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CCRB Chair Fred Davie: Fight for Transparency Delayed, But Not Deterred

Leader of NYPD watchdog applauds court's decision to relieve the CCRB of its temporary restraining order

New York, NY – New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) Chair Fred Davie issued the following statement on Friday after the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York Judge Katherine Polk Failla declined to impose a preliminary injunction on the CCRB. Such an order would have prevented future disclosures pursuant to the Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) until the unions' lawsuit was adjudicated.

“Transparency is paramount to the CCRB’s work and is necessary to improving police-community relations in New York City. New Yorkers and elected officials advocated for and acted on these principles, and made their intent clear when they repealed New York Civil Rights Law Section 50-a. Judge Failla’s decision to lift the temporary restraining order and to decline to impose a preliminary injunction is not only legally justified, but is the only logical path forward for preserving what New Yorkers and lawmakers intended through the repeal of 50-a. I applaud today’s decision—the fight for transparency has been delayed, but not deterred. The CCRB and other Agencies involved in oversight and accountability will once again be able to responsibly release disciplinary information to the public in accordance with FOIL and other laws.”

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The New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) is the largest police oversight entity in the nation and is empowered to investigate, mediate, prosecute, and recommend disciplinary action for complaints alleging misconduct by NYPD officers. See NYC Charter § 440(c)(1). The agency's jurisdiction includes excessive and unnecessary force, abuse of authority, discourtesy, and use of offensive language. To further this mission, CCRB issues monthly, biannual, and special statistical and qualitative reports analyzing trends and recurring issues arising from the many thousands of civilian complaints it receives each year.