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Press Release:

September 29, 2016

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NYC CIVILIAN COMPLAINT REVIEW BOARD ISSUES 2016 MID-YEAR REPORT

Record Number of Cases Closed in the Administrative Prosecution Unit

More Efficient Investigations and Mediations Continue to Rise

Today, the NYC Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) released its [2016 Semi-Annual Report](#). The report highlights the following trends among its findings: (1) the number of days to complete a full investigation continued to decrease, and there were fewer cases on the Agency's open docket that were older than four months at the end of June 2016; (2) the Board substantiated 215 complaints against 327 officers during this time period; (3) the number of complaints filed in the first half of the year was 12 percent greater than those filed during the same time period in 2015; (4) the Administrative Prosecution Unit (APU) closed more cases in the first half of 2016 than in the first half of 2015; and (5) the average number of days taken to mediate a case has been steadily decreasing from an average of 145 days in the first half of 2015 to 89 days in the first half of 2016.

"CCRB has a responsibility to the public and members of service to ensure that complaints are handled swiftly and with the utmost professionalism," stated CCRB Chair Maya D. Wiley. "As this Semi-Annual report demonstrates, the Agency continues to improve in all areas of the complaint process, including faster investigations as well as successful mediations."

Although annual complaint activity has been steadily declining since 2010, the report notes an increase in complaints filed in the first half of 2016 (2,343), compared the first half of 2015 (2,088).

Ninety-eight percent of cases on the Agency's open docket were four months old or younger at the end of June 2016. By comparison, 77 percent of cases in the open dockets were four months old or younger at the end of June 2015.

"Timelier investigations, effective mediations and unprecedented prosecutions are a testament to the CCRB's commitment to a more efficient and responsible police oversight agency," stated Executive Director Mina Q. Malik. "We continue to resolve more cases in record time, improve police accountability, and are working vigorously to promote transparency and build public trust."

In the first half of 2016, findings show the Board substantiated 215 complaints against 327 police officers, as compared to 236 complaints against 354 officers in the first half of 2015. For officers against whom complaints were substantiated, the Board recommended that administrative charges be brought against 43 officers; command discipline for 164 officers; and formalized training or instructions for 120 officers.

The APU conducted 67 trials and closed 131 cases. This is an increase from the 66 conducted trials and 104 cases closed in the first half of 2015. The Unit closed 130 adjudicated cases from January to June 2016. Discipline was imposed in 91 of these cases, resulting in a discipline rate of 70 percent.

The average time to mediate a complaint was 89 days during the first half of 2016, compared to the average 145 days it took in the first half of 2015.

Other Key findings:

- In the first half of 2016, the Police Department reported its final disciplinary decisions for 346 subject officers, comprising both cases that were prosecuted by the APU and cases that were handled by the DAO. The Police Department imposed some form of discipline in 285 cases, resulting in an 82 percent disciplinary action rate, compared to a 74 percent disciplinary action rate in the first half of 2015. The Police Department did not impose any disciplinary action in 18 percent of cases.
- Brooklyn has consistently been the borough with the most complaints, where 708 complaints were filed from January to June of 2016, up nine percent from the 650 filed in the first half of 2015.
- The top three precincts to receive the most complaints from January to June of 2016 were the 75th in Brooklyn (109 complaints), the 73rd in Brooklyn (64 complaints), and the 40th in Bronx (62 complaints).
- In the first half of 2016, force allegations made up 43 percent of total complaints, compared to 48 percent in the first half of 2015. Abuse of authority allegations made up 70 percent, compared to 60 percent in the first half of 2015. Discourtesy allegations made up 31 percent of total complaints, compared to 34 percent in the first half of 2015. Finally, offensive language allegations made up seven percent of the total, the same as in the first half of 2015.

The full report is also available on the CCRB's website: www.nyc.gov/ccrb

The CCRB is the largest police oversight agency in the nation and is empowered to investigate, prosecute, mediate, make findings and recommend action upon 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, bi-annual, and special statistical and qualitative reports analyzing trends and recurring issues arising from the many thousands of civilian complaints it receives. These reports act as a barometer of police-civilian encounters in a number of ways, including the police practices that civilians find most troubling. In its role as an independent investigator of misconduct allegations, CCRB is uniquely positioned to identify the circumstances that generate civilian complaints, to assess whether officer conduct is improper, and to offer recommendations to redress misconduct.

