

CIVILIAN COMPLAINT REVIEW BOARD

100 CHURCH STREET 10th FLOOR NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10007 ◆ TELEPHONE (212) 912-7235 www.nyc.gov/ccrb



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MEDIA CONTACT

Clio Calvo-Platero press@ccrb.nyc.gov (c) 917-224-0422

CCRB Announces Appointment of Darius Charney as Director of New Unit Charged with Investigating Racial Profiling and Bias-Based Policing

Darius Charney will serve as Director for the new unit investigating bias-based policing and racial profiling.

New York, NY – Today, the New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB), announced the appointment of Mr. Darius Charney, one of the country's leading civil rights lawyers, as the Director of a new unit which will investigate racial profiling and bias-based policing.

Mr. Charney will be leaving his position as a Senior Staff Attorney at the Center for Constitutional Rights, bringing with him his expertise on police misconduct and litigating racial justice cases. He has long championed the fight against racial profiling in New York City, namely in his role as lead counsel on *Floyd v. City of New York*, the landmark federal civil rights class action lawsuit that found the New York City Police Department's stop-and-frisk practices racially discriminatory and otherwise unconstitutional. Mr. Charney has continued the fight in cases across the country making him a leading expert in bias based policing and racial profiling.

Statement from CCRB Chair Fred Davie:

"Darius Charney has dedicated his career to exposing and ending racial profiling. His efforts to end stop-and-frisk in New York City have protected the next generation of Black and Brown New Yorkers from being unduly harassed with no recourse. Unfortunately, racial profiling and bias-based policing still exists, making this new investigative unit necessary and there is no better person to lead the charge of this pioneering unit than Mr. Charney."

Statement from Darius Charney:

"I am proud to be joining the CCRB and its mission to make New York City a safer place for all. I hope that with this new unit, all New Yorkers will know that bias-based policing and racial profiling will not be tolerated and offending officers will be held accountable."

Statement from Council Member and Chair of the Committee on Oversight and Investigations Vanessa L. Gibson:

"The appointment of Darius Charney is the first step in ensuring communities of color are protected against bias policing that unjustly targets residents on the basis of their race and ethnicity. In order for us to restore community and police relations, there needs to be trust that officers will be held accountable for their actions and racial profiling will not be tolerated. I want to congratulate Mr. Charney on his new position and I look forward to his work with the Civilian Complaint Review Board protecting the rights of all New Yorkers from discrimination."

Prior to working for the Center for Constitutional Rights in 2008, Darius spent two and a half years as an associate at the New York law firm of Lansner & Kubitschek, where he litigated federal civil rights cases challenging various aspects of New York City and New York State's child welfare and foster care systems. Darius received his J.D. and M.S.W. degrees from the University of California, Berkeley in 2001. From 2003-2005, he was law clerk to the Honorable Deborah A. Batts, United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York. See more about Mr. Charney's cases here.

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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.