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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CIVILIAN COMPLAINT REVIEW BOARD ANNOUNCES IT WILL DO  
COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF CHOKEHOLD COMPLAINTS RECEIVED BY THE  
AGENCY DURING PAST FIVE YEARS**

The new Chair of the NYC Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB), Richard D. Emery, announced today that the agency has begun a comprehensive study of the chokehold complaints it has received during the past 5 years (2009 to 2013) and in the first six months of 2014.

“The CCRB is in the unique position of being able to look at the chokehold complaints it has received to attempt to discern why officers continue to use this forbidden practice,” said Board Chair Richard Emery.

The CCRB has received 1022 chokehold allegations in the five year period 2009 to 2013. Of the 462 cases that were fully investigated, nine allegations were substantiated, meaning the Board determined by a preponderance of evidence that a chokehold was used. In 206 instances, or 45%, the Board unsubstantiated the allegation, meaning there was not enough evidence to determine one way or the other, if the chokehold was used.

“We’re going to make this chokehold study an agency priority,” said CCRB Executive Director Tracy Catapano-Fox.

The study will examine the following: police officer’s recorded interviews with the agency to determine what is their understanding about the use of force and chokeholds in particular; what were the circumstances of the encounters that led officers to employ a potentially deadly and forbidden practice and what was the impact of the chokeholds on individuals against whom they were used.

“We also hope to be able to shed light on the CCRB methodologies that led to such a large number of cases that are unsubstantiated,” said Mr. Emery. “

The study will also examine whether there's been appropriate discipline by the police department in cases where the Board found officers used chokeholds. Complaints will also be scrutinized for information that may help the department in its training so that officers never employ a chokehold against a civilian.

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