

In Re July Public Meeting NYC - Civilian Complaint Review Board
July 12, 2023

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CIVILIAN COMPLAINT REVIEW BOARD

PUBLIC MEETING

JULY 12, 2023

6:30 P.M.

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HELD VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

AND

ROBERT ROSS FAMILY LIFE CENTER

172-17 LINDEN BOULEVARD
QUEENS, NEW YORK 11434

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. Herman Merritt, 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

Presenters:

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

1 SPEAKERS

2 =====

- 3 1. Assembly Member Khaleel Anderson - Assembly
District 31
- 4 2. Reverend Carlene O. Thorbs - Chairperson -Queens
5 Community Board 12
- 6 3. Joshua Kelly - Hospital Responder - LIFE Camp Inc.
- 7 4. Amira Ismail - Youth Participant - Malikah
- 8 5. Anna Mays - Community Member
- 9 6. Aaron Battle - Owner of Urbane Barbershop
- 10 6. Venus Ketchum - Community Member
- 11 7. Mr. Meyers Community Member
- 12 8. Debra Y. Walrond - Community Member
- 13 9. Trina Mitchell - Community Member
- 14 10. Michelle Mosley - Community Member
- 15 11. Garfield Towler - President - 113 Precinct
16 Community Council
- 17 12. Carolyn Dixon - Founder - Where Do We Go From Here
- 18 13. Steve Leland - Community Member
- 19 14. Bilal Karriem - Community Member
- 20 15. Garth Marchant - Community Member
- 21 16. Angel Vassel- Community Member
- 22 17. Amir Abbady - Chief of Staff - Office of Council
23 Member Nantasha Williams
- 24 18. Michelle Keller - Community Member
- 25 19. Ms. Lawrence - Community Member

1 PROCEEDINGS

2 MS. ALVAREZ: Good evening,
3 everyone. Thank you so much for joining
4 us.

5 For those utilizing ASL
6 interpretation, our two ASL interpreters
7 are Felice Shays and Liz Palladino.
8 Their display names are "ASL
9 Interpreter/", their names. There will
10 be instructions on how to pin our video
11 in the chat and you utilize closed
12 captioning services with the link in the
13 chat as well. Thank you.

14 CHAIR RICE: Good evening, everyone,
15 and welcome. My name is Arva Rice. I
16 use she/her pronouns and I am the
17 Interim Chair of the Civilian Complaint
18 Review Board.

19 I would like to call the CCRB's July
20 Public Board Meeting to order.

21 Would the rest of the Board please
22 introduce themselves, starting with Mr.
23 Siegal.

24 MR. SIEGAL: Good evening. My name
25 is John Siegal. I'm one of the Mayoral

1 Designees on the Board.

2 MR. RIVADENEYRA: Good evening. My
3 name is Michael Rivadeneyra. I am one
4 of the City Council Designees,
5 specifically the Bronx Designee, to the
6 Board.

7 MR. MERRITT: Good evening. My name
8 is Herman Merritt, City Council Designee
9 from Brooklyn.

10 MS. SIMMONS: Good evening. My name
11 is Esmeralda Simmons. I'm the Public
12 Advocate's Designee to the Board. I'm
13 from Bed-Stuy.

14 MR. HOGAN: Good evening. AU Hogan,
15 City Council Designee right here in
16 Southeast Queens.

17 MR. DARCHE: My name is Jon Darche. I
18 use he/him pronouns and I'm the Executive
19 Director of the agency.

20 MS. NORTHERN: I'm June Northern.
21 I'm a Mayoral Appointee from Brooklyn.

22 MR. JEMMOTT: Good evening. I'm
23 Kevin Jemmott. I'm a Mayoral Appointee
24 from Queens.

25 MR. DWYER: Good evening. I'm Frank

1 Dwyer. I'm a Police Commissioner
2 Designee.

3 MR. PUMA: Good evening, everyone.
4 My name is Joseph Puma. I go by he/him
5 pronouns.

6 I'm the City Council Designee on the
7 Board from Manhattan and it's great to
8 be here in Queens and thank you for
9 coming out here on a hot July evening.

10 CHAIR RICE: Do we have anyone on
11 the line?

12 MS. BROWN-WYANDS: I'm Charlane
13 Brown, Police Commissioner Designee and
14 I am from the Borough of Queens.

15 CHAIR RICE: Terrific. Thank you,
16 Charlane.

17 I would like to ask for a motion to
18 approve the May Board Meeting minutes --
19 I'm sorry.

20 Are there any changes or corrections
21 to the minutes in May before I --

22 (No response.)

23 CHAIR RICE: All right.

24 So moved?

25 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: (Indicating.)

1 CHAIR RICE: All those in favor --
2 oh, sorry. Can I get a second?

3 MR. HOGAN: I second.

4 CHAIR RICE: Okay. All those in
5 favor?

6 (Chorus of "Ayes".)

7 CHAIR RICE: All right. Thank you.

8 I'd also ask -- like to ask for a
9 motion to approve the June minutes, but
10 are there any changes or corrections to
11 the minutes for June?

12 (No response.)

13 CHAIR RICE: Any changes or
14 corrections to the June minutes?

15 (No response.)

16 CHAIR RICE: Okay. Can I have a
17 motion?

18 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: So moved.

19 CHAIR RICE: A second?

20 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: (Indicating.)

21 CHAIR RICE: All those in favor?

22 (Chorus of "Ayes".)

23 CHAIR RICE: Okay. The minutes are
24 approved as presented.

25 I wanted to start this meeting by

1 remembering Eric Garner and Delrawn
2 Small.

3 Eric Garner was killed on July 17th,
4 nine years ago. The tragedy of Mr.
5 Garner's death and the failure to hold
6 Officer Daniel Pantaleo accountable
7 shook New Yorkers. It also highlighted
8 the great importance of the CCRB.

9 After Pantaleo was cleared by the
10 Staten Island DA and NYPD, it was the
11 CCRB that found misconduct and took
12 Pantaleo to trial that resulted in his
13 firing.

14 Delrawn Small was killed on July 4,
15 2016 by Officer Wayne Isaacs. Officer
16 Isaacs was similarly cleared in criminal
17 court and by the NYPD, and has continued
18 working on the force for the last seven
19 years.

20 The CCRB received the case in May
21 2018 and in October 2020, this Board
22 found Officer Isaac's had committed
23 misconduct, however, this trial has been
24 held up for two years because the CCRB
25 cannot access the sealed evidence from

1 Officer Isaacs' criminal trial.

2 Sealing statutes currently prevent
3 the CCRB from obtaining sealed records.
4 We filed a motion to access these
5 records in October 2021 and in March of
6 this year, the judge granted our motion.
7 Unfortunately, Officer Isaacs appealed
8 this decision and we once again are at a
9 standstill.

10 Barring the CCRB from access to
11 evidence is preventing accountability.
12 There are two bills in Albany right now
13 that would exempt CCRB from sealing
14 statutes and allow us to access key
15 evidence without delays. We hope
16 legislators will support these bills.

17 Mr. Small's family has been seeking
18 justice for over seven years now and has
19 the right to have this case move forward
20 swiftly.

21 I want to remind people that this is
22 why we are here. The CCRB is a resource
23 for New Yorkers who feel that they have
24 been mistreated by the NYPD. We are
25 fully independent and even if other

1 entities did not take action, we review
2 each case in a fair and objective
3 manner.

4 We are here to make New York City
5 safer for everyone by addressing
6 individual cases and patterns of
7 misconduct within the NYPD.

8 I would like to thank the
9 Administration and the City Council for
10 recognizing the importance of the CCRB
11 by retracting the proposed cuts to our
12 budget and giving us additional funding.

13 We have now received the resources
14 and the data needed to investigate
15 racial profiling and bias-based
16 policing, yet we don't hold our work to
17 hold officers accountable unless you,
18 the people of New York, file complaints
19 when you have experienced misconduct.
20 It is so important to keep a record of
21 officer misconduct and accountability --
22 will work towards preventing future
23 misconduct.

24 Part of the reason we are here in
25 Queens today is to come to your

1 community and make it easier for you to
2 share your experiences and file
3 complaints. Every other month we hold
4 our Board Meetings in a different
5 borough.

6 I want to thank the Robert Ross
7 Johnson Family Life Center for
8 partnering with us and being our host
9 this evening.

10 Special thanks to the Center's
11 Director, Monica Fisher, and the Saint
12 Albans Congregational Church's Senior
13 Pastor, Eli Watson.

14 I would also like to take a moment
15 to thank Board Member Michael
16 Rivadeneyra for serving on this Board
17 for the past five-and-a-half years.

18 As the Bronx representative
19 appointed by the City Council, Michael
20 has served all New Yorkers and been a
21 diligent and hardworking member of this
22 Board. He was instrumental in reviewing
23 the 2020 protest cases, which included
24 the largest number and some of the most
25 complicated cases to come through this

1 Agency.

2 Thank you for all of your time, your
3 effort, and your service to the City.

4 We wish you well in your next chapter.

5 I will now pass it off to Executive
6 Director Jonathan Darche, who will give
7 you more details on our current budget
8 and how to file a complaint.

9 MR. DARCHE: Thank you, Chair Rice.

10 As the Chair mentioned, the
11 Administration and City Council restored
12 the proposed cuts to our budget and
13 actually added \$970,000 to our personnel
14 services budget.

15 This will enable us to continue the
16 new work that we were assigned of
17 investigating complaints of racial
18 profiling, but also the work that the
19 City had previously entrusted us with --
20 doing investigations into force, abuse
21 of authority, discourtesy, and offensive
22 language -- and also administratively
23 prosecuting substantiated cases in those
24 -- of those allegations.

25 Before we get started this

1 afternoon, some quick updates on Agency
2 operations.

3 Our office is open to walk-in
4 complaints, but it is also possible to
5 file complaints online at
6 nyc.gov/ccrbcomplaint. You can call us
7 by telephone at 1-800-341-2272.

8 If you call 311 and tell the
9 operator that you wish to make a
10 complaint against a member of the NYPD,
11 they will make sure that we get that
12 complaint and if anyone wishes to file a
13 complaint right now, we have
14 investigators on here -- we have
15 investigators here and ready to take
16 your complaints now.

17 Emma and Daniel, can you stand up?

18 They may have already started taking
19 your complaint, but they are definitely
20 here today and we also have someone from
21 our Civilian Assistance Unit, Shania
22 Gopaul here as well.

23 Just some ground rules:

24 We're going to keep comments to four
25 minutes per person speaking, whether you

1 are here or joining us online.

2 If you're joining us online and wish
3 to speak, please use the raise your hand
4 function.

5 I want to thank the staff for their
6 hard work in setting this up here today
7 and I want to thank my neighbors because
8 I am a North Queen's resident, but I was
9 telling Mr. Jemmott, It was fun to drive
10 here from my house through my old
11 neighborhood on the way here, and it's
12 good to be in Queens.

13 CHAIR RICE: Okay. Thank you so
14 much, Jon.

15 Does anyone have any questions of
16 our Executive Director?

17 (No response.)

18 CHAIR RICE: Any questions?

19 (No response.)

20 CHAIR RICE: Okay. So, at this
21 time, we will have a report from our
22 Director of Outreach, Jahi Rose.

23 MR. ROSE: Hello, everyone. My name
24 is Jahi Rose. I go by he/him pronouns.
25 I'm the Director of Outreach for the

1 Civilian Complaint Review -- for the
2 Civilian Complaint Review Board.

3 So, the Civilian Complaint Review
4 Board is a City Agency. We are the
5 largest independent oversight entity
6 over the largest police force in the
7 country. The CCRB investigates,
8 mediates, and in some cases
9 administratively prosecutes allegations
10 of police misconduct.

11 The Agency is governed by a
12 15-Member Board, many of which you've
13 met here today. Five are appointed by
14 the New York City Mayor, five are
15 appointed by the New York City Council,
16 three are designated by the Police
17 Commissioner, one is appointed by the
18 Public Advocate, and the Chair is
19 jointly appointed by the City Council
20 and the Mayor.

21 The CCRB investigates allegations of
22 police misconduct. A helpful way to
23 remember our jurisdiction is FADO.
24 That's force, abuse of authority,
25 discourtesy, and offensive language.

1 Just a few facts about the Right to
2 Know Act:

3 The Right to Know Act went into
4 effect in October of 2018. The Right to
5 Know Act includes four different
6 components, one, including under certain
7 circumstances, officers should be
8 identifying themselves by providing
9 their name and such information, like
10 their badge number, rank, command,
11 and/or shield number.

12 With some exceptions, officers
13 should be explaining the reason for the
14 encounter or the interaction. Officers
15 should inform you of your -- under
16 certain circumstances, officers should
17 inform you of your right to say "no"
18 when requesting consent to search your
19 person, property, and/or vehicle or
20 home.

21 Officers, under certain
22 circumstances, should also offer
23 business cards. The business cards
24 inform an individual about the identity
25 of the officer and how to file a comment

1 and/or complaint about the interaction
2 between you and that officer. You can
3 request these business cards in any
4 encounter.

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

7 If you see misconduct, you can feel
8 free to report that misconduct online,
9 as mentioned by our Executive Director,
10 Jon Darche, at nyc.gov/ccrbcomplaint, or
11 you can call the CCRB's hotline at
12 1-800-341-CCRB or 1-800-341-2272.

13 If you see footage of misconduct,
14 either on social media or on the news,
15 you can feel free to file a complaint
16 and -- even if you were not there in
17 person. Typical handle for the CCRB is
18 `ccrb_nyc`.

19 Ways to file a complaint with the
20 Civilian Complaint Review Board include
21 calling 311, the City's favorite number.
22 You can also visit the CCRB at our lower
23 Manhattan office at our headquarters at
24 100 Church Street -- and that's 100
25 Church Street on the 10th floor.

1 You can also direct message or DM
2 the CCRB at our social media platforms,
3 which include Facebook, Twitter and
4 Instagram. As mentioned, typical
5 handle, ccrb_nyc. You could also send a
6 letter to the CCRB via mail at 100
7 Church Street, New York, New York, 10th
8 Floor, zip code 10007.

9 You can file a complaint about
10 police misconduct with a local police
11 precinct. It does not have to be the
12 precinct where the interaction took
13 place. Officers are required to accept
14 those complaints at the precinct.

15 They could also offer you -- or
16 provide you with a complaint form and a
17 self-addressed envelope.

18 If you'd like a presentation for
19 your neighborhood, for your family, for
20 a community organization -- really
21 anyone -- any group -- feel free to
22 contact the CCRB's Outreach Unit. Email
23 us at outreach@ccrb.nyc.gov, and you can
24 also feel free to follow us on our
25 social media platforms, Instagram,

1 Twitter, and Facebook.

2 Thank you, Chair Rice.

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

5 MR. DARCHE: So, first, I would just
6 like to tell the folks here today that
7 you have an additional way of filing a
8 complaint because your Assembly Member
9 has a link to our complaint form on his
10 website.

11 So, thank you very much -- Assembly
12 Member for having that link there -- and
13 then can you tell us a little about the
14 CourtSide Program?

15 MR. ROSE: So, the CCRB does what's
16 called "unconventional outreach". So,
17 we go to local basketball courts,
18 handball courts, football fields -- any
19 real recreational space -- and we
20 conduct outreach to young people on
21 basketball courts.

22 I, myself, sometimes may even get
23 into the game just to get connected with
24 the people that are playing, but,
25 nonetheless, we want to connect with

1 your young people. We want to connect
2 with people, period.

3 So, we will do CCRB CourtSide at any
4 basketball tournament -- any event --
5 and we also speak directly to basketball
6 teams, sports, and/or sports clubs.

7 CHAIR RICE: Thank you so much for
8 that.

9 Any other questions?

10 (No response.)

11 CHAIR RICE: All right. Thank you
12 so much, Jahi. I appreciate you.

13 All right. We're going to hear from
14 some members of the community, but
15 before we do that, we did already
16 mention Assembly Member Anderson.

17 So, Assembly Member Khaleel
18 Anderson, if you would join and please
19 provide some remarks for the group.

20 Thank you.

21 MR. ANDERSON: Thank you so much.

22 All right. Good afternoon to the
23 Board. Let me just take a moment to
24 thank you all for your public service as
25 members of the CCRB.

1 My name is Khaleel Anderson, for
2 those who don't know who I am, and I
3 represent the 31st Assembly District in
4 Southeast Queens, which includes the
5 neighborhoods of Rosedale, Springfield
6 Gardens, South Ozone Park, the
7 Rockaways, and South Richmond Hill.

8 So grateful to be here this evening.

9 Just to bring some brief remarks:

10 As the Chair already mentioned, it's
11 important that you all know if you head
12 on over to my Assembly website, there's
13 a number of different resources that you
14 can obtain, one of which is being able
15 to go right to our website and file a
16 CCRB complaint right on my Assembly
17 website, which is great.

18 It's its own little dedicated
19 button. You can't miss it. I was
20 really excited about that. We rolled
21 that out last year.

22 We are in the midst of our summer
23 mobile office hours. That's why I'm
24 dressed down today because I've been out
25 in the streets, connecting with the

1 residents of the District and just
2 updating them on what we've been working
3 on in Albany as it relates to everything
4 from housing to police accountability,
5 and more.

6 So, we're really excited to be back
7 in the District and I also want to
8 mention one other thing on the subject
9 matter of police accountability.

10 I want the folks -- the residents
11 who are here today to know that we do
12 not have to sacrifice or -- you know, or
13 have a false dichotomy between community
14 safety, making sure that we hold our
15 police officers accountable.

16 In my role as a member of the
17 Assembly, I've interviewed and had
18 conversations with all of my police
19 captains and had conversations about
20 their CCRB records, and just reports,
21 and things of that nature -- with all my
22 captains, including the new parts of my
23 Districts and I'm getting ready to
24 inherit, having conversations with those
25 captains as well.

1 It's very important that we have an
2 open dialogue with our police. We have
3 open dialogue with them, everyone from the
4 top all the way down to the beat officer,
5 which is really important.

6 It's also important that statistically
7 crime increases in the summer. It's
8 important to acknowledge that, but
9 citywide right now, crime is down,
10 including in one of my highest crime
11 precincts, which is in the 101st -- and
12 that doesn't happen by just police, but
13 it's really making sure that we have
14 community involved in what's called
15 "Community Safety".

16 It's not just a police responsibility.
17 We have our Cure Violence folks, some of
18 which I see here. LIFE camp, you guys do
19 an incredible job. We also have folks in
20 our District, Rock Safe Streets.

21 Other entities that do really good
22 work are the Kings of Kings Foundation,
23 just to name some of the few that do
24 incredible work to help keep our streets
25 and our

1 families safe.

2 So, I just wanted to just bring
3 those brief remarks and I will see you
4 all in the streets at one of my mobile
5 summer office hours every Wednesday from
6 3:30 to 5. We're either knocking on
7 your door or we're right on the main
8 thoroughfare.

9 Next week, I think we're going to be
10 on Guy Brewer and Farmers in the
11 District. So, looking forward to the
12 work that you guys continue to do and
13 let's continue to work in collaboration
14 for true community safety.

15 Thank you so much.

16 CHAIR RICE: Thank you so much for
17 that, Assemblyman.

18 We are now going to hear from some
19 other local community leaders.

20 Thank you so much for joining us,
21 and as a reminder, we're going -- we ask
22 you to please keep your comments to four
23 minutes.

24 So, Yojaira, who would you please --
25 would you please call on the first

1 speaker?

2 MS. ALVAREZ: Thank you, Madam
3 Chair.

4 First, we'll be hearing from
5 Reverend Thorb's, Chairperson from
6 Queens Community Board 12.

7 MS. THORBS: This is very quick.

8 I am the Chairperson for Community
9 Board 12, 400,000 people, 36 different
10 languages -- I'm sure we have more
11 languages than that now -- and a retired
12 New York City Police Officer.

13 So, CCRB is very important -- not
14 just -- it's very important for
15 civilians to give them coverage and
16 security because there's nothing more
17 telling than when you feel, as a
18 citizen, you have no -- no recourse, no
19 person to go to, especially when the
20 police are policing themselves.

21 I was looking -- I was given three
22 topics to stay on course and so I took
23 the last one, which was what can the
24 City do to improve police community
25 relations in your neighborhood.

1 Let me just start by saying this --
2 I know I only have four minutes -- who
3 you are in any job is based on your
4 character. So, if you're hiring someone
5 that shows no character, their activity
6 and their behavior is going to reflect
7 that.

8 That's something that's taught from
9 home -- and once we are seeing signs of
10 that, it needs to be -- they need to be
11 corrected, brought back in, put back
12 through training -- and if you still see
13 no changes, then they need to be
14 removed. They do not need to stay in a
15 community where they feel that they can
16 be abusive.

17 Ego plays a big part when you're
18 carrying a shield and a gun. Ego is
19 everything, but you have to have --
20 again, it goes back to character.

21 When I first came out on the street,
22 my mother said to me as I walked out the
23 door for my first night to go in
24 Brooklyn -- and I trained right here in
25 this community under CPOP with Michelle

1 Keller in the 113th Precinct. As a
2 college kid, I was a cadet wearing a
3 uniform standing on the corners of
4 Sutphin Boulevard and being on Farmers
5 Boulevard with her.

6 The one thing my mother said to me
7 when I walked out the door is,
8 "Remember, you're a Christian first".
9 So, that means -- what she was saying to
10 me is, you treat everyone correctly, no
11 matter what. You have family; you have
12 cousins and this is the way we need to
13 come to work. We're here to help, not
14 to throw our weight around.

15 There's two sides to every story.
16 Things do happen. Situations do get hot
17 and they do escalate, but we have to
18 always remember, we have to take a step
19 back and still remember that we're
20 dealing with people always in a time of
21 crisis. You're in a crisis. That's why
22 we're here.

23 We show up because you're going
24 through things and we are to bring peace
25 to the situation or bring clarity, or if

1 necessary, then it's time to lock
2 somebody up. Somebody's got to go.

3 But we also -- doing that training,
4 you're a psychiatrist because you have
5 to read between the lines and see
6 everything that's going on -- but you do
7 not have the right to throw your weight
8 around incorrectly and so we need the
9 CCRB to have more power to be able to
10 investigate, to open up records that
11 need to be opened up because you're
12 going to see something that -- there you
13 go.

14 You're going to see a path. You're
15 going to see something that has been
16 going on all along.

17 I can recall the names of officers
18 that have been taken out of the Police
19 Department because of their behavior,
20 but had they looked back at what was
21 going on in the first place, they
22 would've seen it.

23 What can we do better? The only
24 thing that came to mind was mediation.
25 Let's try something different. Let's

1 have a mediation where now when an
2 officer is charged about something -- or
3 there's -- someone is saying that there
4 is an allegation that this is going on
5 or the officer talked disrespectfully --
6 let's have mediation.

7 It should be mandatory that they
8 have to now face that person face to
9 face, and now you tell your story and
10 you listen to them tell their story, and
11 let's see where we're at because I
12 guarantee you, that story will change or
13 the understanding will change.

14 I had a situation myself in February
15 and I had to stay calm and do what I
16 knew that I had to do to protect myself
17 because I felt I was being threatened.
18 I knew I was being threatened and how it
19 could have escalated.

20 Again, I think mediation is where we
21 should go. That's something that should
22 be on the table as a consideration
23 because when a person has to now face
24 the person they abuse, it changes the
25 whole character. Nobody -- no one is

1 going to want to continue to do what
2 they're doing and now they have to sit
3 with -- sit in front of that person in
4 front of CCRB and now explain yourself.

5 Thank you.

6 MR. DARCHE: Thank you very much for
7 your -- your powerful words and thank
8 you for your service as both Chair of
9 Community Board 12 and as a police
10 officer.

11 I wanted to talk a little bit about
12 the Agency's mediation program. We've
13 restarted it and rebooted it since the
14 pandemic, and while I appreciate what
15 the speaker just said about having
16 mandatory mediation, we don't have
17 mandatory mediation.

18 We think the only way mediation is
19 successful is if all the parties
20 volunteer for the mediation, and so
21 first we -- when the civilian calls us
22 and makes a complaint, we explain to
23 them the different options and we
24 explain to them what our mediation
25 option is.

1 And if they choose to have the case
2 mediated, we then go to the Department
3 and see if they feel that the officer is
4 an appropriate candidate for mediation,
5 and then finally we go to the officer
6 themselves to see if they would like to
7 mediate the case because we don't want
8 to put a civilian in a situation where
9 they're going to waste their time and
10 come down and talk to an officer who is
11 not interested in mediation.

12 And so by having the mediation
13 program be voluntary, we believe it is
14 more effective.

15 One of the things that we do now
16 that we -- that is different from cases
17 in the past is we now take the
18 civilian's statement about what happened
19 before we attempt to mediate the case
20 and that means if the civilian is
21 unhappy with the mediation process, the
22 case can be fully investigated, and that
23 way --

24 A lot of times what would happen is
25 people would try and go to mediate a

1 case. The mediation would be
2 unsuccessful and because it had taken so
3 long, there was no way to then turn
4 around and do a successful
5 investigation.

6 And by setting strict time limits,
7 and making sure that everyone
8 understands what is involved in the
9 mediation process upfront, we think
10 we've created a better and more
11 effective version of mediation, and I'm
12 eager to see the results of these
13 changes to our mediation process.

14 CHAIR RICE: Thank you, Jon --Thank you,
15 Jon. Appreciate that.

16 Yojaira, who is next on our list of
17 speakers?

18 MS. ALVAREZ: Next, we'll be hearing
19 from Amira Ismail, a youth participant
20 from the organization Malukah and she'll
21 be joining us virtually.

22 MS. ISMAIL: Hello, everyone. My
23 name is Amira Ismail. I'm a 17-year-old
24 organizer in Queens, New York. I am an
25 organizer -- obviously a fellow with

1 Malikah.

2 Malikah is a small, but mighty,
3 local organization and we do a bunch of
4 deescalation trainings across the City
5 along with worldwide. So, that's just a
6 little bit about Malikah.

7 We are based in Astoria, Queens on
8 Steinway street, so we often see a lot
9 of situations where it could be
10 deescalated really quickly.

11 And all of our trainers are
12 trauma-informed and me personally, being
13 a 17-year-old -- but also being
14 trauma-informed -- has really taught me
15 how a lot of our City Officials should
16 be trauma-informed because then it just
17 makes deescalating a situation so much
18 easier.

19 So, in terms of the NYPD and other
20 City Agencies, I believe that they
21 should go through a clear set of
22 trainings in order to deal with our
23 community members in a way that's
24 respectful to both parties, So at the
25 end of the day, things get solved

1 quickly because we work a lot with the
2 community.

3 We work with domestic violence
4 survivors and a bunch of other folks,
5 and often day in and day out, there's
6 just a lot of untrust (sic) in the
7 community, which is unfortunate.

8 But it just happens with
9 generational trauma and, honestly, a way
10 to work through that is to not only
11 create better relations, but also see
12 how the NYPD can make themselves better
13 to the community and make the community
14 appeal to them, rather than stay away
15 from them.

16 On Steinway on April -- beginning of
17 April, there was a shooting,
18 unfortunately, and the street was
19 flooded with police officers and a lot
20 of community members were not -- - were
21 not comfortable, again, which is
22 unfortunate. So, we had a lot of folks
23 coming to our offices asking us how it
24 is, what happened, etcetera.

25 So, it's just building those

1 community relations, along with when
2 we're talking about deescalation, as
3 someone just said beforehand, we
4 definitely need to make sure that these
5 folks are trauma-informed and instead of
6 just seeing a situation and walking
7 away, or going on their phones, to
8 actually approach the situation and
9 approach the situation not violently.

10 And -- yeah, thank you so much.

11 CHAIR RICE: Thank you so much,
12 Amira, for your comments. We appreciate
13 them.

14 Jon, did you have a comment?

15 MR. DARCHE: I just wanted to thank
16 Amira for the hard work she's doing in
17 my neighborhood and also say that I -- I
18 agree with her about the need to use
19 trauma-informed interview techniques.

20 It's something that we've worked
21 very hard to integrate into the CCRB.
22 We send a lot of our folks to special
23 training in trauma-informed interview
24 techniques, but we've taken what we've
25 learned from the people who've gone to

1 that training and then come back to the
2 Agency, and we've integrated many of
3 those lessons -- without violating any
4 copyright rules.

5 We've integrated them into our
6 trainings so that all of our
7 investigators are learning how to
8 actively listen, how to engage with
9 folks who have been traumatized.

10 Like Amira said, sometimes it's
11 generational trauma. Sometimes it's the
12 trauma from the incident that led them
13 to the encounter that brought them to
14 the CCRB and sometimes it's just trauma
15 that has happened to them that we have
16 to get through in order to find out what
17 happened in the incident that brought
18 them to the CCRB.

19 So, thank you for bringing up that
20 point, Amira. I think it helped us get
21 to something to explain to our partners
22 here in the community.

23 CHAIR RICE: Any other comments from
24 the Board?

25 (No response.)

1 CHAIR RICE: Okay. Yojaira, can we
2 hear from our next speaker?

3 MS. ALVAREZ: Next, we'll be hearing
4 from Joshua Kelly, a hospital responder
5 with LIFE Camp.

6 MR. KELLY: All right. Peace,
7 everyone. My name is Joshua Kelly. I'm
8 a hospital responder employed with LIFE
9 Camp Inc.

10 I'm a little nervous -- not going to
11 lie to you. It's my first time speaking
12 in front of a crowd of -- first time
13 speaking in front of a crowd of this
14 manner, you know.

15 I've been in this work for about a
16 year-and-a-half now, you know. I'm from
17 the community. I grew up in Baisley
18 Housing -- and I have to emphasize
19 "Baisley Housing" because a lot of
20 people say "projects" and I don't feel
21 like it's a project.

22 I feel like that's a negative stigma
23 that people put on a community and I
24 don't think anybody grows up in any kind
25 of project area -- you know what I'm

1 saying -- despite whatever stigma is set
2 around that area, you know.

3 There are a couple questions that
4 were asked, that I should focus on --
5 right.

6 So, with my experience on -- with
7 boots on the ground and in the
8 community, what are some things that I
9 consider that are issues with the police
10 and community relations, right.

11 So, first, I feel like the youth do
12 not have enough information in regards
13 to the CCRB in terms of how to contact
14 people -- any -- regards to information
15 around this in general. Like, there are
16 a few young people that I see in the
17 crowd at the moment. I feel like I'm
18 among the young people. I'm
19 28-years-old.

20 I was unaware of anything in regards
21 to the CCRB when it came to -- when I
22 was in high school and college. This is
23 all new information to me, you know.

24 So, I feel like that's something
25 that should be presented to the youth at

1 an early age, so they can get their
2 grievances off, whether it be something
3 minor -- you know. It can be a traffic
4 infraction or just getting stopped
5 walking in the street -- anything in
6 regards to that, you know.

7 And I also feel that -- I don't know
8 if anybody in this room has any idea in
9 terms of how the hiring processes for
10 police in our community -- I don't know
11 if anybody doesn't.

12 Okay. So, I feel like there should
13 be more police of our color -- you know,
14 of our race. I don't want this to be a
15 race thing, but I still feel like there
16 should be a relatable amount of
17 information going on with the youth, the
18 adults, the police. It should be
19 something that I can relate to, in terms
20 of policing our community.

21 I don't want to make this a whole
22 long-winded statement or anything like
23 that. I wanted this to be pretty short.

24 But, yeah, that's pretty much all I
25 got at the moment.

1 CHAIR RICE: Thank you so much.

2 MR. DARCHE: Josh -- Joshua, can --
3 Joshua, can you tell us what a hospital
4 responder is?

5 MR. KELLY: Yes -- oh, what is a
6 hospital responder?

7 Okay. So, as a hospital responder,
8 I respond to shootings within my
9 catchment, even though I'm gonna put
10 quotes around it because I don't have a
11 set area that I cover.

12 We typically cover anything within
13 Southeast Queens, you know, whether it
14 be a minor shooting, a major shooting.

15 We just had a shooting the other
16 day -- the scooter shooter if anybody is
17 aware of that. We had four shootings
18 within that day, within four different
19 areas.

20 I respond to the hospital. I speak
21 with anybody in the area. I speak with
22 family members. I try to provide them
23 with any proper services or in the right
24 direction of getting the proper need
25 that they can get for that family

1 member, whether it be -- like I said,
2 just being care in the hospital or
3 setting up funeral arrangements.
4 Unfortunately, that's something that we
5 have to deal with on a daily basis.

6 That's not the brightest part of my
7 day, but, you know, it's something we
8 all got to deal with, unfortunately.

9 But, you know, just pointing people
10 in the right direction and providing
11 them with any kind of care that we
12 possibly can, whether it be something
13 that's in my power or within another
14 organization's power, I will point
15 people in the right direction wherever I
16 possibly can, you know, to get the
17 property needs that they need.

18 MR. DARCHE: So, I hope now that
19 you've been to one of our Board
20 Meetings, you will consider the CCRB in
21 your -- your toolkit that you can point
22 people to --

23 MR. KELLY: Absolutely.

24 MR. DARCHE: -- if you think they
25 need them -- and we have a relatively

1 small Outreach Team.

2 We have an Outreach Team of five
3 people -- you add Jahi. We need your
4 help and we need all of your help to let
5 people know that we're here and a
6 resource for them, because as the Chair
7 of Community Board 12 said, people need
8 to know that there is someone they can
9 go to, to voice their concerns, to say,
10 "Hey, I wasn't treated the right way",
11 and that's why we're here, and if people
12 don't know about us, and we can do the
13 job.

14 MR. KELLY: Thank you. Appreciate
15 you for your time.

16 CHAIR RICE: Thank you -- thank you
17 for the incredible work that you do, and
18 thank you, Jon, for that question.

19 Yeah, it's amazing work that you do.

20 We will now enter the public comment
21 portion of the meeting. If you are
22 interested in making a public comment,
23 if you could please line up behind the
24 podium -- and people are -- have already
25 used the join -- raise your hand

1 feature, but just keep in mind that we
2 want you to keep your comments to four
3 minutes or less.

4 So, the public portion comment --
5 Yes, sister, if you can let us know
6 who you are.

7 MS. MAYS: Anna Mays (phonetic). I
8 have a complaint against the 103rd
9 Precinct.

10 Recently, we had an altercation with
11 a menacing tenant in our building and --
12 she came up at 6:50 in the morning with
13 a hammer -- or what you could say a
14 blunt object -- and banged on our door.
15 She put dents on our door.

16 We called the police. The police
17 came, took my statement, when and took
18 her statement, and, basically, they said
19 it was harassment.

20 The problem with the situation is
21 she admitted what she did. We didn't
22 understand why she wasn't arrested for
23 anything because now we don't have a way
24 to protect ourselves because -- since
25 she didn't get arrested, we can't get an

1 Order of Protection.

2 My parents are elderly. My mother
3 has a heart condition. I have three
4 small children that live with me. I
5 have fibromyalgia. Stress is a trigger
6 for me. So, literally all day this
7 morning, I've been calling and trying to
8 find ways of protecting my family from
9 this menacing tenant.

10 Mind you, these are the same tenants
11 that attacked the super in January where
12 he was sent to the hospital with a
13 fractured skull. We don't understand
14 why this man has never been arrested.
15 Even if the person may not have pressed
16 charges, why they stopped looking for
17 him.

18 These are the same tenants that are
19 now harassing my family. They're also
20 harassing another tenant in the
21 building. The same man that attacked
22 the super approached her son.

23 We don't understand why the precinct
24 is not doing their job to help us in
25 this situation.

1 CHAIR RICE: Thank you, Ms. Mays for
2 that comment.

3 I have a follow-up question on what
4 the police's response has been to it.

5 This is a little bit outside of our
6 jurisdiction, but, Jon, I wanted to see
7 if you had any comment.

8 MR. DARCHE: So, Ms. Mays, I'm going
9 to ask that you give your information to
10 one of our investigators and -- and I
11 don't know --

12 As the Chair said, this doesn't fall
13 in our jurisdiction in a neat way, but
14 we will make some calls and try and get
15 an answer for you, and at least have
16 someone from the Department call you
17 back and explain what next steps are.

18 MS. MAYS: Thank you so much.

19 CHAIR RICE: Thank you.

20 MR. BATTLE: Good evening, everyone.
21 My name is Aaron Battle. I operate a
22 barber shop, Urbane Barbershop and
23 Beauty Spa located on 122-11 Guy R
24 Brewer Boulevard. I've been open for 14
25 months. My first business and -- thank

1 you.

2 And so my good friend, Mr. Steve
3 here, just informed me about this --
4 this meeting, CCRB. I wasn't aware of
5 it either and he invited me to come out.

6 One of the -- a complaint that I
7 have been expressing for some months now
8 pertains to the smoke shop -- okay. So,
9 when I was a teenager, I used to smoke.
10 I quit, maybe 20 years ago, and I get
11 it. However, the smoke shop, I take it
12 that it's not licensed to sell
13 marijuana, but marijuana is sold there.

14 A lot of underage smokers purchase
15 or are sold marijuana there. I observe
16 it every day and I can foresee an
17 unfortunate circumstance transpiring,
18 and -- I'll try to be concise about it,
19 but I'm not sure who I should address
20 about it, in particular, in an effort to
21 get it -- get some type of result
22 because inevitably, there's going to be
23 some sort of tragedy, or it takes it --
24 because of what it attracts and how it's
25 operated.

1 One, you know, young fellow come
2 with a blue flag, the other one's got a
3 red flag, and it's a conflict. It
4 shouldn't take a candlelight vigil for
5 it to be shut down, just to be frank.
6 It's too late then, you know, to come up
7 there and protest -- body slain -- when
8 I've been going to people's different
9 organizations. I don't know where else
10 to turn.

11 So, I'm hoping that voicing it here
12 -- and this is the first time I've done
13 something like this -- maybe someone can
14 point me in a direction as to where I --
15 who I can speak with to get this
16 operation shutdown, you see, because it
17 has been several months and I'm not sure
18 what to do.

19 So, the barbershop says that I have,
20 my aim is to not only provide quality
21 service, but when youngsters come in, I
22 had sparked conversations about
23 activities that lead to incarceration or
24 the cemetery -- okay -- the impact of
25 gang affiliation and activity. That's

1 my duty because I want to be
2 instrumental in breaking the cycle.

3 So, if there's anyone who could
4 point me in a direction or even assist
5 me, feel free to speak with me. I have
6 a number and I'm willing to do what it
7 takes to intervene in the matter.

8 Thank you.

9 CHAIR RICE: Thank you -- Thank you,
10 Mr. Bell (sic) for your comments and
11 congratulations on -- Mr. Battle -- Mr.
12 Battle --

13 MR. DARCHE: Mr. Battle.

14 MS. SIMMONS: Battle.

15 MR. BATTLE: B-A-T-T-L-E.

16 CHAIR RICE: Mr. Battle, on your --
17 on your small business and on your
18 entrepreneurship venture.

19 I'm going to have Jon speak a little
20 bit about who we can refer you to, but I
21 know this has recently become an issue
22 among City Council. Particularly, City
23 Councilwoman Gale Brewer has taken a lot
24 of effort around -- around this area and
25 so I'm sure that Jon can provide more

1 concrete direction for you on next
2 steps.

3 MR. DARCHE: So -- so, this is --
4 this is an area that as marijuana was
5 legalized and the state's -- the state's
6 policy for setting up licenses lagged
7 behind the demand for marijuana, you saw
8 this growth of unlicensed marijuana
9 shops.

10 In the City, the City seems to have
11 put the Sheriff's Office in charge of
12 enforcement, which is not in our
13 jurisdiction. But, Mr. Battle, we'll --
14 someone is going to get your information
15 and we will reach out to the Sheriff's
16 Office and make sure to connect you with
17 them.

18 MR. BATTLE: (Indiscernible.)

19 MR. DARCHE: I don't think your --
20 your barbershop is the only business
21 that is unfortunately near an unlicensed
22 marijuana dispensary in the City.

23 I think it's very, very common and
24 it's something that we're going to have
25 to figure out a solution for going

1 forward.

2 So, we'll at least be able to put
3 you together with the right people.

4 CHAIR RICE: Yes, please.

5 MS. KETCHUM: Can you hear me -- is
6 that good? Okay. Good.

7 Good evening. My name is Venus
8 Ketchum (phonetic). I'm a community
9 leader in education. I'm so excited for
10 four minutes because usually with School
11 Board Meetings, you have two minutes.

12 So, I just wanted to -- I just
13 wanted to introduce myself as a
14 community leader in education -- a
15 community education activist. My son
16 David is here with me. He's
17 16-years-old. We live two blocks away.

18 He plays several sports, three
19 sports at the varsity level. He's going
20 to be a senior and he plays basketball
21 and is constantly looking for areas to
22 play basketball in the community.

23 I don't have any complaints. I want
24 to follow-up with what the young man
25 said about not knowing about this

1 meeting.

2 I first heard about CCRB at a School
3 Board Meeting. I think this year there
4 was a woman that was a guest, but before
5 that, I'd never heard of this. So,
6 there is an issue with communication in
7 our community, specifically, that can't
8 be put back on the community to
9 communicate, right, because most of them
10 don't know about these meetings.

11 Part of the role as an officer
12 policing our communities can be to
13 communicate the offerings and the
14 services that your precinct and agencies
15 provide.

16 I often see police officers over by
17 the Papa John's or Merrick Boulevard
18 close to the laundromat and I see
19 officers throughout the City, throughout
20 Queens, patrolling or standing, but not
21 engaging with our people and not
22 engaging with our community.

23 And like the young man said, there
24 are not enough officers of color in
25 communities of color, so there's a

1 stigma, with the youth specifically,
2 around who police -- police officers are
3 and what they do. So, there's a
4 hesitation to communicate, so I would
5 encourage the adult, which is the
6 officer, to shake hands with our teens.

7 My son is a shake-hands type of kid,
8 so he will shake people's hands, but all
9 of the officers he has come in contact
10 with were Caucasian. The only person
11 that I saw of African American descent
12 was the Queens South Deputy guy at a
13 NAACP meeting or a Democratic Club
14 meeting.

15 But other than that, on the streets,
16 I don't see black officers. I don't see
17 that many female officers. I do see
18 some over by 40 Houses -- South Jamaica
19 Houses -- but, really, creating an
20 initiative to increase and improve
21 communication, tone, race relations --
22 so that officers know that it is your
23 job to say, "Hello".

24 It is your job to ask, "Can I help
25 you" -- right. In patrolling the parks,

1 it is -- "Hey, what are you all doing
2 over there", versus looking to arrest
3 and criminalize our youth.

4 So, again, I didn't intend to speak,
5 I just wanted to introduce myself. I'm
6 passionate about education. Somebody
7 has to come to every single high school.
8 Somebody has to come to every single PTA
9 meeting.

10 Somebody has to come to the School
11 Board Meetings, CEC consistently and
12 regularly talking about this
13 organization, because it's not happening
14 and our youth are uninformed, which
15 leads them to go to other places -- to
16 seek comfort, and belonging, and a sense
17 of empowerment at a smoke shop versus at
18 a meeting like this.

19 So, I hope that we all tell our
20 youth, there's something happening here
21 that's important. We want to hear your
22 voice first and foremost. So, thank
23 you. I love having four minutes.

24 CHAIR RICE: Thank you so much for
25 introducing yourself and using your four

1 minutes very well.

2 Yes, we can have our next speaker.

3 MR. MEYERS: I am Mr. Meyers of the
4 Pink Houses in Brooklyn. Housing Cop,
5 NYC, me. Been retired for 35 years --
6 20 on, 35 off still doing the job.

7 My question is very simple and it
8 hasn't been addressed. Why don't police
9 officers wear their hats? That is a
10 sign of authority. When you step out,
11 you got your shield. Your king doesn't
12 need to go nowhere without his crown.

13 He needs to put his crown on because
14 everybody looks up at you. They don't
15 look at your chest or your arm. That is
16 what I see and I'm a police officer -- I
17 still am. I see something, I say
18 something. I'll step to it. I'm not
19 afraid.

20 We've come too far, and as you see
21 the color of my skin. I knew about
22 Booker T. Washington, Frederick Douglas,
23 and so forth, and so on -- all of them,
24 but the police right now give me a bad
25 name and make me look bad.

1 I really didn't want to be up here
2 talking to you. I planned something
3 else, but you don't scare me. You are
4 me, so how can I be scared -- afraid of
5 me -- scared of me too also. Now, if
6 police officers wore their hat,
7 authority -- they stand tall.

8 Pink Houses, Brooklyn, mention Mr.
9 Meyers to a few people over there and
10 see what they start talking about.
11 (Indiscernible) -- no. Always tell the
12 truth -- educate, educate, educate.
13 Frederick Douglas said that.

14 Think I've said enough. I don't
15 want to take up no more of your time --
16 two, three, four minutes -- I'm out.
17 Peace.

18 I started to think I said -- I said,
19 I'm busy. I'm busy with children,
20 adults. They all want to look like me.
21 Have a good night, all.

22 MS. WALROND: Thank you to the Board
23 and to everyone that's assembled here.
24 I have nothing on him. I only
25 retired -- I'm retiring now six years

1 after working 42 years for the city of
2 New York.

3 So, I know about the CCRB, DCAS,
4 Department of Finance, and DOB was my
5 last hurrah -- okay.

6 Now, I come before you because there
7 -- I come before you as -- not only as a
8 public person, but on behalf of my
9 church --okay -- and the neighborhood.

10 We have some issues that are going
11 on and the noise with the dirt bikes
12 that come through the neighborhood.
13 They're doing wheelies -- or whatever
14 you call it -- and it's dangerous.

15 The children out there. Come on.
16 God forbid a child runs, you cannot see
17 a child with a car so high that weighs I
18 don't know how many pounds.

19 Okay. The other thing is the noise.
20 I have -- I hate to say, which is
21 true -- I have a party place on the
22 block -- party from Monday to Sunday --
23 okay. I like music. I love it. I love
24 to dance, but not every day. People
25 have to work. The noise is ridiculous.

1 People leave their bottles, etcetera,
2 etcetera.

3 Okay. The other thing is, we need
4 for the church on Sutphin Boulevard --
5 Rush Temple AME Zion Church, who I'm
6 trying to speak on behalf of right now
7 -- we have other things going on, but
8 the main thing, we need a stoplight at
9 that corner of 120th Avenue and Sutphin
10 Boulevard because there's like four-way
11 traffic coming.

12 I'm afraid that one day one of our
13 parishioners, or the children, or maybe
14 any of you who are walking over there to
15 Food World or wherever you're going --
16 or to the apartment buildings that are
17 across the street -- because it's crazy.
18 It's horrible. So, there needs to be a
19 light there, hopefully.

20 On my block, there can't be a light.
21 There can't even be a speed bump because
22 when the Van Wyck Expressway is backed
23 up, they use 144th Street to come
24 zooming down. I do not leave my house
25 until 10 o'clock, because at 6:30 I'm

1 awoke by the noise of the traffic coming
2 through, coming through.

3 The last thing is the
4 double-parking. It's ridiculous. Cars
5 are double and triple-parked. Now, I
6 don't know. Any of these things that I
7 have mentioned, who -- is it 311?

8 I've dialed 311 and I did get a
9 quick response, which I was really
10 surprised because usually it says, it'll
11 be four or five hours before the police
12 officers arrive, which I understand
13 because it's not a necessity -- I don't
14 want to say necessity, but it's not
15 something that's high priority -- thank
16 you for that -- as they always say.

17 But, when I call 311, next thing, I
18 heard a voice on the phone. "Miss --
19 miss, you complained". I said, "Yes",
20 and, "We'll be there in a few minutes".
21 Okay. That's great, but we need to keep
22 this activity of things that are in the
23 neighborhood going because I said after
24 retiring -- okay -- I was here -- I'm
25 here to work with whomever it is, by any

1 means necessary.

2 And that gentleman over there that
3 owns the barbershop, I'm one of his
4 customers. I'm not trying to big-up his
5 business. He does good. I do need a --
6 I do need a haircut. You all looking
7 now -- I know. But the thing is, his
8 word is his bond and so is mine.

9 We are here. We want to do
10 something -- this is our community --
11 because we may not be here to see what's
12 going to happen to our children. It's
13 about the children. So, let's give them
14 something. It's generational wealth we
15 got to deal with and making sure that
16 they provided with to get what they have
17 to do.

18 So, we want to keep you all to the
19 books and the grind of what you all got
20 to do, just like it's your
21 responsibility to keep us to it. So.
22 I'm hoping and praying, by God's
23 almighty grace, that something that is
24 said here today will change or start the
25 process of change because we need to

1 change.

2 Oh, I'm sorry. My name is Deborah
3 Y. Walrond, W-A-L-R-O-N-D. Thank you
4 for your time.

5 CHAIR RICE: Thank you, Ms. Walrond
6 -- thank you, Ms. Walrond.

7 You mentioned a couple of different
8 issues, including the noise in the -- in
9 the neighborhood and the double-parking,
10 and -- so, there's a wide range of
11 issues that you mentioned and so we'll
12 see if we can direct -- help to direct
13 them to where --

14 (Indiscernible.)

15 MS. WALROND: It is -- well, I just
16 want to make it -- direct it to the
17 appropriate party because things are
18 subject to change.

19 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: It's not going to
20 change.

21 MS. WALROND: It's not going to
22 change -- okay. Well, I'll be there.

23 (Indiscernible.)

24 MS. WALROND: Right -- right. But I
25 know we can't get one -- not to cut you

1 off -- yes.

2 (Indiscernible.)

3 MS. WALROND: Oh, really -- oh,
4 because I know the Fire Department has
5 to come through. So, we're thinking
6 that maybe that's the reason why they
7 won't put a speed bump there because
8 it's horrible.

9 (Indiscernible.)

10 MS. WALDRON: Right. So, you know,
11 we need help with that because you don't
12 know -- you really don't know. You
13 know, seniors coming out --

14 But, really, on that corner of 120th
15 Avenue -- on Sutphin Boulevard and 120th
16 Avenue, 119th Avenue -- Dr. Eldris
17 Gittens Way -- we need --

18 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: There's a --

19 (Indiscernible.)

20 MS. WALROND: -- the speaker --
21 okay.

22 (Indiscernible.)

23 CHAIR RICE: Look at that -- look at
24 that. Make sure you remember where you
25 got your answers at, right here at the

1 CCRB Meeting, you all. You witnessed
2 it.

3 Can we hear from our next sister?

4 MS. MITCHELL: Hi. Good evening.

5 My name is Trina Mitchell and I am proud
6 to be standing here as a CCRB mom.

7 My son, Christopher Mitchell, served
8 on the -- he was a founding member of
9 the Youth Advisory Council to the CCRB
10 and so for the young leader in the
11 building, and the young people in the
12 room and those listening, the CCRB does
13 have active youth. They are very
14 active.

15 If you go on -- if you search in the
16 -- if you just type in the search
17 engine, "Civilian Complaint Review Board
18 Youth Advisory Council", you'll see.

19 CHAIR RICE: If we can ask those
20 folks who are having the conversation in
21 the back of the room, if you all can
22 step out for a second.

23 We don't -- sorry -- okay. No
24 problem -- no problem.

25 MS. MITCHELL: Thank you.

1 CHAIR RICE: Thank you so much, Ms.
2 Mitchell. You were giving a powerful
3 testimony. We wanted to make sure that
4 we had -- you had our utmost attention.

5 MS. MITCHELL: Thank you. I
6 appreciate it.

7 So, if you Google "Civilian
8 Complaint Review Board Youth Advisory
9 Council", that big, bright, beautiful
10 face that you'll see in the middle is
11 Chris Mitchell. That's my son, Barack
12 Obama reloaded, and that -- the Youth
13 Advisory Council is something that I
14 would encourage any powerful -- any
15 young person looking to make a
16 difference, looking to have your voice
17 heard, to stand out, to be seen,
18 supported, and recognized -- and to be a
19 representative for your community -- to
20 reach out to the CCRB and join the Youth
21 Advisory Council. It's powerful.

22 I attended because he was the
23 youngest member of the CCRB Youth
24 Advisory Council. I was there at their
25 inaugural youth conference that they

1 hosted at NYU where youth were speaking
2 out and they were phenomenal, and they
3 were fearless, and I felt that from you
4 up here as a young leader -- and your
5 voice is needed.

6 And so I love the fact that the CCRB
7 is taking it on the road. I didn't know
8 that they -- you know, that you come to
9 different boroughs to have this tour and
10 I think that there should -- I love this
11 idea and I love that it will continue,
12 and I hope that the youth that can hear
13 me now will type it in your search
14 engine -- will go out and be a part of
15 this and connect because we need you.

16 One thing that I want -- what you
17 said, what can we do better, one thing I
18 noticed -- just pivoting a little --
19 when I get off the subway and I get to
20 Jamaica Avenue, and I see the young
21 police officers -- because usually
22 they're fresh out of the academy -- put
23 on foot-posts -- what I see in my
24 community -- cause I know they're
25 supposed to be community policing -- is

1 fear.

2 When I look in their faces, they're
3 so young. They're babies and they're
4 put out and they're usually policing a
5 community that they don't frequent, they
6 don't shop in, they don't live in, they
7 don't know anybody here, they don't
8 visit.

9 And so what I would offer -- what I
10 would hope there would be is that there
11 will be more engagement with that before
12 you throw them in an undesirable because
13 somebody with seniority doesn't want to
14 do foot-posts. What I would hope is
15 that you take those same young people
16 and put them in positions where they are
17 in the Youth Police Academy Camp --
18 cause there is one in every borough.

19 I have two boys and my youngest son
20 is there every day during the summer,
21 Monday through Friday. They're hosted
22 in a local public school and you have
23 your local police, men and women, as
24 counselors in a camp training these
25 young people in all five boroughs to --

1 just, like, in self-defense.

2 A lot of them have been bullied. A
3 few in school were bullies and they --
4 an incredible sergeant came and spoke at
5 the school to start a mediation program
6 and bring those kids in and -- instead
7 of demonizing the bully, he stood up and
8 was like, let's make you a leader cause
9 you use it in a negative way.

10 So, those are ways that we -- the
11 kids are seeing -- rather than seeing
12 the officer and being angry -- because
13 we can turn on a TV and see people dying
14 that look like me or look like them at
15 the hands of police officers -- and now
16 trust is being built.

17 So, if those same scared police
18 officers that we see fresh out of the
19 academy on those undesirable foot-posts
20 are now put in the Youth Police Academy
21 training the young people in the
22 community, now trust is being built, and
23 if you put them in the school programs
24 to mediate during the school year, and
25 then if you put them in front of adults

1 in self-defense classes hosted at a
2 local "Y" or -- I don't know -- where do
3 we go for --

4 Our Mayor is hosting a self-defense
5 class or whatever -- it's those -- if
6 you take those same scared faces, then
7 all of a sudden, a relationship is
8 built. Then trust is built, and then
9 that fear would go away, so then all of
10 a sudden, if you see a scuffle with kids
11 not using their time wisely, or hanging
12 out, or being ridiculous, you don't
13 automatically go to your gun and we
14 don't automatically have another
15 mourning of another life loss stupidly
16 because of fear.

17 So -- - and I just wanted -- this
18 one last thing cause I don't know if I'm
19 over my four minutes -- but it's awesome
20 to know this, my son -- that Barack
21 Obama reloaded -- remember that name,
22 Christopher Mitchell. He's going to be
23 your president one day -- but he was put
24 on the -- he came to the Civilian
25 Complaint Review Board's Youth Advisory

1 Council because a phenomenal police
2 detective, my sister, Detective Shante
3 Neal Baker, known as Ms. Sunshine
4 throughout all five boroughs, told him
5 about it.

6 She said, "We need somebody like you
7 helping to police us", because you can
8 see -- you can see someone in uniform
9 loves you, yet, I got into uniform
10 because I'm growing up in Brooklyn and
11 I'm profiled, and it was just an ugly
12 exchange between me and an officer, and
13 I decided to become an officer so that
14 when people who see me can see I'm
15 building relationship.

16 I'm building trust again and I'm
17 healing myself in the process because I
18 was hurt by the uniform.

19 So, she -- she is the one who
20 introduced them to the CCRB and so when
21 he began to serve, he served as someone
22 who loves an officer, but someone who
23 wants to hold the officers accountable.

24 Thank you.

25 MR. DARCHE: I remember Chris and

1 his performance -- and where is he in
2 school now?

3 MS. MITCHELL: Connecticut. He is
4 going to be -- (indiscernible) -- with
5 -- (indiscernible) -- and he has a full
6 scholarship now to study abroad. He's
7 going to be in D.C. on Supreme Court
8 floor doing oral arguments.

9 So, he's on his way -- I'm sorry.
10 I'm so excited, but -- well, he's in New
11 York going -- he's gonna be reconnecting
12 with the Board and hopefully back at the
13 next leadership gathering.

14 But -- and I'm excited for the young
15 leaders in the room that are going to be
16 coming forward and joining this Board
17 too. I can feel it.

18 CHAIR RICE: Thank you so much. We
19 appreciate you.

20 Yes.

21 MS. MOSLEY: Hi. My name is
22 Michelle Mosley (phonetic). I am a
23 member of UNCA, one of the oldest civic
24 associations in Southeast Queens, 1954
25 -- tell you how long it has been.

1 I just have a question and I have a
2 response.

3 The question is, if somebody wants
4 to make a complaint, is there a
5 timeframe -- cause I had a neighbor of
6 mine that got into a situation and the
7 police -- it just got escalated and she
8 wound up being arrested. They never fed
9 her and she wound up having to go to the
10 hospital because she's a diabetic.

11 It just really snowballed into
12 something that didn't really need to
13 happen. So, is there a timeframe that
14 she can make a complaint?

15 MR. DARCHE: There's a statute of
16 limitations for discipline matters
17 against members of the NYPD and all
18 civil servants that's set by State Law
19 at 18 months -- a year-and-a-half from
20 the date of the incident.

21 When we get complaints that are more
22 than a year since the date of the
23 incident, we look at them very hard to
24 make sure that we can actually get them
25 investigated in time, and if it is going

1 to go over, we might then look to see if
2 there's an exception to the statute of
3 limitations.

4 So, if it's -- if it's between a
5 year and 18 months, there is a
6 possibility that we might not
7 investigate it. We do it on a
8 case-by-case basis.

9 (Indiscernible.)

10 MR. DARCHE: Okay. Then he should
11 file a complaint and we would
12 investigate that.

13 MS. MOSLEY: Okay. And then my
14 second statement is that, how many
15 people know what their precinct is --
16 103rd or the 113th -- or the one -- you
17 know, how many of you ever attended
18 their Community Precinct Council
19 Meeting?

20 Okay. The 113th meets on the third
21 Monday of every month between the
22 winter's hours. The summers, they don't
23 meet -- and then I believe the 103rd
24 meets -- those are where you can get
25 your questions about things happening in

1 your community and get some answers from
2 this -- the Precinct Commanders or the
3 Sergeants on there.

4 So, you might want to look into when
5 those meetings are and probably want to
6 attend them.

7 CHAIR RICE: Thank you -- thank you
8 for that comment.

9 MR. TOWLER: All right. Good
10 evening, everyone. I guess she does
11 speak for me there. I'm the President
12 of the 113th Precinct Community Council.

13 My name is Garfield Towler and the
14 reason I got up is because I heard
15 people talk about police engagement and
16 I could speak on police engagement and
17 also this young man with that situation.

18 Like, she just said, our meeting is
19 every third Monday. Right now we out
20 for the summer break and we back in
21 session for September meeting.

22 I'm saying that we talk about police
23 engagement, apparently that the community
24 is not getting engaged with the police
25 because it will look like -- tomorrow we

1 have camp in the park. Next two weeks,
2 we have National Night Out. In August we
3 have a Unity march and we're coming down
4 the boulevard. So, there are a lot of
5 engagement.

6 Also, you all may not know there's a
7 -- we have a plaque coming off inside
8 the 113th. They know. We have
9 allocated numbers now, but we have the
10 majority of black officers at the 113th.
11 The whole complete Community Affairs is
12 all black.

13 So, that means that you need to get
14 engaged with the precinct. It's an
15 open-door policy that he has there and
16 anyone could come and talk with the
17 Precinct Commander.

18 Also, like she said, the meeting is
19 every third Monday. You can all reach
20 out to me. If you go on the 113th
21 Precinct Community Facebook, you will
22 see also who to make contact to. You
23 can leave your complaint there. You can
24 leave -- you also have a form. You can
25 leave your email.

1 We have a form that we fill out
2 called "Complaint", but -- we will use
3 the right as saying it's -- I don't want
4 to say "complaint". I don't want to say
5 -- the "Issue Form", I should say --
6 that you could respond to the Community
7 Affairs and they will address your issue
8 that you're dealing with.

9 So, I just want to say that because
10 I know that we talked about the police
11 engagement and I could tell you right
12 now, I spent one year at the precinct,
13 four hours a day, four days a week just
14 to see what goes on. I will tell you,
15 it is getting better, the engagement
16 with the police officer.

17 If you look at it, we have something
18 called the Greeter Program, that the
19 greeter -- they'll have a seat. They
20 get to the greeter before they even get
21 to the officer.

22 So, things are getting better.
23 That's the most I can say right now,
24 based on the engagement of the police
25 and the community. Thank you.

1 CHAIR RICE: Thank you so much for
2 your comments and for reminding us when
3 you're -- when the Police Community
4 Council meets.

5 MR. TOWLER: Every third Monday of
6 the month. You can reach out to me. I
7 will give you the information and you
8 will get the email coming to you with
9 the location because we are moving
10 around to different location. So, it
11 will not be one location every month.
12 We're back in session on September.

13 So, my -- you want -- my email is
14 gfield128@aol.com. Also, my cellphone
15 number is 347 --

16 MS. DIXON: Love and blessings,
17 everyone. My name is Carolyn Dixon.
18 I'm a survivor. The name of my
19 organization is called Where Do We Go
20 From Here.

21 I work closely with LIFE Camp and
22 for the last couple of days I've been
23 working closely with AU.

24 My question to the CCRB is mainly to
25 touch bases on survivors -- victims of

1 gun violence. Once we hit the hospital,
2 there is complication, heated
3 situations, and most families,
4 especially parents, are treated as not
5 the victims, but the perpetrators
6 themselves and I wanted to know if we're
7 going through this as victims and
8 survivors of gun violence, where do CCRB
9 step in?

10 And then my second question is that
11 right now AU and I are working with a
12 client who had got shot a week ago, I
13 believe, on Sutphin and South Road.
14 This man came out of the hospital with
15 an open wound. He got shot in his
16 chest. He got shot in his stomach. His
17 stomach is open.

18 The -- I don't know the correct name
19 of the squad, but it's the drug squad --
20 jumped out on him. There is a video
21 where this man was sitting in his car
22 and about 10 or 12 police officers
23 jumped on this man, busted open -- open
24 stitches, and now he's on Rikers Island,
25 and I wanted to know where can we use

1 CCRB in this situation.

2 CHAIR RICE: Jon can respond to the
3 two of them first of all, and I also
4 wanted to say thank you for your
5 incredible work. The fact that you're
6 there for the communities, and
7 particularly for the parents, we just
8 really appreciate you.

9 MR. DARCHE: So, I'm going to answer
10 your second question first.

11 With regard to the particular
12 individual, you can file a complaint
13 with the Agency on his behalf, and so
14 once you filed a complaint -- and we
15 have our investigators here, you can do
16 that tonight -- we will begin contact
17 attempts to reach him.

18 If he is facing criminal charges,
19 his attorney might not let him speak to
20 us yet and so we might not be able to
21 conduct the investigation until after
22 the criminal charges he's facing are
23 determined.

24 But the sooner you contact us, the
25 sooner we can get the process started.

1 The second issue with survivor --
2 family members of people who have been
3 shot by the police -- who have been
4 shot, period -- victims of gun violence,
5 if they are treated disrespectfully by
6 the police, that is within our
7 jurisdiction, and if you file a
8 complaint -- if they file a complaint,
9 or if you become aware of it and you
10 wish to file a complaint on their
11 behalf, we will investigate it and look
12 and determine whether in fact there was
13 misconduct, and if there was misconduct,
14 recommend discipline for the member of
15 service.

16 CHAIR RICE: AU, you had a comment
17 as well.

18 MR. HOGAN: Yeah, I just want
19 everyone to know, Ms. Dixon, when she
20 said she's a "survivor", on May 5th, a
21 few years ago, her son was shot and
22 killed right off of Sutphin Boulevard,
23 and from that moment, Ms. Carolyn Dixon
24 has been an advocate for gun violence
25 and also gun violence awareness.

1 And I just think, you know, we've
2 been -- her and I have been working on
3 this particular case the last four days
4 cause there's a pattern when someone is
5 shot in our community, the police come
6 to individuals and treat the individuals
7 as he or she is the one that shot
8 themselves.

9 And -- you know, and I'm glad the
10 meeting is very inspirational today, but
11 there's a lot of real stuff that's going
12 on in 113th, 103rd, and 105th Precinct
13 -- 102nd Precinct -- that we need to be
14 aware of in order for us to stop
15 because --

16 Garfield, that's my dude right
17 there, and Garfield is four days, four
18 hours down at the precinct, but the
19 engagement that we are looking for is
20 for young people so they can identify
21 the possibilities of how real policing
22 is.

23 Police officers come with a
24 particularly implicit bias where for no
25 reason, not even -- them not even

1 knowing why -- they are prejudiced when
2 they come into our communities.

3 So, when young Josh who works for
4 LIFE Camp Inc. -- and believe me, for
5 one year him, being a hospital
6 responder -- we should clap it up cause
7 him articulating his first time and the
8 work that he has done being caught up in
9 that trauma, let's give him a clap,
10 please, for us in just two more seconds.

11 And I want us to know that this is
12 -- young people, when I was Josh's age,
13 at 28, I was not forced that my best
14 friend could be shot and killed on a
15 daily basis and when he termed "public
16 housing" as "public housing" and not as
17 a "public project", it's that our young
18 people really have the intellect to
19 articulate their positions, but they
20 don't have the support from us as a
21 community at large and the resources
22 that they need to be sufficient and
23 productive.

24 So, let's just help the young people
25 out more and let's be more realistic

1 about what's happening. We're not here
2 to beat up cops -- you know, or to say
3 -- point fingers at cops, but we're here
4 to be accountable -- to make them -- my
5 job at LIFE Camp, I'm the Chief of
6 Streets and most of my interactions are
7 with inspectors and chiefs of the
8 borough's.

9 But -- and I say to them, you know,
10 yes, we need to be held accountable
11 because I'm not going to -- if I drive
12 down and break the law by driving, the
13 most I'll probably do is drive two miles
14 above the speed limit and if I get
15 pulled over, I can't because I'm a
16 friend, be freed from either
17 incarceration or for a particular ticket
18 that I might get.

19 It's just about police
20 accountability and that's all we're
21 asking for and we're all talking about.
22 And I'm sorry if you don't know -- like
23 the sister said, her son did such an
24 articulate job. You should -- they
25 should know very young about what the

1 CCRB does and that way the young people
2 can start hearing this and making our
3 jobs easier because, believe, it's not
4 easy to sit up here at all because we
5 try to make sure that --

6 I look -- when I look at the Chair
7 and the work that she has to do working
8 with the different entities and
9 agencies, and to bring by each month
10 some kind of resolve about what happens
11 to us as a people and believe, it's
12 happening to us as a people.

13 MR. DARCHE: And, AU, I was -- I was
14 glad you brought it back to what Josh
15 had said earlier because I've been
16 kicking myself while I've been sitting
17 here that I didn't address one of the
18 things he brought up.

19 And one of the things Josh brought
20 up was that he perceived a lack of
21 representation in the NYPD and he had
22 questions about the hiring practices,
23 and we can't really control the NYPD's
24 hiring practices.

25 But the CCRB is hiring. As we said,

1 the City Council and the Administration
2 restored the budget cuts and actually
3 gave us additional funds, and so we are
4 going to be hiring more investigators
5 and more outreach folks.

6 And so I encouraged -- AU, I might
7 be trying to steal Josh from you -- but
8 I encourage Josh and I encourage you to
9 not only look for yourself, but tell
10 your friends that we're hiring and we're
11 looking for good people who know the
12 community that we live in. It starts at
13 45.

14 MR. HOGAN: That's great.

15 MR. DARCHE: 46 -- 46. I didn't
16 mean to lowball anybody.

17 MR. HOGAN: That's great. Thank
18 you.

19 CHAIR RICE: Thank you -- thank you,
20 AU, and thank you for reminding the
21 community of some of the job
22 possibilities that are available at
23 CCRB.

24 Sir, you can approach the podium.

25 Good evening.

1 MR. LELAND: My name is Steve Leland
2 (phonetic). I'm a member of the South
3 Jamaica Queens community and my question
4 is kind of piggybacking off of the
5 gentleman, Mike.

6 So, you go to the police when you
7 have a problem. The police are supposed
8 to police the community, right. So, we
9 go to them to get help and these
10 different organizations.

11 What happens when they don't have an
12 answer -- and we come to these meetings
13 and then certain people direct us to
14 other people, and then it winds up,
15 nothing happens.

16 With the smoke shops, I'm ready to
17 go in there and -- excuse my language --
18 but I'm ready to shut them down -- bust
19 their ass because they shouldn't be
20 there. But the thing we're supposed to
21 do is rely on the police to handle the
22 situation.

23 Then what happens when they don't do
24 it either? Everybody passes it off to
25 someone else. What are we to do? Am I

1 supposed to get my -- cause if I go in
2 there and shut them down, I'm going to
3 jail. You're going to come for that,
4 but you're not going to address the
5 problem.

6 These marijuana situations, it's out
7 of hand. Somebody is going to get hurt
8 or die. They shouldn't have to wait
9 until that happens for something to be
10 done.

11 So, when you pass off a -- you tell
12 us that somebody is going to check into
13 it or -- can we make sure something
14 happens?

15 CHAIR RICE: Well, this isn't about
16 policing, but actually they're supposed
17 to serve and protect --

18 MR. LELAND: Right.

19 CHAIR RICE: So, I think -- right.
20 So, I think that we -- that it's about
21 accountability for that service is what
22 you're asking for --

23 MR. LELAND: Right.

24 CHAIR RICE: -- And also for the
25 protection, no matter the zip code that

1 you live in. I just didn't want that
2 to --

3 MR. DARCHE: But I think that -- I
4 think one of the issues with the
5 marijuana shops, in particular, is as
6 the law changed -- and the Assembly
7 Member left, so I apologize to him if I
8 may be throwing him under the bus -- but
9 the law changed and there is a gap.

10 And so no -- when you're saying,
11 "Why can't I go to someone and have them
12 resolve it for me", it is because there
13 is a gap, which has made it very tough
14 for the City Administration to address
15 these issues.

16 So, you know, if someone had been
17 selling marijuana illegally, two years
18 ago, the police were the right people to
19 go to. But now we're talking about a
20 matter of taxes and licenses. It's not
21 a -- it's not a penal law crime and it's
22 not a police issue.

23 And so -- that's -- and so when
24 you're not getting a straight answer --
25 and I would much prefer to give you a

1 straight answer -- we don't know and
2 it's not like the CCRB doesn't know. I
3 think the City as a whole is looking for
4 an answer on who is responsible.

5 (Indiscernible.)

6 MR. DARCHE: But, again, it's a
7 larger issue than just, they're selling
8 marijuana. It's -- it is a different
9 situation than it was two years ago, and
10 people are still trying to figure out
11 the way to address it.

12 So, that's why you're not getting
13 straight answers when you go to people
14 because no one has the answer to give
15 you.

16 MR. LELAND: So, do we need to take
17 matters into our own hands because it
18 can be done.

19 MR. DARCHE: No, I don't -- I don't
20 think you should. That is not what I'm
21 saying, but I'm saying, it's an -- it is
22 a legislative thing that needs to get
23 fixed.

24 MR. LELAND: It's -- and I don't
25 want to sound like -- like, you know --

1 like that's the best thing to do cause I
2 know it's not.

3 MR. HOGAN: Look, the last three
4 years -- is Fathers Alive In The Hood
5 still here? He left -- okay.

6 Kenny must have left -- and we were
7 on -- we were -- for three years, we
8 were on a debate, and I was part of that
9 tour, about legalizing marijuana. Some
10 of you all might see me being crazy
11 about not legalizing it because I knew
12 what was going to happen to our
13 community.

14 I've seen heroin. I've seen dope.
15 I've seen crack. I lived -- I lived in
16 those eras. They didn't benefit us --
17 all right -- and so to legalize
18 something -- to legalize a substance --
19 I'm just going to do real quick about
20 this -- right -- and this is what I want
21 Steve and Mike -- I want you to
22 understand that -- right.

23 We're going to have to be patient --
24 all right. That's what we're going to
25 have to be, Steve. All right. I speak

1 to you a lot.

2 MR. LELAND: It's hard --

3 MR. HOGAN: Steve, just wait -- just
4 wait, just wait.

5 We have to be patient. We'll talk
6 later on after we get out of here cause
7 I don't want anybody to go out and do
8 anything that you're going to ask the
9 old man for some bail money. All right.
10 I have no bail money.

11 All right. I know you, Steve. All
12 right. So, what we have to do as men in
13 our community is come together with a
14 real strategy to think and then go, and
15 if we go to 90 doors and they don't have
16 the answer, we go to the 91st door and
17 be patient until somebody has the
18 answer, cause right now, as the
19 Executive Director that said, the City
20 doesn't have the answer.

21 But there was this push by both
22 community and elected officials to
23 legalize this. Okay. I'm not going to
24 get into why. Okay. I hope you all
25 know why -- right. You know, we didn't

1 push that law. Yes -- yes, we
2 definitely didn't, you know -- and Black
3 Spectrum Theatre was the last four times
4 -- places that we had this particular
5 debate at.

6 And we're really articulate about
7 the information that was coming down,
8 and it was too fast that the people that
9 made it trending was 14, 15, and
10 16-years-old, and people that are not
11 even legally going to be able to smoke
12 in any way. 21 and over, no Federal
13 subsidized housing living -- not in the
14 public, unless there's a public space
15 that is designated.

16 So, there's so many intangibles into
17 that law -- right -- yeah, you know --
18 that to smoke it, you have to be a very
19 different kind of person. You have to
20 be privileged somewhere.

21 So, let's really just talk later.
22 All right -- all right, brother. You
23 know -- and I know you came to the
24 office a few times and we tried to do
25 what we could do, but our hands are

1 tied.

2 The City doesn't know and I don't
3 want us to belabor it here cause we
4 don't have the answer and not that we
5 shouldn't have it, but the City doesn't
6 have it and neither do we.

7 All right. Let's talk later.

8 MR. LELAND: AU --

9 (Indiscernible.)

10 MS. DENNY: You have an ID to
11 sell cigarettes. I just went to buy --
12 it's -- what do you call it -- it's a
13 cough syrup and they asked me for ID.
14 The syrup cannot be sold without an ID,
15 so why are -- why are we giving our
16 children and to be left to be smoking.
17 Some young -- 13, 14 -- what is the
18 smoke -- what is the age you start
19 smoking in our community or in the New
20 York State?

21 MR. HOGAN: You said the age?

22 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Yes, what's by
23 law.

24 MR. HOGAN: Well, the legal age
25 would be 21.

1 MS. DENNY: Right. But you know
2 something --

3 MR. LELAND: 13 -- 16-year-old kids.

4 MS. DENNY: So, we need to save our
5 children, but they need to have some sort
6 of -- some sort of a recommendation
7 happening.

8
9 (Indiscernible.)

10 CHAIR RICE: All right. Thank you.

11 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: It's crazy.

12 CHAIR RICE: Thank you -- and I
13 understand the concern, but as we -- as
14 we've heard from our Executive Director,
15 and also from AU, this is a -- an issue
16 that is outside of our jurisdiction.

17 But it's one that is clearly of
18 concern to all community members and --
19 so, did you have a comment.

20 MR. LELAND: I was just going to say
21 that --

22 CHAIR RICE: Yes.

23 MR. LELAND: -- I just hope that no
24 one has to die behind this --

25 CHAIR RICE: Yes.

1 MR. LELAND: -- cause it's happening
2 too much.

3 (Indiscernible.)

4 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: It's a state
5 issue.

6 CHAIR RICE: Yeah, it is a state
7 issue, but like I said, Gail Brewer at
8 the City Council is taking this up as
9 well.

10 So, we can further the conversation,
11 but I'm going to ask the next speaker,
12 if they can come to the podium.

13 Thank you.

14 MR. KARRIEM: How you all doing? My
15 name is Bilal Karriem from Community
16 Board 12.

17 AU, how you doing? Thank you all for
18 coming out.

19 I'm not going to bust your all chops.
20 I just want to know, if you all willing
21 to work with me. I'll work directly with
22 you all to connect to our community-based
23 organizations, schools, and so forth.

24

25 But I want to know if you all

1 willing to come out, and on top of that,
2 there should be standing room only. A
3 lot of people don't know about this
4 organization. I'm pretty sure you've
5 heard that many, many times.

6 So, like I said, I'm willing to
7 extend myself, work with you, and get
8 you out in the community, but I need to
9 know if you're willing to come out so
10 that people can see you.

11 You've explained what your
12 organization do, so that way we can
13 empower people cause there are a lot of
14 people I know who need to be here who
15 could benefit from you.

16 Thank you.

17 CHAIR RICE: Thank you.

18 And, hopefully, we've been clear
19 that the answer to that is yes, but can
20 you say your name one more time --
21 Bilal Karriem.

22 Okay. Oh, great. Thank you.

23 MR. MARCHANT: Hi. Good evening. My
24 name is Rabbi Garth Marchant. I happen
25 to liaison with South -- the

1 Borough Commander of NYPD and, of course
2 there are some problems with police
3 officers who do bad things, and that's
4 why I'm glad you're there.

5 However, I want to tell you that in
6 South Queens Borough Patrol, we're
7 trying to resolve those issues. We have
8 a very good commander, Commander
9 Williams, and we have some very new
10 commanders in the 113th Precinct,
11 Commander Jenkins, which we work with
12 very carefully.

13 Like, for example, today we had a
14 picnic for all the children in the park.
15 It was overcrowded -- and we have the
16 Explorers Program. We have all those
17 programs and I want to tell you, the
18 Commander for the 113th Precinct and
19 Commander Williams don't tolerate no
20 mis-abuse by police officers. They
21 discipline them. I've seen it.

22 And, also, I want to tell you for
23 the community, I am a graduate of the
24 Police Academy -- Citizen Police
25 Academy. Some of us need to be -- go to

1 the Citizen Police Academy. You know
2 what I do as a graduate of the Citizen
3 Police Academy? I do patrol with the
4 police officers, sector officers.

5 I take the young people and I walk
6 with them with the police officers, and
7 they have a cellphone and I let the
8 police -- that the young people get the
9 phone number for the police officers if
10 they have a problem -- and I take some
11 of those gang members -- you know what I
12 do -- I take them into the precinct and
13 I introduce them to the officers.

14 So, we have to be proactive. You
15 know, I mean, we can just sit back and
16 say, "This is happening", "This is
17 happening". We got to help our kids
18 because today, you know, what I did,
19 right there when the police was, I
20 already sent over 50 students to go to
21 college for free in the State University
22 of New York.

23 That's what we have to do. We got
24 to be proactive.

25 But I'm glad you're there because no

1 -- you have bad doctors, bad every
2 profession -- right -- and so you were
3 there as the last resort if there is
4 that -- and you're doing a good job --
5 if there is any problem with the police.

6 I want to congratulate you for what
7 you do, but at the same time, we have to
8 understand that we got to work with the
9 police because they're the last resort
10 in our community and I want to say this
11 community is doing a very good job with
12 the officers that we have and with the
13 command that we have, and you got to
14 look at Chief Williams.

15 He's a very great guy and he makes
16 sure that our community is not abused.
17 So, I just want to bring that to your
18 attention.

19 CHAIR RICE: Thank you.

20 MS. VASSEL: Good evening, everyone.
21 Okay. So, my name is Angel Vassel
22 (phonetic), mother of three. I'm a
23 hairstylist. My -- I have a
24 16-year-old, 13-year-old, and a
25 3-year-old.

1 My 13-year-old -- I moved here like
2 seven years ago. My 13-year-old started
3 Success Academy when he just -- when we
4 just moved here. He went there for five
5 years.

6 A day -- I'm going to cut it short.
7 I had to pull him from Success Academy
8 because the principal locked him out
9 because he was five minutes late. I
10 changed schools. He went to PS 116 down
11 the block.

12 His second day, he was bullied. I
13 went to the school. I spoke to the
14 Parent Coordinator. There was no
15 principal at the time. It was an
16 Assistant Principal and she wasn't on
17 the compound at the time when I went
18 there.

19 So, I spoke to the Parent
20 Coordinator. She said, this -- it's two
21 kids. They have been troubled in the
22 school from ever since -- they had
23 calmed down, but now they are on the
24 rise again.

25 So, apparently, my son -- because he

1 just started, his second day, he was
2 bullied -- faced a lot of physical
3 fight.

4 On his fourth day, he went back to
5 school. He called me -- cause I give
6 him a phone -- he called me. He said,
7 "Mommy, they did it again". I went
8 there. On my way to go in there, I
9 said, "Okay. I'm going to wait on you
10 outside and I'll go around to see if I
11 could speak to someone from inside
12 again".

13 On my way out -- on their way out --
14 I saw them coming out, so I picked up my
15 son. On my way going around, I saw that
16 -- my son like, "Mommy, there he is.
17 He's following me". So, I went up to
18 him and I said, "What is it with you and
19 my son? Is your mom coming to school --
20 coming to pick you up cause I would like
21 to speak to your mom".

22 He was like, "Oh, no, my mom don't
23 want to speak to you. My mom -- don't
24 speak to me. Don't speak to me".

25 Story short, on my way going around,

1 I saw the mom coming up. So, that was
2 one of them. She came to me. She asked
3 me what happened. I was explaining to
4 her. While we there talking, I see the
5 other kid's mom coming. She just came
6 up in my face. I was on the school
7 premises -- came up in my face. "What
8 are you going to do with my kid? What
9 are you going to" -- and she punched me
10 and it started a fight.

11 My three-year-old was there. At the
12 time, he was two. He started crying.
13 We all started crying and the reason I'm
14 like this now is because nothing came
15 from it. I called the police. I made
16 the reports. They call me. I explain
17 what happened. They speak to the
18 Coordinator. The Coordinator said, "You
19 got to lock up that lady cause this has
20 been going on for too long".

21 She spoke to the police. She gave
22 them everything they needed. The
23 principal called me, so they said
24 they're going to have to do -- what you
25 call it -- a transfer -- emergency

1 transfer for my son. They can't do
2 anything about the kid. They can't
3 transfer him from the kid -- from the
4 school or anything. It's my kid that
5 has to get transferred.

6 So, they transfer my son now to --
7 PS 208. Now -- he had been taking the
8 school bus then. Now, he's going into
9 7th grade and now he's going to be
10 dropped off the school bus. He's like,
11 "Mommy, what if I'm going on the school
12 bus and I see this kid again. What am I
13 going to do".

14 So, you know, he's worried and he's
15 frustrated going to school publicly now
16 because the school bus no longer going
17 to take him to school. So -- I don't
18 know.

19 That young lady never get arrested.
20 Nothing came from it, so I'm wondering
21 if there's any help in this room that
22 can assist me in moving forward, so that
23 my son can feel safe going to school.

24 CHAIR RICE: Ms. Vassel -- Ms.
25 Vassel, thank you for sharing that with

1 us and I want you to know -- I know that
2 there's people that are here in this
3 room that are going to be -- work hard
4 in order to provide you with the help
5 and support in order to deal with your
6 son.

7 Okay. Thank you.

8 MR. ABBADY: Yeah, thank you. Good
9 evening. My name is Amir with Council
10 Member Nantasha Williams' office. The
11 Council Member asked me to give regards
12 in her absence.

13 I do want to acknowledge the very
14 difficult job the CCRB does in helping
15 support our law enforcement. We do need
16 someone to hold them accountable and you
17 guys have a tremendous responsibility on
18 your shoulders and you do a great job of
19 executing that responsibility.

20 The City Council is working
21 diligently to get you the resources and
22 the jurisdiction you need to do even
23 more. I want us all to just take a
24 moment to acknowledge the fact that if
25 you throw a stone outside of New York

1 City and find any jurisdiction anywhere,
2 the opportunity to get justice from an
3 independent body just doesn't exist.

4 Nassau County, Westchester County --
5 this is a unique organization that sets
6 an example and I just want to compliment
7 them on that example.

8 I also want to particularly
9 highlight Jahi Rose, the Director of
10 Community Outreach, who has done a
11 tremendous job pulling community members
12 in, in this conversation.

13 There's always more to be done, but
14 I just wanted to acknowledge the great
15 work he's done so far and all the great
16 work you guys have done as well on
17 behalf of the Council Member.

18 Thank you.

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

21 MS. KELLER: My name is Michelle
22 Keller (phonetic. I'm the Vice -- 1st
23 Vice President of Community Board 12 and
24 as the Chair said, I am a retired
25 Detective, Second Grade, and I did 21

1 years and it's nice to see that you are
2 out here to listen to the public.

3 But I'm a little disturbed because I
4 would have liked to hear your statistics
5 as to how many police officers have been
6 reprimanded, whether they lost time or
7 what have you.

8 I, myself, one time was in a
9 situation with a police officer. I was
10 on duty. It was a highway cop and he
11 pulled us over. We were just finishing
12 a resident check because I worked in
13 Applicant Processing Division and we
14 went to -- I went to show him in my
15 utility belt, I'm on the job.

16 My partner had his badge out and the
17 highway officer went to pull his gun and
18 I filed a complaint with CCRB and
19 nothing came. Now, the community
20 doesn't need your sympathy. It's -- you
21 have to be empathetic and if you've
22 never experienced anything and -- how
23 could you really understand what the
24 community is going through.

25 Now, to the young man from Camp Life

1 (sic) wanting to know about how you can
2 get into the Police Department -- cause
3 a lot of stuff came today and it was
4 good -- but it wasn't really directed
5 towards CCRB.

6 A lot of times, they're protected --
7 the police officers -- whether it's
8 through the COs or higher up, and people
9 don't have that vote of confidence.

10 And as far as people coming on the
11 job, you don't have to have ever worked
12 as long as you don't have any real
13 blemishes. You could have been a mother
14 living in a housing development, never
15 worked a day in your life, and apply,
16 and as long as there's nothing bad in
17 your background, you can become a police
18 officer.

19 Now, I'm a little befuddled about
20 how policing is going on today because
21 when I was on patrol, you saw police
22 officers. You saw them in their cars --
23 sector cars. Now, they come, they can't
24 do anything.

25 Whenever you ask them -- if you call

1 them about a landlord/tenant, there's
2 nothing they can do. Anything, nothing
3 they can do. Talking about -- what's
4 that, when you hang on the corner --
5 loitering. There ain't nothing you can
6 do unless someone is -- some kind of
7 physical interaction.

8 Now, I hope that this era, that you
9 all are a lot more powerful to do things
10 to police officers who are bad.

11 I came through 113. I've worked in
12 113, 105, 106, 103 -- all of that when
13 they were -- the 103 was bad. The 113
14 was becoming bad, trying to follow the
15 77th Precinct.

16 So, now I hope -- you know, Ms.
17 Esmeralda. You were there for a long
18 time. A lot of you don't know her. We
19 got four of you esquires on the Board,
20 hopefully that it will be more powerful
21 because you are elected by -- you're
22 appointed by mayors and whomever --
23 elected officials.

24 We need more people coming out of
25 the community, like AU. We need other

1 people coming out, especially --
2 particularly people like myself who
3 worked in the Department -- Michelle
4 Mosley, Carlene Thorbs -- but we can't
5 get on this Board.

6 So, I don't know really how
7 effective you're going to be. I don't
8 want nobody telling me, "Thank you for
9 the many years you put on in the street"
10 and -- I don't need that. I need you to
11 show us statistically what's going on
12 and how these police officers -- bad
13 police officers are being reprimanded.

14 If they have to be fired or
15 suspended -- you go in there sometimes,
16 officers are sitting behind the desk
17 cause their investigation is going on
18 for however long, you know.

19 So, I hope things get better with
20 the CCRB. Thank you.

21 CHAIR RICE: Okay. Thank you, Ms.
22 Keller.

23 Could I respond to her question --
24 to her -- to some of the issues that she
25 raised?

1 First of all, I wanted to let you
2 know that through legislation that
3 recently passed with 5-A, we are able to
4 have statistics on our -- on the CCRB
5 website.

6 So, at any given point in time, you
7 can go on and log-on and see all of the
8 reports on the cases that have been
9 brought before us, the recommendations
10 that we made, the times that we made
11 recommendations and the Police
12 Commissioner agreed with it or did not
13 agree with it, and the letter that they
14 sent back saying why they did not concur
15 with what we had given to them.

16 So, that is now all public
17 information and it has not always been
18 public information. So, just so you
19 know, that is on the CCRB website and
20 you can access it.

21 (Indiscernible.)

22 CHAIR RICE: Sure. I just wanted to
23 let you know that it was available and
24 then I'm going to turn it over to -- to
25 Jon to speak more specifically about

1 that -- and if there are people that are
2 interested in serving on this Board, you
3 can speak to your -- either your City
4 Council Member and/or you can -- if you
5 have a connection with the Mayor
6 directly.

7 We're all appointed to these
8 positions and so if you're interested in
9 --

10 (Indiscernible.)

11 CHAIR RICE: Yeah, so --

12 (Indiscernible.)

13 CHAIR RICE: Sure -- sure. And part
14 of the reason why we're here is kind of
15 to dispel some of the things that may be
16 prevailing and also to tell you those
17 things that have evolved.

18 So, the CCRB that you all -- that
19 you interacted with when you were in the
20 Police Department is different than the
21 one that's here now -- right.

22 (Indiscernible.)

23 CHAIR RICE: Right -- exactly,
24 exactly.

25 But thank you for your comments. I

1 do appreciate them, yes.

2 MS. KELLER: Question:

3 Is it still -- are you still able to
4 go online and see -- like, say, Officer
5 Joe Schmo -- we can check and see how
6 many times he was in front of the CCRB
7 and how many times it was substantiated?
8 You can just look up an officer and find
9 out?

10 MR. DARCHE: So, if you go to our
11 website, you can not only see the
12 statistics for the Agency for the year
13 and past years, but you can also look up
14 individual officers. You can also look
15 up by command.

16 So, if you wanted to see the
17 officers in your local precinct and see
18 how their CCRB history is, you could do
19 that.

20 In 2023, so far, the CCRB has
21 substantiated at least one allegation
22 against 525 members of service. That is
23 roughly on pace with 2022, in which the
24 Board substantiated allegations of
25 misconduct against 1,027 police

1 officers.

2 There is a delay in between when the
3 Board recommends discipline and when the
4 Police Department actually imposes
5 discipline. So, I can -- when I'm
6 giving you the statistics for
7 discipline, it is not for the people who
8 were disciplined -- where the Board
9 recommended discipline in this year
10 because those cases are still in front of
11 the Police Commissioner.

12 For the cases that were not charges
13 cases -- so, either the Board
14 recommended a command discipline or
15 training -- the Police Department
16 concurred with -- the Police Department
17 issued discipline 46 percent of the
18 time.

19 For charges cases, the Police
20 Department concurred with our
21 recommendation 61 percent of the time.

22 CHAIR RICE: It's a good
23 recommendation.

24 MS. SIMMONS: May I?

25 CHAIR RICE: Mm-hmm.

1 MS. SIMMONS: We have been
2 advocating to have the final say --
3 final disciplinary authority for this
4 Board, rather than having all the
5 investigations, all the work, all the
6 charges go to the Police Department and
7 then come back with most of the time
8 50/50 or less of our recommendations for
9 discipline be adhered to. That's the
10 way it stands right now.

11 We would like your support to all
12 your elected officials -- State
13 included, but particularly City -- to
14 have the CCRB be the final arbiter of
15 discipline against police officers.

16 There's going to be a big pushback,
17 you know, for that, and some people like
18 it exactly the way it is. So, you make
19 your complaints and 50 percent of the
20 time -- and those are the cases that we
21 found something happened.

22 (Indiscernible.)

23 MS. SIMMONS: No, this is -- this is
24 higher than the Community Board -- thank
25 God for the Community Board.

1 City Council, the Mayor, the
2 Assembly, the Governor -- it's a big
3 pushback against this. They like it the
4 way it is.

5 (Indiscernible.)

6 MS. SIMMONS: Too long.

7 (Indiscernible.)

8 MS. SIMMONS: This is what's
9 important -- now, I'm on a soapbox.

10 Your coming out is what's important.
11 The folks up here, we get to do the
12 cases. We get to listen to the tapes of
13 the computer video -- not pleasant by
14 the way -- but you're coming out and the
15 community getting organized is more
16 important than what we do. When you get
17 organized, this will change.

18 CHAIR RICE: And with that said, is
19 there anyone else in the room who wanted
20 to --

21 (No response.)

22 CHAIR RICE: No -- okay.

23 Do we have any more comment from the
24 community?

25 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: One more comment.

1 CHAIR RICE: One more comment.

2 (Indiscernible.)

3 MR HOGAN: Bilal What did you say?

4 MR. KARRIEM: You have the same
5 power as the Justice Center --

6 MR. KARRIEM: They do the investigation--

7 MR. KARRIEM:-- when they do the
8 investigations.

9 MR. KARRIEM: Pretty much the
10 Justice Center --

11 (Indiscernible.)

12 MR. DARCHE: The mic.

13 MR. KARRIEM: Sorry. Pretty much the
14 Justice Center, they investigate
15 allegations when there is abuse, like,
16 in group homes or young people with
17 mental health.

18 I think -- yeah, so I think they
19 should look at that model and consider
20 giving you all the same power.

21 (Indiscernible.)

22 MR. KARRIEM: Say it again. MS.

23 SIMMONS: That's because there
24 are social workers -- there are social
25

1 workers involved. There are group home
2 workers involved, not NYPD officers.
3 That's the difference.

4 I agree with you completely -- I
5 agree with you.

6 MR. KARRIEM: They don't really come
7 to them for advice and so forth. They do
8 their own private investigation, then
9 they make a decision --yeah.

10 MS. SIMMONS: I agree --

11 MR. KARRIEM: I think, for future
12 reference, they should pretty much see
13 that structure, and monitor it, and give
14 you all that same power. Thank you.

15 CHAIR RICE: Ms. Ketchum, did you
16 have another comment?

17 MS. KETCHUM: Yes, I'd just like to
18 put on the record a request for quarterly
19 meetings in each borough in Queens. I
20 know you -- monthly might be too much,
21 but quarterly or at least biyearly.

22 They said you're only going to come
23 to Queens once a year.

24

25

1 CHAIR RICE: We go to all five
2 boroughs and then we also have meetings
3 in the -- in our office downtown in
4 downtown Manhattan.

5 MS. KETCHUM: Queens -- you know
6 Queens is so far from all the other
7 boroughs, especially Southeast Queens is
8 at the farthest tip, almost Long Island.

9 So, I'm putting in an on the record
10 request for at least quarterly meetings.
11 I think that's doable -- or even a small
12 committee, not the whole group -- but
13 maybe, like, three or four so that we
14 can invite people on a regular basis.

15 CHAIR RICE: Ms. Ketchum, your
16 request is -- your request is received
17 and if you can step to the mic as well,
18 just because there's people who are
19 listening online and they can't
20 necessarily hear you if you speak in the
21 auditorium.

22 MS. LAWRENCE: In regards to her
23 statement about having you come out
24 quarterly, but there are opportunities
25 for one -- members of the Board to come

1 to some of our community meetings.

2 It doesn't have to be the whole
3 Board, but maybe when one of you could
4 come, say, to a Civic Association
5 meeting to represent the organization or
6 come to some of the clubs in the
7 community to represent -- to tell us --
8 to make -- so we can continue to be
9 informed about your activities and what
10 you do.

11 The other thing I wanted to comment
12 on, as far as police officers and their
13 offenses against the citizen, they was
14 trying to block that -- that the public
15 will not be able to access their record
16 -- their disciplinary record.

17 Now, is that going forward or -- you
18 won the case because I know when the
19 member mentioned that, it appears that
20 he was unaware that we now can go
21 online, and go on your website, and get
22 the history of the person's disciplinary
23 actions.

24 Thank you.

25 CHAIR RICE: Absolutely.

1 Thank you, Ms. Lawrence.

2 Do we have any other comments from
3 the community?

4 (No response.)

5 CHAIR RICE: All right. Thank you
6 so much.

7 Do we have any old business to come
8 before the Board?

9 (No response.)

10 CHAIR RICE: Any old business?

11 MR. DARCHE: Is there an online --
12 there's an online -- online speaker.

13 CHAIR RICE: Yojaira, Do we have
14 somebody online?

15 MS. ALVAREZ: Yes.

16 First, we'll be hearing from Judy
17 Ortiz.

18 MS. ORTIZ: Yes, can you hear me?

19 MR. DARCHE: Yes, ma'am.

20 MS. ORTIZ: This is about when
21 people file FOIA requests -- Freedom of
22 Information Law. A lot of people have
23 said to me that sometimes when they
24 filed it, they will get a runaround
25 because it takes months and by the time

1 that came back, a lot of the data or
2 things were being missing, like the
3 videos are real camera will be broken or
4 something.

5 Have you heard about complaints
6 about that?

7 CHAIR RICE: Let me make sure that
8 we heard your comment.

9 You were talking about people filing
10 a complaint, but before they can file
11 the complaint, the -- there are problems
12 with the video or the video is missing.

13 Did I hear you correctly?

14 MS. ORTIZ: Yes -- FOIA requests --
15 when they file a FOIA request, it looks
16 like police don't like that and a couple
17 of people mentioned about it, FOIA
18 requests, but -- Freedom of Information
19 Law.

20 So, when -- there was one guy that
21 said it took six months until -- he kept
22 going back and forth because you have to
23 keep asking what's going on with that
24 and I think that's a lot of problem --
25 because I know Jahi a long time when he

1 was in the SEEK Program in York College.

2 Yeah -- and I'm -- he's the one that
3 told me about this thing today -- hello.
4 Can you hear me?

5 MS. SIMMONS: I'm one of the Board
6 Members. I'm just trying to understand
7 your question.

8 Are you saying that -- that New
9 Yorkers are going to try to get FOIL --
10 information by FOIL so they can file a
11 complaint with CCRB?

12 MS. ORTIZ: Yeah, with the --
13 against the Police Department.

14 MS. SIMMONS: You should file a
15 complaint with us --

16 CHAIR RICE: Yeah.

17 MS. SIMMONS: -- and then we'll do
18 the investigation.

19 MS. ORTIZ: Okay.

20 MS. SIMMONS: It's not necessary for
21 the citizen to come to the CCRB with all
22 the information. We can get that easier
23 than you can.

24 MS. ORTIZ: And, also, I know your
25 -- New York communities will change. I

1 know -- the (indiscernible) believe from
2 (discernible) have changed.

3 MS. SIMMONS: I don't understand
4 what she's saying.

5 MR. DARCHE: Ma'am, you don't -- You
6 don't need to know anyone. You just
7 need to file a complaint with us and
8 then we do the investigation.

9 MS. ORTIZ: Yeah. So, CCRB is what
10 people have to go to so they can do it.

11 MR. DARCHE: Yes, ma'am.

12 MS. ORTIZ: Okay. Thank you.

13 CHAIR RICE: Okay -- all right.
14 Thank you.

15 MS. ORTIZ: You're welcome.

16 CHAIR RICE: Yojaira is telling me
17 that the next person on the line is
18 Tanya Cruz.

19 Ms. Cruz.

20 MS. CRUZ: Thank you for coming to
21 Southeast Queens and this has been very
22 robust.

23 I currently serve on the Queens
24 Traffic Safety Board as well as
25 Community Board 13. I also am a member

1 of the Motorcycle Advisory Council led
2 by DOT and NYPD for over eight years. I
3 am also a motorcycle rider for over 35
4 years.

5 So, tonight I just wanted to get --
6 I wanted to get an idea from the CCRB
7 regarding some things that we are seeing
8 now with the proliferation of
9 two-wheeled vehicles.

10 So, back on June of 26th of 2021, we
11 -- Chief Royster actually did an
12 intimate motorcycle engagement for key
13 police officers, and we conducted it
14 here in Southeast Queens, and we saw
15 that we had a person from the
16 Transportation Bureau. We also had
17 somebody from Queens South. We had
18 three of the following -- the 103, 105,
19 113 -- and we also had a police officer
20 that demanded to come from Brooklyn
21 Precinct 72.

22 So, my question and statement has
23 more to do with your second about how
24 major police can do better community
25 relations.

1 Back on May 24th -- I'm not sure if
2 you guys have seen the viral where a
3 police officer was trying to, I guess,
4 get them -- the electric moped off of a
5 particular highway, which is not allowed
6 -- but what he did was really put this
7 operator in danger, and every time he
8 was cutting him off, it's viewed in
9 Transportation Safety and Vehicle -- and
10 the VTLs of New York State that that was
11 attempted murder. So, I did personally
12 reach out to the Mayor and back to my
13 Transportation Bureau.

14 So, what we see now is -- Eric did
15 get back in touch with me within four
16 hours. I appreciated it -- and the
17 Inspector at Transportation Bureau
18 actually got back to me in two hours.

19 Now, I want everybody to know, I
20 reached out to these two individuals at
21 2 in the morning, so we're saying 5:30
22 NYPD came in. At 7 o'clock, the Mayor
23 actually returned my texts.

24 So, what we look at is, there's a
25 discipline -- there's going to be an

1 investigation of these individuals.
2 There's disciplinary. He has been
3 suspended -- that I can understand.
4 I'll file the actual complaint with CCRB
5 on behalf of the rider, but there's a
6 bigger problem here. The problem is the
7 police officers are not trained.

8 So, I go back to that 2021 when we
9 brought a master trainer. We only have
10 a few in the United States and we have
11 one that resides in Dutchess County.

12 She came down. She explained --
13 even talking about pulling over a
14 motorcycle or two-wheel -- or the
15 capabilities that people think that
16 these instruments have and the skill
17 level is, like, close to zero.

18 The fatalities are up on motorcycles
19 and now I heard somebody talk about the
20 proliferation of ATVs and dirt bikes.
21 She should be glad to know that your
22 Mayor actually spoke out on it at Hot 97
23 just yesterday saying, "We need to get a
24 park. We need to put people that want
25 to speed in a park to get -- get it out

1 their system".

2 So, that's a movement -- after
3 knowing him 30 years, to actually see
4 him come and say that, we're moving
5 where we need to move. However, the
6 police officers are not trained to deal
7 with these vehicles on the road.

8 So, are they gonna get a pass on the
9 CCRB level because they wasn't trained
10 -- because the Patrol Book doesn't speak
11 to it -- or will they be held
12 accountable for the basic VTL laws,
13 which is attempted murder?

14 Just asking because I do like that
15 mediation thing because I could probably
16 train these officers, but that's my
17 statement. Any response?

18 MR. DARCHE: It's unclear to me
19 whether or not the CCRB has an
20 investigation here because we are not
21 part of the Police Department.

22 MS. CRUZ: I know you don't.

23 MR. DARCHE: If the -- either the
24 operator of the two-wheeled vehicle had
25 filed a complaint with us, or anyone

1 else who viewed the video filed a
2 complaint with us, then we would pursue
3 a separate investigation from the NYPD.

4 MS. CRUZ: Right. And so you guys
5 don't take --

6 MR. DARCHE: The NYPD has already
7 conducted an investigation and has
8 suspended the officer that you're
9 referring to pending the outcome of
10 their investigation --

11 MS. CRUZ: Correct.

12 MR. DARCHE: -- but that is separate
13 from a CCRB investigation and if you
14 either have filed or would like to file
15 a complaint with the CCRB, we can -- we
16 would look at it, see if it was within
17 our jurisdiction, and if it is,
18 investigate the matter.

19 MS. CRUZ: Okay. But do you guys
20 also follow the VTLs of New York State?

21 MR. DARCHE: We look at the Patrol
22 Guide, and we look at the laws of New
23 York State, and the Constitution of the
24 United States and New York State when
25 determining whether a member of service

1 acted appropriately.

2 MS. CRUZ: Right. Are you guys also
3 -- when we talk about mediation -- have
4 the capabilities of understanding that
5 some police officers are bad, as you
6 heard earlier, but some police officers
7 just lack training and they're operating
8 out of fear or anger -- road rage.

9 CHAIR RICE: Thank you very much for
10 your comment, Ms. Cruz. We appreciate
11 it -- and thank you to our Executive
12 Director for his response.

13 I just wanted to double-check again
14 to make sure that we do not have any
15 more comments from anyone here in the
16 room and/or online before we move on
17 with the meeting.

18 (No response.)

19 CHAIR RICE: Okay. Hearing none, do
20 we have any old business to come before
21 the Board?

22 (No response.)

23 CHAIR RICE: Do we have any new
24 business to come before the Board?

25 (No response.)

1 CHAIR RICE: Hearing none, I'm going
2 to move now that we break into executive
3 session and the agenda for the Executive
4 Session is the Board will receive an
5 update from the General Counsel on
6 litigation and the Executive Director
7 will discuss pending personnel issues
8 and discuss Board Member training.

9 I'd like to call this meeting to a
10 close. Do I have a second -- I mean, do
11 I have a motion?

12 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Motion.

13 CHAIR RICE: Do I have a second?

14 MS. SIMMONS: Second.

15 CHAIR RICE: So moved. The July
16 meeting of the CCRB is concluded. Thank
17 you.

18 (Time noted: 8:38 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 12th day of July, 2023.



Julia M. Speros