of authority.

23          In addition, the OIG identified 49  
24          instances in which an officer who wished  
25          to place somebody into the gang database

1           also signed off as his own supervisor,  
2           even though the NYPD rules require that  
3           a detective assigned to put someone in,  
4           a supervisor review that, and sign-off.  
5           When a detective signs as his own  
6           supervisor, he's making a written  
7           statement against the members of the  
8           public in his own police duties. This  
9           too is an abuse of authority.

10           In addition to the 49 instances of  
11           self-signing and seven instances of no  
12           evidence, we ask that you investigate  
13           all of these. We've submitted a  
14           detailed letter identifying them, but we  
15           also ask that you investigate these as  
16           racially-biased policing incidents.

17           The gangs' database is 99 percent  
18           black and Latino even though the Proud  
19           Boys and the Oath Keepers operate in New  
20           York City, they are not included in the  
21           gangs' database at all. Every entry in  
22           the gangs' database is an act of  
23           racially-biased policing.

24           These 49 instances, and the  
25           additional seven instances, are acts of

1           racially-biased policing, in addition to  
2           abuses of authority. We ask that you  
3           investigate them as such.

4           I heard very quickly that Acting  
5           Chair Rice said you might be abandoning  
6           the City Council's mandate that you  
7           investigate those cases. I know that's  
8           not made lightly. You said it's  
9           partially resources. We know it's also  
10          -- and from your last -- from the  
11          minutes of the last meeting -- it's also  
12          because the NYPD is not providing you  
13          needed documents. If that goes through  
14          and you can't investigate those cases,  
15          we would ask that you continue to  
16          investigate these gang database entries  
17          as abuses of authority.

18          Don't hand those cases over to the  
19          NYPD to investigate themselves. Thank  
20          you.

21          MR. DARCHE: Mr. Case, I -- you and  
22          I have spoken on several occasions,  
23          although this is the first time we've  
24          met, so it is good to meet you in person  
25          and you said you submitted a letter?

1 MR. CASE: I submitted a letter this  
2 afternoon. I have a copy of it here as  
3 well. So, if someone needs it -- I  
4 don't know if you want to do an intake  
5 interview. It's just reporting stuff,  
6 but I'm happy to do it.

7 MR. DARCHE: So, I think we will  
8 reach out to you, not tonight --

9 MR. CASE: Fine.

10 MR. DARCHE: -- we'll figure out how  
11 to move forward on this.

12 MR. CASE: You have my information  
13 and I do -- I do mean it about the FOIL  
14 stuff. You guys have been really,  
15 really positive. Thank you.

16 CHAIR RICE: Thank you so much for  
17 that investigative work and bringing  
18 that to the attention of this -- of both  
19 the Board and to the staff. We do  
20 appreciate that, Mr. Case.

21 MS. ROBERSON-DANCY: (Indicating.)

22 CHAIR RICE: Yes, ma'am.

23 MS. ROBERSON-DANCY: Good evening,  
24 everyone. My name is Antoniqua  
25 Roberson-Dancy. I use she/her/hers

1 pronouns and I am the MAP Engagement  
2 Coordinator for the Red Hook Community  
3 Justice Center.

4 MAP stands for the Mayor's Action  
5 Plan for Neighborhood Safety Initiatives  
6 and I think all of the speakers have  
7 done a great job at highlighting some of  
8 the injustices that go on more here in  
9 New York.

10 More recently there was a raid that  
11 happened in the Red Hook Houses in South  
12 Brooklyn and I think we really need to  
13 highlight the militarization of policing  
14 that's going on in the community. It's  
15 not just average policing.

16 This is really, really, really,  
17 really, really intense policing and many  
18 of the residents that I oversee within  
19 the Red Hook Houses have, you know,  
20 expressed their trauma, expressed the  
21 anxiety, expressed the fear of just  
22 being able to leave outside of their  
23 doors.

24 On that particular day, NYCHA --  
25 NYCHA should also be present here during

1           this meeting, but they're not, I'm sure  
2           -- but, you know, just thinking about --  
3           just thinking about the infrastructure  
4           of NYCHA, thinking about the building  
5           infrastructure as well and how -- how,  
6           you know, people are living within close  
7           proximity to one another within these  
8           quarters.

9           And so when the NYPD comes out and  
10          when they, you know, participate in  
11          these different raids, the ripple effect  
12          that it has on a community -- and one of  
13          the speakers highlighted how a lot of  
14          the, you know, NYPD officers -- in that  
15          particular raid, it was ATF as well --  
16          but a lot of these officers are not from  
17          the community, and so that increased  
18          fear is highlighted in the  
19          militarization of policing here.

20          I think that there needs to be a lot  
21          more training in terms of cultural  
22          competency to ensure that the community  
23          -- that the officers that are serving  
24          the community, whether they're from  
25          there or not from there, are aware of

1 the demographics within the community  
2 and are aware of how to adequately  
3 address the root causes of crime within  
4 the community.

5 Increasing police, as we've seen it,  
6 does not decrease crime. We need  
7 increases in resources. We need -- we  
8 need more -- more programming. We need  
9 the CCRB, as well, to come out to  
10 community partners and actually let the  
11 community know about these different  
12 things.

13 As one of the other speakers  
14 mentioned, when we look around the room,  
15 we don't see a lot of young people and  
16 young people are at the forefront. The  
17 Red Hook Houses in particular right now,  
18 there's a lot of construction going on  
19 -- and I'm sure within a lot of other  
20 NYCHA developments across the City --  
21 there's construction going on.

22 As the constriction happens, parks  
23 get closed and there's less places for  
24 young people to be able to hang out and  
25 to congregate. And so I think that

1 knowing such, NYPD should also be aware  
2 of the different closures that are going  
3 on, particularly in Red Hook right now.  
4 The library just recently closed.  
5 That's a cooling center. That's also a  
6 place for young people to be able to  
7 hang out in the summertime and now that  
8 that's closed and now that there's so  
9 much construction going on, where do our  
10 young people go?

11 They're going to go to places like  
12 Coffee Park, and so these places have  
13 become target areas for the NYPD to  
14 target our young people in. Enough is  
15 enough. Thank you.

16 CHAIR RICE: Thank you so much for  
17 your comments. I'm sorry, can you say  
18 your first name for me one more time?

19 MS. ROBERSON-DANCY: Yes, my first  
20 name is Antoniqua, last name is  
21 Roberson-Dancy.

22 CHAIR RICE: Antoniqua?

23 MS. ROBERSON-DANCY: Yes, ma'am.

24 CHAIR RICE: Nice -- thank you.

25 MS. ROBERSON-DANCY: Thank you.

1 MR. DARCHE: So, I just wanted -- if  
2 -- I just want to point out that if  
3 you're -- the people who you work with  
4 and who are your clients don't feel  
5 comfortable filing a complaint, you can  
6 file a complaint on their behalf.

7 And it's one of the things about our  
8 agency that many aren't aware of, is we  
9 do accept third-party complaints --

10 MS. ROBERSON-DANCY: Okay.

11 MR. DARCHE: -- and so if you think  
12 that the way the police behaved was  
13 inappropriate and outside of their  
14 guidelines, then please file a complaint  
15 with us on behalf of the people who you  
16 work with and work for.

17 MS. ROBERSON-DANCY: Thank you.

18 MR. HOGAN: Are any of the young  
19 people working on these construction  
20 projects?

21 MS. ROBERSON-DANCY: So, there is a  
22 Recovery and Resiliency Program that is  
23 in the process of trying to get more  
24 young people to get the jobs, but  
25 there's a minimal amount of jobs for it.

1 MR. HOGAN: Okay. There shouldn't  
2 be a minimal amount. Once you go back  
3 to NYCHA, there is something called 964  
4 Regulations under Section 3, that has to  
5 be 15 percent of the overall contract --

6 MS. ROBERSON-DANCY: Okay.

7 MR. HOGAN: -- and of the people that  
8 live in Red Hook.

9 MS. ROBERSON-DANCY: Okay.

10 MR. HOGAN: Okay. So, you go back  
11 and you question the president of that  
12 development and tell him about 964  
13 Regulations, Section 3, and give some of  
14 the young people -- 10 to 15 young  
15 people at least to have --

16 MS. ROBERSON-DANCY: Jobs.

17 MR. HOGAN: -- jobs over the summer  
18 until that project is finished.

19 MS. ROBERSON-DANCY: Thank you.

20 MR. DARCHE: We don't want to put  
21 all of this on you, right.

22 MS. ROBERSON-DANCY: Right.

23 MR. DARCHE: Like, that's not --  
24 like you should come to us to help you  
25 solve your problems. We're not telling

1           you, "Well, you go tell this person tell  
2           that and go tell the president of your  
3           development something else".

4           This agency is here to make -- if  
5           you have a -- are aware of misconduct by  
6           police officers and have a complaint, we  
7           will investigate it. And so we have  
8           people here tonight who can take your  
9           statement.

10          It's -- it's -- it is -- you took a  
11          first step by coming here tonight and we  
12          appreciate it and we appreciate you for  
13          doing it --

14          MS. ROBERSON-DANCY: Thank you.

15          MR. DARCHE: -- and if there's more  
16          you can do, we'll take help.

17          But, like, I don't -- I don't want  
18          you to think that we're just sending you  
19          away -- and I know that wasn't AU's  
20          intent -- but I want you to understand  
21          that we appreciate that you came forward  
22          here tonight.

23          MS. ROBERSON-DANCY: Thank you and  
24          you all will be tabling at our event  
25          next Wednesday, May 17th. We will be

1           having a local neighborhood event  
2           located at Bush Clinton Park in South  
3           Brooklyn in the Red Hook community.

4           That event will be open to the --  
5           the entire community can come out, but  
6           particularly residents within the Red  
7           Hook Houses will the opportunity to be  
8           able to vote on different issues going  
9           on in their community, and based off of  
10          the ballots that we receive from there,  
11          we'll be able to take \$30,000 to be able  
12          to reinvest into that community.

13          So, I open up the invitation for you  
14          all to come out next week. Thank you  
15          all.

16          CHAIR RICE: We appreciate that and  
17          thank you so much for your comment.

18          MS. BAILEY: Hi. Good night,  
19          everyone.

20          CHAIR RICE: Do you mind pulling the  
21          mic just a little bit towards you?

22          MS. BAILEY: Oh, okay. (Complying.)

23          CHAIR RICE: Yes, thank you. We  
24          want to hear you.

25          MS. BAILEY: Sorry. Hi. Good

1 night. My name is Sofia Bailey. I'm a  
2 landlord and I'm a mother of two.

3 So, every time I think about -- so,  
4 on February the 9th, that just gone  
5 (sic), my son was arrested by the NYPD.  
6 My precinct is the 73rd Precinct.  
7 First, I want to give a shout-out to my  
8 -- to the CO of the 73rd Precinct,  
9 Vasquez.

10 He's -- I met with him. You know,  
11 he's very sympathetic and empathetic and  
12 -- you know, he's a good listener and  
13 he's trying to help me over this  
14 situation, but I did contact the CCRB.

15 What happened is we called the  
16 police and the police -- my son was  
17 attacked by one of the tenants, which is  
18 pending eviction. I actually evict her  
19 house in court today to get them evicted  
20 and he was attacked and struck in the  
21 face by one of the tenants.

22 We called 911. When the police  
23 came, we went upstairs -- I don't know  
24 what she told them. They came back  
25 downstairs and they asked my son, "Are

1           you hurting". My son said, "No, she hit  
2           me in my face, but I'm okay". Then they  
3           turn and tell my son, "Oh, we have to  
4           arrest you". I said, "Arrest my son?  
5           We're the ones that called the police".  
6           He said, "Oh, the tenant said that my  
7           son slapped her and she's hurting".

8           So, they turned and said -- I said,  
9           "But, you know, this can't be right  
10          because what you're going to arrest him  
11          for". At first, he told us that he was  
12          going to arrest my son for assault.  
13          When they get to the precinct, they put  
14          my son through the system. From 8:30 in  
15          the night till 5:30 in the morning, my  
16          son was at the 73rd Precinct.

17          They run him through the system,  
18          then they came back to me and said, "Oh,  
19          your son have a clean record". I said,  
20          "He was born and raised in Crown  
21          Heights. Never had a record and he  
22          never touched that lady". But, anyway,  
23          the long and short of the story is that  
24          they charged my son with Harassment,  
25          Third Degree.

1           So, the arresting officer -- well,  
2           he was okay, but it was the sergeant  
3           that gave him the okay. So, when CCRB  
4           went and investigated the case to  
5           Internal Affairs, they were actually  
6           investigating the wrong officer. They  
7           were interviewing the arresting officer  
8           instead of the sergeant, which is the  
9           one that gave the command to arrest my  
10          son.

11          So, I just want to say, you know --  
12          you know, we need the police, you know,  
13          and we have some good community officers  
14          at the 73rd Precinct. You know, I go to  
15          the meetings. You know, the public  
16          needs to come out more to these meetings  
17          because then you get to meet the COs,  
18          you get to meet the community officers.

19          I did recommend three of the  
20          officers -- Bishnoff (phonetic), Donner  
21          (phonetic), and Beckford (phonetic) --  
22          they're very good and they come -- you  
23          know, any problem I have in the  
24          neighborhood and we have in the  
25          neighborhood, they are dear.

1           So, you know, I mean -- you know,  
2           it's not like -- you know, I'm a nurse.  
3           They have good nurses and bad nurses and  
4           they have good police and bad police.  
5           But, you know, we, as a community, need  
6           to reach out more to the police and, you  
7           know, attend the meetings. You can  
8           attend the meetings. You see the -- you  
9           know, you see the other part of them.

10           Okay. And I just want to say, you  
11           know, I spoke to Venus Scantlebury.  
12           She's a very articulate young lady and I  
13           spoke to her supervisor, but so far,  
14           this is three months now and I haven't  
15           heard back anything from the CCRB  
16           because I think sergeant acted  
17           inappropriately giving me false  
18           information.

19           He told me he was arresting my son  
20           for assault, then he put him through the  
21           system, and then, you know, he couldn't  
22           tell me -- he can't come out and  
23           apologize to me? He can't tell me, you  
24           know, the reason -- the specific reason  
25           why my son, you know, was arrested. He

1           said, oh, if my son had that he was  
2           hurting, he would've arrested the tenant  
3           also.

4           So, you have to lie to the police.  
5           It shouldn't be that way.

6           CHAIR RICE: Thank you, Ms. Bailey,  
7           for your comment.

8           I'm going to have Jon respond in  
9           regards to the open CCRB case.

10          MR. DARCHE: Ms. Bailey, if you  
11          could speak to Jahi or Venus before you  
12          go, and just make sure they have your  
13          up-to-date information, cause I'm going  
14          to have someone give you a call tomorrow  
15          and we can update you on the status of  
16          the investigation.

17          MS. BAILEY: Thank you so much.

18          MR. DARCHE: So, I just want to say  
19          because we do have to end at 8:30 and  
20          there is such a long line of folks who  
21          still have to speak, we're going to just  
22          try and shorten the period to  
23          three minutes just so we can make sure  
24          everyone gets a chance to talk.

25          I apologize, sir.

1 MR. SMITH: Hi. Good evening. My  
2 name is Cyrus Smith. I'm with the  
3 Brownsville Think Tank Matters.

4 We have offices both in Brownsville  
5 and Flatbush. We have -- we are part of  
6 the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice  
7 Crisis Management System as well with  
8 sites both in Flatbush and Brownsville.  
9 Also, in East Flatbush, we're part of  
10 the AD58 Public Safety Task Force.

11 I would echo a lot of what has been  
12 mentioned already, but I just wanted to  
13 highlight, a couple of years back, there  
14 was an article in the New Yorker,  
15 "Bridging the Divide Between the Police  
16 and Policed in New York", and what that  
17 article did was it talked about how  
18 police and community relations,  
19 especially during the pandemic work  
20 together -- unite to get rid of -- unite  
21 some of the officers that were engaged  
22 in nefarious acts.

23 So, what happened was you had  
24 community groups, you had residents, you  
25 had folks maybe from the Community

1 Board, and then you even had officers  
2 who wanted to do the right thing that  
3 were speaking out on some nefarious  
4 police tactics.

5 But, unfortunately -- or fortunately  
6 rather, one of the ways that we had one  
7 of the Deputy Inspectors removed, was he  
8 was caught on camera, you know, doing  
9 something that went nationwide, and  
10 because of that publicity -- because of  
11 that press -- that's how that officer  
12 ultimately was able to get moved out of  
13 our precinct. But even though we didn't  
14 want him in our precinct, it wasn't fair  
15 to dump him in somebody else's precinct  
16 as well.

17 So, I just wanted to talk about, you  
18 know, like a little bit with regards to  
19 what's happening in social media and  
20 maybe using social media in a positive  
21 way to talk about, you know, like some  
22 of the success that we did have.

23 Real quickly, I'll share with the  
24 folks that have been around for a while,  
25 I got into this work in the early 90s

1 and I was on those committees that led  
2 to the development of the CPR  
3 campaign -- what is it, professional --  
4 courtesy, professional -- you know, and  
5 like respect -- and then also I was on  
6 those committees that led to the  
7 development of the CCRB.

8 So, although it takes, you know,  
9 like a really long time and it seems  
10 like things are not happening, these  
11 meetings, for the people who, you know,  
12 are like a little bit skeptical, we are  
13 taking steps, you know, like in the  
14 right direction.

15 I do want to thank, publicly, Jahi  
16 and Venus for coming out. They've  
17 worked with us in our middle schools.  
18 They've worked with us, you know, like  
19 in the afternoons and they even work  
20 with us in the evening.

21 Not only do they table, but they  
22 actually canvas with our team and  
23 there's a lot of value in terms of them  
24 coming out canvassing because our  
25 canvassing starts when the sun goes

1 down. So, to have somebody at that  
2 level canvassing with our community --  
3 you know, like, engaging with them a lot  
4 of the time -- helps.

5 I will say, you know, that we do  
6 have some members who have gone through  
7 this process and the turnaround time --  
8 because I think people are a little  
9 anxious -- they just get concerned. So,  
10 I know of one incident where we have  
11 four complaints against one officer and,  
12 you know, like that issue still has not  
13 been resolved.

14 But I will close there, but just  
15 definitely wanted to thank you all for  
16 the resources that you have shared with  
17 us already, but we definitely need more.  
18 Thank you.

19 CHAIR RICE: Thank you for your  
20 comments and for your commitment. We  
21 appreciate it.

22 MR. RACINE: Good evening. So, my  
23 name is Rudy Racine. I am the founder  
24 and CEO of Watch The Block.

25 Before I tell you what Watch The

1           Block is, I want to say first that, you  
2           know, I feel encouraged seeing this  
3           large number of people here tonight and  
4           I want to say thank you to the CCRB and  
5           the members on the Board.

6           I heard from other speakers this  
7           evening and they said -- they talked  
8           about good apples and bad apples, and  
9           young ladies talked about which  
10          precincts that have trust or which  
11          precincts -- which officers we trust or  
12          how much trust we have in officers in  
13          the precincts, right. I think that's  
14          where we need to start, right.

15          Watch The Block is a mobile  
16          application. So, my company has a  
17          mobile application that allows users in  
18          the community to rate their interaction  
19          with an officer and it assigns that  
20          rating to the precinct responsible for  
21          policing the area that the user is in.  
22          So, it allows for the community to  
23          understand the community satisfaction  
24          score for the precinct.

25          So, within a three-mile radius, we

1           have the 79th Precinct -- we've got the  
2           77th Precinct, the 88th Precinct, the  
3           71st Precinct, the 90th Precinct -- and  
4           I agree that there are some good  
5           officers that really work in that  
6           precinct -- or in those precincts -- and  
7           there are some bad apples.

8           We don't know which percentage or  
9           what percentage of bad apples are in any  
10          of those precincts. The app "Watch The  
11          Block" allows us to kind of get an idea  
12          of that the public's opinion of those  
13          precincts and my purpose for coming to  
14          this meeting -- for attending the  
15          neighborhood community officer meetings  
16          -- the community council meetings -- is  
17          really to raise awareness in the  
18          community to let them know that this  
19          resource exists. The information is out  
20          there as well.

21          I'm happy to partner with the CCRB  
22          and provide information on the ratings  
23          that we get in the community. Again,  
24          our company is the goal. Our mission is  
25          to build healthier relationships between

1 the community and the police that are  
2 tasked with protecting them. We hope to  
3 use data to inform the community so that  
4 we are empowered when we go to the  
5 community council meetings.

6 If a precinct has a 20 percent  
7 satisfaction rating, then we got to show  
8 up, right. If a precinct has a 95  
9 percent satisfaction rating, we should  
10 probably still show up, but we should  
11 show up to celebrate, and encourage, and  
12 empower those officers to keep up the  
13 good work, right.

14 So, the data is in our hands. I  
15 know that the CCRB does some amazing  
16 work. I know that there are some bad  
17 apples in every single precinct. We  
18 would be naive if we didn't say that  
19 there were, right, but the data is not  
20 in our hands.

21 I want to empower the community, so  
22 I have my card. You can download the  
23 app. I encourage you to rate using  
24 Watch The Block. If anyone on the CCRB  
25 wants to partner with Watch The Block,

1 happy to do so.

2 I can tell you that in the Brooklyn  
3 region, we don't have any ratings yet.  
4 But 2023, we are here. We're not going  
5 anywhere. We encourage you to use the  
6 app, download the app.

7 We're not affiliated with the NYPD.  
8 We're not affiliated with the CCRB.  
9 We're not affiliated with New York City.  
10 Independent organization founded by me,  
11 funded by me. And, again, I'm  
12 encouraged in the importance of  
13 accountability and sharing data to  
14 inform and build healthier  
15 relationships.

16 That's all I got. Thank you.

17 MR. DARCHE: Did you sign in, sir?

18 MR. RACINE: (Indiscernible) -- my  
19 card as well. My card has the barcode  
20 if you want to download the app. So,  
21 I'm happy to share my card -- whatever  
22 you want. I'll be here till the end of  
23 the meeting if anybody wants to talk to  
24 me.

25 MR. DARCHE: Excellent. Thank you.

1 CHAIR RICE: Thank you, Mr. Racine.

2 We appreciate it.

3 MS. SHARPE: (Indicating.)

4 CHAIR RICE: Yes, ma'am.

5 MS. SHARPE: Hi. Good evening. My  
6 name is Nicole Sharpe and I work at SUNY  
7 Downstate Health Sciences University.

8 I'm also on the Advisory Council for  
9 the New York State Office for the  
10 Prevention of Domestic Violence. I'm an  
11 advocate for domestic violence awareness  
12 for 15 years now, having lost my mother  
13 to domestic violence. I also sit on the  
14 Advisory Council for the New York City  
15 Department of Health Women's Advisory  
16 Board and the black and latina  
17 subcommittee. I do a lot of advocacy  
18 work in my community.

19 I'm speaking as a civilian today who  
20 has been harassed by police officers  
21 nine times. I count them. I've been  
22 harassed to the point where I've had  
23 sexual advances by cops and I've been  
24 threatened to be arrested if I don't  
25 approve of their advances.

1 I have been ambushed -- that's the  
2 second to last time -- this was last  
3 August -- by three cop cars, unmarked,  
4 heavily tinted -- ambushed, pictures  
5 taken. I even called 911 cause I  
6 thought I was about to be human  
7 trafficked and 911 told me to get their  
8 license plates and they helped me.

9 I made a complaint with your Board.  
10 Since last year, I haven't heard  
11 anything since. I even made a request  
12 for FOIL. I haven't heard anything  
13 since. I've been working with the  
14 Senator, Kevin Parker's office. I  
15 haven't heard anything from your Board.  
16 I'm sorry to say that, but it's the  
17 truth.

18 I even made a complaint a couple of  
19 years before that as well where a cop  
20 lied on me for jumping the turnstile  
21 with my daughter, which I never did and  
22 here I was, the seconds to last time  
23 coming from church one evening and just  
24 being attacked. I don't like to leave  
25 the house feeling that I may be

1 triggered and traumatized once again by  
2 people who are supposedly -- who are  
3 paid to protect me, but obviously that's  
4 not the case.

5 The last incident was cops just --  
6 five of them just came up to my car as  
7 I'm sitting right around the corner from  
8 where I live in my car coming from  
9 work -- model citizen -- and I don't  
10 want to be used as a teaching moment for  
11 police officers cause that's what it  
12 was, and if I didn't call Assemblywoman  
13 Monique Chandler-Waterman's office and  
14 she called the CO, they would've still  
15 been harassing me.

16 They actually stopped after that.  
17 So, I shouldn't have to do that. I  
18 actually sit on her -- the Assembly  
19 Member's Public Safety Task Force as  
20 well. So, I'm very active in the  
21 community, but I can say, firsthand,  
22 that I have been harassed, harassed,  
23 harassed by police officers and I do not  
24 get any type of response.

25 Thank you very much.

1 MR. DARCHE: Ms. Sharpe, I just  
2 wanted to first of all apologize on  
3 behalf of the staff and the agency for  
4 not getting back to you, and if you  
5 could stick around till the end, I'd  
6 like to talk to you and follow-up, get  
7 some more information, and follow-up on  
8 your prior complaints.

9 And if you would like to file a  
10 complaint about something that you --  
11 the most recent incident, we have an  
12 investigator here who will take your  
13 statement and you don't have to wait  
14 till the end. You can start that  
15 process now. Just tell Mr. Rose in the  
16 back.

17 CHAIR RICE: Thank you, Ms. Sharpe  
18 and no need for apologies. We need to  
19 be accountable. So, thank you so much  
20 for sharing that.

21 MR. JENNINGS: (Indicating.)

22 CHAIR RICE: Yes, ma'am.

23 MR. JENNINGS: My name is Anthony  
24 Jennings. I'm a representative of Life  
25 Camp, Queens, New York. I'm the Youth

1 Development Specialist and Gang  
2 Specialist.

3 I have gotten training from law  
4 enforcement throughout the nation and we  
5 are trained to de-escalate. We have no  
6 guns. We have no vests in CMS and it  
7 never escalates to a violent situation,  
8 right. We talk about training,  
9 training, training, but yet we keep  
10 having these tragic events in our  
11 community, right.

12 So, just hearing the lady talk, if  
13 that was a bunch of youth, they would be  
14 locked up right now for conspiracy, RICO  
15 acts, and it's all led by Patrick Lynch.  
16 You all are more afraid of him than  
17 making decisions that help this  
18 community.

19 I work with 33 youth that recently  
20 got locked up for conspiracy in Queens,  
21 New York. With flimsy evidence against  
22 them, they are in jail awaiting trial.  
23 We have so much evidence against these  
24 officers that commit these crimes in our  
25 community and they just get moved from

1           one precinct to the next, and we're  
2           talking about accountability and  
3           training. Then who is responsible for  
4           committing this RICO act, which we call  
5           law enforcement.

6           This conspiracy act to endanger  
7           these young black and brown youth and  
8           put them in a system -- when we talk  
9           about mentally challenged -- every time  
10          something happens to an officer, the  
11          youth's record come up -- they didn't  
12          know that going into the incident, but  
13          then we vilify them with their record or  
14          their mental capacity cause we know  
15          they're mentally challenged. Why are we  
16          putting them in the system that ain't  
17          helping them?

18          We lock -- everything is lock up,  
19          lock up, lock up, but we are not helping  
20          these young men and women who is getting  
21          arrested and getting them proper  
22          treatment. Locking them up is not the  
23          answer, but we in CMS do not get the  
24          same budget. None of us choke no kid  
25          out. That's worse stuff than they ever

1 do to the officers, but we still  
2 de-escalate it and we walk away from a  
3 peaceful solution. So, it ain't  
4 training.

5 But a lot of this crime in the  
6 community that we commit crime in is  
7 poverty stricken cause all the resources  
8 were taken out of these communities. We  
9 have to put the resources back and we  
10 won't have the problem we have.

11 Policing will become a community again.  
12 But, now, it's like she said, military.  
13 They just come knock down doors, lock  
14 people up.

15 We got to change that. Our people  
16 shouldn't be afraid to come out their  
17 house from the police. They're supposed  
18 to be there to protect and serve. Thank  
19 you.

20 CHAIR RICE: Thank you, Mr.  
21 Jennings, for your comments and even  
22 more importantly, for your decades of  
23 service to the young people in Queens  
24 and in the larger New York City  
25 community.

1 I wanted to know if any members of  
2 the Board wanted to make any comment  
3 before we went onto our next speaker --

4 (No response.)

5 CHAIR RICE: -- okay.

6 MS. STEVENS: (Indicating.)

7 All right, ma'am.

8 MS. STEVENS: My name is Pamela  
9 Stevens. I work with Monique  
10 Chandler-Waterman as her Public Safety  
11 Task Force. We did "Occupy the Corner".

12 I want to say thank you to Jahi and  
13 Venus because I didn't know anything  
14 about your company until I started  
15 Occupy. I went out giving out all your  
16 resources and explaining to them and I'm  
17 hearing accountability and I'm hearing,  
18 "We go after the officers", but I feel  
19 we should go after the precinct because  
20 if we go over the precinct the officers  
21 are from, then they will train their  
22 officers to do the right thing.

23 And that's the only statement that I  
24 have to make. You all have a good  
25 evening.

1 CHAIR RICE: Thank you, Ms. Stevens,  
2 for your comment.

3 MR. ABDULLAH: (Indicating.)

4 CHAIR RICE: Yes, sir.

5 MR. ABDULLAH: Good evening. My  
6 name is Idris Abdullah. I am a member  
7 -- long-term member of the 79th Precinct  
8 Community Council.

9 First, I want to thank the CCRB for  
10 the job that your guys do in  
11 investigating the officers in the cases  
12 that need to be investigated and I think  
13 if you all did not do -- or the CCRB did  
14 not do part of that strong effort in  
15 putting out, I think we might be a  
16 little further behind the eight-ball.

17 So, I definitely want to thank you  
18 all, but in the interim of us looking at  
19 officers, cause just like it was said --  
20 and I don't want to reiterate -- there  
21 are good officers and there are bad  
22 officers.

23 I am a long-term member of the 79th  
24 Precinct Community Council. We have to  
25 understand and realize one thing,

1 getting to know our officers,  
2 communicating with our officers, this is  
3 how we can begin to start looking at how  
4 we can communicate and figure out what  
5 is the problem to some of these  
6 situations that we're having.

7 Sometimes these officers, they come  
8 into our community, they're afraid.  
9 They're scared. Even though they're  
10 supposed to be trained a certain way,  
11 it's always different when you get out  
12 there and you begin to start doing --  
13 using hands-on. You never know what's  
14 going to happen in the spare (sic) of  
15 the moment although you're trained.

16 The human instinct is to respond  
17 sometimes cause sometimes our officers,  
18 they get caught like that. So, coming  
19 out to these precinct community council  
20 meetings is extremely important.

21 Find out when and where your  
22 precinct community council meeting is.  
23 Find out who your community field  
24 officers are. Begin that dialogue.  
25 Back in the days, the officers that were

1 the most effective were the officers  
2 that communicated with the community,  
3 the officers that communicated with the  
4 homeowners, the officers that  
5 communicated with the kids.

6 So, this is where we like it now.  
7 Remember, our children are either part  
8 of the problem or part of the solution.  
9 We, as parents, are either part of the  
10 problem or part of the solution.

11 Sometimes we don't want to say and tap  
12 our neighbor on the shoulder and say,  
13 "Your son is doing such and such, such  
14 and such" or "Your daughter is doing  
15 such and such, such and such".

16 But when we begin to start doing  
17 that, then we begin to take control over  
18 the situation. We begin to take control  
19 over the good officers, the bad  
20 officers, the way they react, the way  
21 they respond.

22 So, again, find out when, where your  
23 community -- I mean, your precinct  
24 council meetings is, get to those  
25 precinct council meetings. Unless we

1 have the most safest neighborhoods in  
2 the community, there should be standing  
3 room only in them.

4 I'm just coming from a meeting from  
5 the 79th Precinct Community Council in  
6 reference to the block associations for  
7 the summertime, and that communication  
8 that we have there with our community  
9 affairs officer, our new inspector, the  
10 captains -- we have a very good response  
11 -- a very good communication.

12 So, if you're in the 79th Precinct  
13 Community Council area or 79th Precinct  
14 area, come to that meeting. If you're  
15 in the 81, 79 -- whatever area you in,  
16 go to those meetings. They are  
17 extremely important. That is where it  
18 begins.

19 It starts at home and it starts with  
20 the people that are teaching in the  
21 homes. Thank you.

22 CHAIR RICE: Thank you,  
23 Mr. Abdullah, for your comment.

24 MS. MORALES: Good evening,  
25 everyone. My name is -- oh --

1 CHAIR RICE: Sorry, one of our Board  
2 Members had a comment.

3 Yes.

4 MR. FOX: This is important and your  
5 presence is important tonight, but I  
6 just want to add that what Mr. Abdullah  
7 mentioned is every precinct commander,  
8 and housing commander, and transit  
9 commander attendees, are at those  
10 meetings that he described.

11 They're on the website. They have  
12 to be there. I mentioned that I was a  
13 Chief for 20 years. I would've accepted  
14 nothing less, nor would any commanding  
15 officer do anything less.

16 They have to be at that meeting and  
17 this clock is important cause we need to  
18 get to everybody, but at these meetings,  
19 you stand up, you speak as long as you  
20 want. You can see the CO -- Commanding  
21 Officer -- before he or she comes in.  
22 You can follow them out the door if  
23 you'd like. You can speak during the  
24 meeting. You get direct access.

25 This is a separate body than the

1 NYPD and that's one of the reasons I  
2 believe in it, of course, and I'm a  
3 Board Member, but that is another  
4 resource. There are many resources and  
5 that's one way. You have direct -- just  
6 like this -- with the Commanding  
7 Officer, and you -- and everything that  
8 I've heard or been said tonight can be  
9 said there and these are professionals.  
10 You know, they'll hear you.

11 There was somebody else who  
12 mentioned -- the woman whose son was  
13 arrested. You know, she mentioned that  
14 Inspector Vasquez is a good listener and  
15 she had -- not the outcome that she  
16 wanted, but she has his attention.

17 They -- or they not be in those  
18 positions. So, I just wanted to pass  
19 that on. Thank you.

20 CHAIR RICE: Appreciate that.

21 MS. MORALES: Good evening,  
22 everyone. My name is Miesha Morales.  
23 For transparency, I initially was here  
24 as the constituent advocate for State  
25 Senator Jabari Brisport. He apologizes

1 for not being here himself. He is  
2 traveling from Albany back to the  
3 district.

4 It is after 8 o'clock and I -- after  
5 hearing some things, I decided to get up  
6 and speak. So, I am now speaking as  
7 Miesha Morales who was born and raised  
8 in Senate District 25, started off in  
9 Bed-Stuy, four generations currently  
10 living in Fort Greene, Brooklyn.

11 I am an advocate, community  
12 organizer, and fighter. I'm speaking --  
13 and -- but most importantly, I am the  
14 mother and I am speaking as the mother  
15 of an Afro-Boricua son who is a  
16 beautiful young man, and my experience  
17 with my son and how it started off as  
18 walking down the street with him being a  
19 little boy holding his hand and him  
20 seeing officers and firemen, as most  
21 children do, right, and they wave "hi",  
22 and -- just very friendly -- to walking  
23 down the street with him, clearly as he  
24 was getting older -- at 10, they don't  
25 want mommy holding their hands, right --

1 but walking along side and seeing that  
2 same community officer look at my son  
3 and put his hand on his holster as if my  
4 son is a threat.

5 I live every day in fear that is  
6 today going to be the day that I get  
7 that phone call, right. As an  
8 organizer, as a Community Board Member,  
9 I'm for my people. I work with and  
10 organize with the residents, but  
11 especially public housing residents.

12 To hear the harassment that they are  
13 going through -- not only young people,  
14 right. We have elders in our community  
15 who are currently -- public housing  
16 residents -- who are currently being  
17 harassed by NCO officers -- right -- and  
18 this is not to say that all NCO officers  
19 are bad officers, but there are some bad  
20 apples out there and they put a bad name  
21 for those that are trying to do their  
22 job in a professional way.

23 I'm constantly seeing harassment of  
24 our elders, our women -- our young women  
25 in the community. So, I'm speaking for

1           them and I'm speaking for my son and as  
2           a mother -- and I'm sure there are many  
3           of us here -- who live in fear of  
4           whether or not today is going to be the  
5           day that we get that phone call.

6           And as an organizer, yes, I  
7           understand about attending the precinct  
8           council meetings. I understand about  
9           reaching out to CCRB and working in  
10          partnership -- I do a lot more outside  
11          of even what I just told you -- but,  
12          unfortunately, what is happening is that  
13          we have these certain bad apple  
14          officers, if you want to call it that.  
15          They continue to be moved from one  
16          public housing development to another,  
17          and over and over again even though  
18          there is a track record of their bad  
19          behavior.

20          And so hearing today that CCRB is  
21          looking at being defunded, it's  
22          concerning for me -- right -- because,  
23          yes, you need more staff and I implore  
24          the community to get involved, and  
25          anyone who is listening on this call --

1 if you're a public official, whether it  
2 be the Mayor or the Council Members --  
3 please, fully fund CCRB.

4 But I also ask you guys and your  
5 Outreach Team -- I don't know -- work  
6 with your public officials. We need  
7 more outreach. We need CCRB's Outreach  
8 Team to be in public housing, showing up  
9 to those TA meetings, in the streets.  
10 We don't even have to wait for a  
11 meeting.

12 And I am more than happy, as Miesha  
13 Morales, the community advocate, to work  
14 with your department, and so thank you.

15 MR. DARCHE: So, I know we're short  
16 on time.

17 I just wanted to thank Ms. Morales  
18 for speaking, and one of the things  
19 you've all heard tonight are the people  
20 who know Venus and know Jahi, and I can  
21 assure you, in different neighborhoods,  
22 they're different names that will get  
23 mentioned because we have five people on  
24 the Outreach Team at CCRB for this whole  
25 City, and if you think about that, the

1 fact that anyone knows Venus's name in  
2 this neighborhood is a miracle.

3 But they do -- the work that Venus  
4 does -- and Tim, and Prince and -- and  
5 really the whole team -- and Jahi, as  
6 the leader, and Yojaira as the Special  
7 Advisor and Head of Intergov -- like --  
8 and I know I've missed people and I'm  
9 going to regret it as soon as this call  
10 is -- as soon as we're done -- but it is  
11 just not enough.

12 And so when Ms. Morales was talking  
13 about the budget and we talked about the  
14 budget earlier, it is key that we get  
15 the support to do the work that we need  
16 to do for you.

17 Sorry, sir.

18 MR. GUISE: Good evening. My name  
19 is Terrell Guise. I am a representative  
20 of the Black Opportunity Project. We're  
21 a nonprofit organization that fights for  
22 social and economic justice. I have a  
23 few points that I would like to focus  
24 on.

25 One is the community and the police

1 have to play more of an effective role  
2 in bridging the gap in the communication  
3 and trust with the youth in these  
4 communities. Parents need to take some  
5 of the blame as far as the youth are  
6 concerned also though.

7 After speaking with you in the  
8 Bronx, we were informed that the police  
9 are calling youth out their name -- by  
10 name -- calling youth by name, picking  
11 them up as if they're being arrested and  
12 taking and questioning them, and  
13 dropping them off in rivals'  
14 neighborhoods.

15 They're riding through the  
16 neighborhood throwing down gang signs  
17 and dropping them off with their rivals,  
18 and -- pardon me -- excuse me -- the  
19 police are being -- the police are being  
20 captured on video doing these activities  
21 and we recently sent the video to the  
22 CCRB on Instagram. What kind of trust  
23 can this behavior build? What kind of  
24 example is being set?

25 These young people, they want to

1 live in Chicago, but the police  
2 shouldn't indulge in that behavior with  
3 them. This is not Chicago. This is New  
4 York City. We should act as such.

5 But last, but not least, more has to  
6 be done to strengthen the CCRB.

7 Electing the CCRB president official is  
8 not the answer. If the Commissioner has  
9 final authority to dole out discipline  
10 according to the City Charter, what  
11 would electing a CCRB do if the  
12 Commissioner would still have the final  
13 authority? What kind of fiasco would we  
14 have on our hands with the election for  
15 positions you people have right now?

16 Thank you.

17 CHAIR RICE: Thank you.

18 Sister, did you have a comment?

19 MS. JONES: (Inaudible.)

20 CHAIR RICE: Yes, please.

21 MS. JONES: Hello, everyone. My  
22 name is Ms. Jones. I'm from the  
23 Flatbush Garden community. The 67th  
24 Precinct is the precinct that covered  
25 my -- the Flatbush Gardens.

1           So, I'm here today because I feel  
2           like this 67th Precinct, the way they're  
3           handling complaints and coming out to  
4           investigate the complaints is unfair and  
5           biased.

6           So, I don't even know how to explain  
7           this to an employer. That's why I'm  
8           here today to give my testimony. Like,  
9           when I go for jobs and they want to  
10          interview me or whatever, but my case  
11          was dismissed and thrown out, but still,  
12          you know, a record had occurred.

13          So, back on October 5, 2022, I had a  
14          problem with a postal service worker,  
15          but I was -- I had to go the Central  
16          Bookings -- I was detained for the video  
17          that -- it was like a video that the  
18          police chose to pick, you know, and he  
19          didn't want it to bring the whole -- you  
20          know, take the whole video.

21          He chose to put wrong footage and  
22          wrote a false report -- a false  
23          statement -- like, he wrote a false  
24          statement causing me to get a record.  
25          So, how can I clarify this or have an

1 investigation done, you know, on my  
2 behalf?

3 MR. DARCHE: So, there -- we will  
4 have someone take a statement from you  
5 and investigate the incident, and we  
6 also have someone here today from our  
7 Civilian Assistance Unit who will see if  
8 there are other services that we can  
9 connect you to that might be able to  
10 help you.

11 So, if you could just -- if you  
12 wait, there's someone in the back, I'm  
13 sure, who will reach out to you and take  
14 a statement from you tonight.

15 MS. JONES: All right. Thank you,  
16 ladies and gentlemen.

17 CHAIR RICE: Thank you, Ms. Jones.

18 MR. DARCHE: I think there's one  
19 more person here, and there's someone  
20 online, and then we really have to  
21 finish up.

22 CHAIR RICE: Okay. Thank you, Ms.  
23 Jones.

24 Ma'am, if you have your comment --

25 MS. BROWNE-PEYTON: (Indicating.)

1 CHAIR RICE: Yes.

2 MS. BROWNE-PEYTON: I actually came  
3 to observe, but I'll be amiss if I  
4 didn't say something.

5 My name is Santana Browne-Peyton.  
6 I'm actually a resident of Bed-Stuy.  
7 I'm also on the Community Board 3 and  
8 I'm going to just basically say that my  
9 understanding, from where I'm standing,  
10 is that respect is due and respect  
11 should be given on both -- on the  
12 community level, but it should be more  
13 so identified and focused on the Police  
14 Department, if they're here to  
15 protect -- right -- respect and protect.

16 That's not something that is done  
17 because we have had a history of black  
18 Americans in this country have not been  
19 respected at any cost and they still  
20 haven't. It's won't stop because we  
21 have several meetings, but it can stop  
22 if we all take initiative to look back  
23 at some of those cases that we have put  
24 in file, that those officers that have  
25 had complaints, that no one has touched

1 on, that they almost close to retirement  
2 and folks are going out -- and they  
3 could go on vacation.

4 But our folks that are still locked  
5 up in jail to this day because of minor  
6 incidents that could've been probably  
7 revealed by a Board as such are -- and I  
8 come -- I'm raised in Marcy Project and  
9 my mother had 20 children. So, you can  
10 imagine, I can stand up here and tell  
11 you some horror stories in regards to  
12 police officers.

13 But there are some good police  
14 officers as well as there are community  
15 folks, and as an advocate for the  
16 community every day, the difference is  
17 that we keep forgetting about the  
18 pandemic. We keep forgetting about  
19 slavery. We keep forgetting that there  
20 are no -- I heard the brother say, "The  
21 parents are responsible as well".

22 If you could look back at the crack  
23 epidemic that was not long ago --  
24 1987 to be exact -- where most of our  
25 children are in institutions. They're

1 not home. They're not being trained by  
2 home. Then you have other children who  
3 are in the ages between 50 or less,  
4 either have had experience in crack or  
5 sold, are now substance abusers, right.

6 So, most of them on the streets are  
7 either -- have some kind of mental  
8 illness or they're experiencing some  
9 kind of trauma, and most of it has come,  
10 not just from the policemen, but because  
11 we keep acting like these are heroes --  
12 superheroes. They're not.

13 They're human-beings. They're not  
14 being trained, and those that have been  
15 trained have to retrain themselves  
16 because -- as we have to do so --  
17 because now we're dealing with a new  
18 community with a whole different  
19 generation where we are being educated,  
20 but what are doing with the education?

21 So, I'm just saying that, just like  
22 they have GoFundMe to make sure you guys  
23 get some money, well then I think that  
24 you guys need to attack the -- our  
25 friendly politicians who do -- idea of

1 monies being distributed in the  
2 community, that's the idea -- where the  
3 money should be going.

4 I don't say, "Stop the police",  
5 because they are needed, right. But if  
6 they're only taking the job because  
7 that's a career choice and the only  
8 choice that they have, they should be  
9 looking at another one -- and then you  
10 have those who feel that they're  
11 qualified, like the lady said earlier --  
12 of taking the test.

13 Then, they should also be tested for  
14 mental illness, substance abuse because  
15 they also are dealing with the same  
16 trauma. They're drinking the same water  
17 that we are.

18 I know when I came, we had Police  
19 Athletic League where we did -- there  
20 was Aviation. There was Vanguard.  
21 There was Colony Houses of Brooklyn. We  
22 had places where our children could go,  
23 our elders could go. We don't have any  
24 of those places right now and there is  
25 no activities. We are all home, and

1 looking at the news, and constantly  
2 being trauma (sic), that when we see  
3 trauma, it's like looking at cartoons  
4 today.

5 So, it's not just one particular  
6 issue that we need to focus on, but if  
7 you guys are focusing on the activities  
8 and the accountability, you need to be  
9 accounting where the money is going.  
10 You need to account how we are servicing  
11 our community better. We need to also  
12 recognize that who is getting more  
13 privileges than others and how we can  
14 make it equal for everybody and not  
15 somebody.

16 I think I said more than I needed to  
17 say. Thanks.

18 CHAIR RICE: I believe we had one  
19 last comment from somebody who was on  
20 the line.

21 Yojaira?

22 MS. ALVAREZ: Yes, we'll be hearing  
23 from Daniel Heredia, followed by  
24 Assembly Member Cunningham, and that  
25 will conclude our public session.

1 MR. HEREDIA: Thank you for the  
2 opportunity to speak this evening --  
3 yes, how is everyone?

4 My name is Daniel Heredia  
5 representing Council Member Farah Louis  
6 of the 45th Council District. Thank you  
7 all so much for hosting this forum and  
8 while I'm disappointed to not have been  
9 able to attend in person, we definitely  
10 have heard a great amount of community  
11 input and testimony.

12 And I want to especially thank Venus  
13 for always offering to train our team on  
14 CCRB response and reporting. It has  
15 been very helpful for navigating some of  
16 these cases that we take in our office.

17 Tonight, I'm particularly intrigued  
18 with some of the comments that were made  
19 in the testimony regarding the false  
20 statements from NYPD officers during  
21 criminal trials, as well as how the City  
22 can more adequately address and respond  
23 to domestic violence cases with  
24 sensitivity.

25 I want to ask a question in terms of

1 helping us guide policy here -- and  
2 hopefully the Board is able to  
3 respond -- I'm wondering if it would  
4 make sense to mandate or permit CCRB  
5 participation in some of the criminal  
6 cases that our constituents face at  
7 times when dealing with interactions  
8 with the police and to self-initiate  
9 complaints based on the information  
10 discovered during the trials.

11 As, you know, we heard tonight, that  
12 many -- many of the people in court, you  
13 know, for a variety of reasons may not  
14 be able -- or may not be willing to go  
15 to the CCRB to report that there's false  
16 testimony against them, but perhaps  
17 there's a way that the CCRB can be more  
18 involved with what happens in criminal  
19 court to be able to assist and  
20 investigate these cases proactively.

21 Thank you.

22 CHAIR RICE: Thank you so much for  
23 your question.

24 MR. DARCHE: Thank you, Madam Chair.

25 I just wanted to correct a mistake I

1           made earlier by leaving out Naqi and  
2           Maroua, who are also two key members of  
3           our Outreach Team and who have done  
4           tremendous work for us and I truly  
5           appreciate them and I shouldn't have  
6           forgotten them.

7           CHAIR RICE: All right. I believe  
8           that concludes all of those who have  
9           public comments this evening. I want to  
10          thank you for those.

11          MS. ALVAREZ: Sorry, Chair --

12          CHAIR RICE: Do we have any old  
13          business to come --

14          MS. ALVAREZ: Sorry, Chair --

15          CHAIR RICE: -- before the Board?

16          MS. ALVAREZ: Chair -- sorry, we  
17          have one more comment.

18          Assembly Member Brian Cunningham has  
19          joined us and would conclude our public  
20          session. Apologies.

21          CHAIR RICE: Thank you.

22          (No response.)

23          CHAIR RICE: Is Assembly Member --  
24          virtually -- yes -- okay.

25          MR. CUNNINGHAM: I apologize for

1 being on late, but I'm joining from  
2 Albany. I just wanted to just commend,  
3 again, the CCRB for the incredible work  
4 they've done tonight, and hearing from  
5 the public.

6 As everyone knows on this call, I've  
7 been committed to criminal justice  
8 reform since my time with the Center for  
9 Court Innovation and I just wanted to  
10 stop in tonight to just commend the work  
11 we're doing and continue to foster  
12 community participation.

13 Again, I know the night has been  
14 long, so I don't want to waste too much  
15 time, but just wanted to be with you  
16 here tonight in spirit. Thank you so  
17 much.

18 CHAIR RICE: Thank you so much for  
19 your comment.

20 All right. One more time, I believe  
21 that concludes the public comments  
22 portion of the meeting.

23 Do we have any old business to come  
24 before the Board?

25 (No response.)

1 CHAIR RICE: Any old business?

2 (No response.)

3 CHAIR RICE: Do we have any new  
4 business to come before the Board?

5 (No response.)

6 CHAIR RICE: Okay. Hearing none, I  
7 am going to move now that we break into  
8 executive session.

9 The agenda for the executive session  
10 is the Board will deliberate on a full  
11 Board case, receive an update from the  
12 Executive Director on pending personnel  
13 actions and Board Member training, and  
14 the General Counsel will update us on  
15 litigation.

16 I'd like to make a motion that this  
17 meeting be concluded.

18 BOARD MEMBER: Second.

19 CHAIR RICE: Second -- all those in  
20 favor?

21 (Chorus of "Ayes".)

22 CHAIR RICE: So moved. Thank you.

23 (Time noted: 8:45 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATION

I, JULIA M. SPEROS, a Notary Public  
for and within the State of New York, do  
hereby certify:

That the witness whose testimony as  
herein set forth, was duly sworn by me;  
and that the within transcript is a true  
record of the testimony given by said  
witness.

I further certify that I am not  
related to any of the parties to this  
action by blood or marriage, and that I  
am in no way interested in the outcome  
of this matter.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto  
set my hand this 10th day of May, 2023.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Julia M. Speros