

In Re May Public Meeting NYC - Civilian Complaint Review Board
May 10, 2023

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CIVILIAN COMPLAINT REVIEW BOARD

PUBLIC MEETING

MAY 10, 2023

6:30 P.M.

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HELD VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

AND

THE RESTORATION PLAZA COMMUNITY ROOM

1368 FULTON AVENUE
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11216

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

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. Joe Fox, 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
12. Herman Merritt - Board Member

Presenters:

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

SPEAKERS

1. Assembly Member Stefani Zinerman, District 56

2. Ms. Robin, Community Member

3. Council Member Alexa Aviles, District 38

4. Assembly Member Monique Chandler-Waterman,
District 58

5. Tyler Campbell, Case Manager, Project Restore
Bed-Stuy (Bridge Street Development Corp.)

6. Jason Bostic, Justice Ambassador, Project
Restore Bed-Stuy (Bridge Street Development
Corp.)

7. StacyAnn DeSouza and Mario Menjivar, Brooklyn
Youth Advocate, Youth Advocacy Corps, MHAP

8. Marva Brown, Public Defender, Legal Aid
Society

9. Somia El-Rowmeim, Founder, Women's
Empowerment Coalition NYC (WECNYC)

10. Sara Barrett, Saint Nicks Alliance Workforce
Development Center, YouthBuild Program

11. Diana Irving, Community Liaison at the
Connect Program, IDCC Interborough

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2 SPEAKERS CONTINUED

3 =====

4 12. Andrew Case, Supervising Attorney at
5 Latino-Justice PRLDEF

6 13. Antoniqua Roberson-Dancy, MAP Engagement
7 Coordinator, Red Hook Community
8 Justice Center

9 14. Sofia Bailey, - Community Member

10 15. Cyrus Smith, Founder, Brownsville Thinktank
11 Matters/D.R.U.M.

12 16. Rudy Racine, Founder and CEO of Watch The
13 Block

14 17. Nicole Sharpe, SUNY Downstate Health
15 Sciences University

16 18. Anthony Jennings, Youth Development
17 Specialist and Gang Specialist, Life Camp,
18 Queens, New York

19 19. Pamela Stevens, Assembly Member Monique
20 Chandler-Waterman, Public Safety Task Force

21 20. Idris Abdullah, Member, 79th Precinct
22 Community Council

SPEAKERS CONTINUED

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21. Miesha Morales, Constituent Advocate, NYS

Senator Jabari Brisport

22. Terrell Guise, - Representative, Black

Opportunity Project

23. Ms. Jones, Resident, Flatbush Gardens

24. Santana Browne-Peyton, Board Member,

Community Board 3

25. Daniel Heredia, Representative,

Council Member Farah Louis

26. Assembly Member Brian Cunningham,

District 43

PROCEEDINGS

MS. ALVAREZ: Good evening,
everyone. For those joining us and
utilizing ASL interpreters, our
interpreters today are Allison Zilg
(phonetic) and Craig Ridgway.

You can pin their video and -- or
move them into the equal sign in the
equal view for Webex, and CART services
are -- information (sic) are in the
chat. Thank you.

CHAIR RICE: Good evening and
welcome. My name is Arva Rice. I use
she/her pronouns and I am the Interim
Chair of the Civilian Complaint Review
Board. I would like to call the CCRB's
May Public Board Meeting to order.

Would the rest of the Board Members
like to introduce themselves, starting
with Joe?

MR. PUMA: Oh, sorry. Good evening,
everyone. My name is Joseph Puma. I'm
the City Council Appointee on the Board
from Manhattan.

I happen to be a public housing

1 resident hailing from the Lower East
2 Side and it's great to be here in
3 Brooklyn tonight.

4 MR. FOX: Good evening. My
5 apologies. I was speaking with Joseph
6 and got him in trouble for not starting
7 on time.

8 My name is Joe Fox. I'm the Police
9 Commissioner, Keechant Sewell,
10 Appointee. I did 37 years with the NYPD
11 and I'm retired for five years. Thank
12 you.

13 MR. HOGAN: AU Hogan, the City
14 Council Appointee from Queens. I'm from
15 southeast Queens. I've been working for
16 the City for 20 years and welcome
17 everyone.

18 MR. RIVADENEYRA: Good evening. My
19 name is Michael Rivadeneyra. I am the
20 City Council Designee from the Bronx and
21 I hail from the Bronx. My pronouns are
22 he and him. Thank you.

23 MS. BROWN-WYANDS: Good evening. My
24 name is Charlane Brown-Wyands. I am the
25 Police Commissioner Designee. I hail

1 from Queens, but I was born in Brooklyn,
2 so I'm back home in Brooklyn and I
3 retired from the NYPD after 26 years.

4 MR. DARCHE: My name is Jon Darche.
5 I'm the Executive Director of the agency
6 and I use he/him pronouns.

7 MS. NORTHERN: Good evening. My
8 name is June Northern. I'm a Mayoral
9 Appointee and I'm from Brooklyn.

10 MR. JEMMOTT: Good evening. My name
11 is Kevin Jemmott. I'm a Mayoral
12 Appointee and I'm from Queens and spent
13 my whole life in New York City.

14 MR. SIEGAL: Good evening. John
15 Siegal. I'm an Appointee of the Mayor
16 and I practice law in Manhattan.

17 MR. DWYER: Good evening. My name
18 is Frank Dwyer. I'm a Police
19 Commissioner Designee and I spent four
20 years on the corner of Atlantic and
21 Washington going to high school.

22 So, there were a lot of fond
23 memories to come back here and I wish I
24 had bought a house back then for
25 \$50,000.

1 MR. DARCHE: Esmeralda will be on
2 soon -- Ms. Simmons will be on soon, but
3 She's having some technical
4 difficulties.

5 CHAIR RICE: Terrific. Thank you
6 and thank you to the Board Members and
7 thank you for all of you all for joining
8 us here in-person this evening. It's
9 great to be back in Brooklyn.

10 I'd like to ask for a motion to
11 approve the April Board meeting minutes.

12 BOARD MEMBER: The April Board
13 meeting minutes are approved.

14 CHAIR RICE: Can I get a second?

15 BOARD MEMBER: Second.

16 CHAIR RICE: I'm sorry, I forgot to
17 ask if there were any -- are there any
18 changes or corrections to the minutes?

19 (No response.)

20 CHAIR RICE: No -- all right. So,
21 we'll go with the motion. We have a
22 motion and we have a second.

23 Hearing none, all those in favor of
24 approving the minutes as presented, say
25 "aye".

1 (Chorus of "Ayes".)

2 CHAIR RICE: All those approved --
3 all those opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 CHAIR RICE: The April Board meeting
6 minutes are approved. Thank you.

7 On April 24th, the Administrative
8 Prosecution Unit began their trial
9 against Police Officers Thompson and
10 Davis for the killing of Kawaski
11 Trawick. One week before, Deputy Trial
12 Commissioner Maldonado tried to dismiss
13 the wrongful entry specifications
14 against both officers.

15 In Court, CCRB prosecutors argued
16 why the CCRB should have the right to
17 argue the charge and prevailed. The
18 trial will restart tomorrow morning.

19 Since our last Board meeting, City
20 Hall has revoked the additional four
21 percent peg, but still is proposing
22 cuts. Unfortunately, the current
23 proposed budget leaves the CCRB with
24 only 32,000 for overtime budget, which
25 would not cover our current operating

1 costs and certainly limit us from hiring
2 more positions.

3 The team this affects the most is
4 our new unit on racial profiling and
5 biased-based policing. We originally
6 requested over 50 positions for this
7 team and the City Council budgeted 33.
8 Thus far we have hired 13 team members
9 and have no budget left to round out the
10 team.

11 Based on the proposed budget, the
12 agency intends to resume referring
13 profiling allegations to the
14 Department -- the Police Department --
15 at the end of the fiscal year. This is
16 not a decision made in haste, but this
17 agency owes the people of the City an
18 honest assessment of our ability to do
19 the work.

20 We are grateful for the City
21 Council's support as the Council
22 proposed increasing the agency's budget
23 by an additional eight million and
24 allowing us to hire over 90 positions.
25 We hope for support from OMB on this

1 matter as we currently will have the
2 funding to fulfill our Charter mandate.

3 The agency is hopeful that this
4 (sic) circumstances will change so that
5 we do not have to take this step. I
6 will update you all at the June Board
7 Meeting about this situation.

8 I would also like to take a moment
9 to mourn the death of Jordan Neely and
10 send my deepest condolences to his
11 family.

12 Over the past several days, New
13 Yorkers have exercised their right to
14 peacefully protest Jordan Neely's death
15 and how the case has been handled.
16 Unfortunately, we have already received
17 several complaints regarding NYPD
18 intervention during these protests,
19 including the arrest of a credentialed
20 photojournalist.

21 The CCRB is here to protect New
22 Yorkers' rights to peacefully protest
23 and will work to hold officers who
24 violated that right accountable.

25 Thank you to Blondel Pinnock, CEO of

1 Restoration Plaza, and Marlon Rice, and
2 all of the Restoration staff for hosting
3 us this evening.

4 We will now hear from Executive
5 Director, Jon Darche, on other agency
6 updates. Jon?

7 MR. DARCHE: Thank you, Chair Rice.

8 Access to key evidence has been one
9 of the leading factors delaying CCRB
10 investigations and protecting
11 misconduct. Often, records are sealed
12 because police misconduct took place,
13 but the CCRB does not have access to
14 sealed records.

15 In order for the agency to get
16 access to sealed records, we have to
17 file unsealing motions, which can take
18 months, if not years to process.

19 One case that continues to be stalled
20 for this reason is the CCRB's
21 prosecution of the officer responsible
22 for the death of Delrawn Small.

23 The CCRB filed an unsealing motion
24 in October 2021. After a
25 year-and-a-half, the Judge decided to

1 unseal the evidence. Unfortunately, the
2 Patrolmen's Benevolent Association
3 appealed this decision. The
4 disciplinary proceeding against the
5 officer who killed Mr. Small continues
6 to languish while the appeal goes
7 forward.

8 The State Legislature currently has
9 a bill that would grant the CCRB an
10 exemption from sealing statutes and we
11 hope for the Legislature's support on
12 this issue.

13 BWC footage is another key piece of
14 evidence that is essential to CCRB
15 investigations. CCRB investigators are
16 in the best position to search for
17 body-worn camera footage relevant to
18 each case. Direct access to body-worn
19 camera footage would mean cases are
20 resolved more quickly and more
21 accurately.

22 The percentage of cases decided on
23 the merits, which is where the CCRB can
24 determine, by a preponderance of the
25 evidence, what actually occurred, goes

1 up, not just substantiations, but also
2 determining that officers' conduct was
3 within NYPD guidelines when we have
4 body-worn camera footage.

5 There is a bill pending before the
6 City Council now that would give the
7 CCRB direct access to body-worn camera
8 footage. This bill is a very strong
9 bill and we thank the Council for
10 recognizing it -- recognizing the need
11 for direct access and hope the bill
12 passes.

13 Before the meeting resumes, I just
14 want to inform you of a few quick
15 things.

16 Our office is open for walk-in
17 complaints, but it is also possible to
18 file complaints online at
19 nyc.gov/ccrbcomplaint -- that is N-Y-C,
20 dot, G-O-V, slash,
21 C-C-R-B-C-O-M-P-L-A-I-N-T -- or by
22 telephone at 1-800-341-2272 or by
23 dialling 311.

24 If anyone wishes to file a complaint
25 tonight, we have three investigators

1 on-hand ready to take new complaints or
2 information about complaints we've
3 already received. Those investigators
4 are Emma Stydahr, Rob Bryan -- oh, we
5 have four people here today -- Ethan
6 Waterman and Delali Madison.

7 We have to end this meeting by 8:30
8 tonight because there is an extremely
9 complicated case the full Board needs to
10 review in executive session, so I'm
11 going to ask you all to respect your
12 neighbors and keep your comments to
13 four minutes.

14 If you're watching this online and
15 wish to make -- and wish to participate
16 in the public comment portion of the
17 meeting, please make sure you use the
18 raise your hand function.

19 I want to thank the staff of the
20 CCRB for their hard work and thanks
21 again to the members of the public who
22 came here tonight. We truly appreciate
23 your interest.

24 CHAIR RICE: Thank you, Jon.

25 Does anyone have any questions of

1 our Executive Director?

2 (No response.)

3 CHAIR RICE: Do any Board Members
4 have any questions for the Executive
5 Director?

6 (No response.)

7 CHAIR RICE: Okay -- all right.
8 Seeing none, we're going to have a
9 presentation --

10 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: (Indiscernible.)

11 CHAIR RICE: Ma'am, we're going to
12 have an open portion of the meeting
13 shortly in just a few moments. Okay.
14 Thank you so much.

15 We're going to have a presentation
16 from our Director of Outreach, Mr. Jahi
17 Rose. Jahi?

18 MR. ROSE: Good evening, everyone.
19 Thank you for attending. Thank you very
20 much, Chair.

21 My name is Jahi Rose. I am the
22 Director of Outreach for the Civilian
23 Complaint Review Board. I go by he/him
24 pronouns and we're just going to share
25 some information about what the CCRB

1 does, so bear with me for one moment.

2 So, the CCRB is a City agency. We
3 are the largest oversight entity over
4 the largest police force in the country.
5 The CCRB investigates, mediates, and in
6 some cases administratively prosecutes
7 allegations of misconduct alleged
8 against members of the NYPD.

9 The CCRB is governed by a 15 member
10 Board. You've met many of our Board
11 Members today. Five Board Members are
12 appointed by the Mayor; five are
13 appointed by the New York City Council.
14 Three are designated by the Police
15 Commissioner and one is appointed by the
16 Public -- New York City Public Advocate.
17 The Chair is jointly appointed by the
18 City Council and New York City Mayor.

19 The CCRB can accept allegations of
20 force against members of the NYPD. The
21 allegations that we can investigate are
22 FADO, force, abuse of authority,
23 discourtesy, and offensive language.

24 As I mentioned, FADO is actually a
25 helpful reminder to help you to remember

1 what our -- what the jurisdiction is.

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

4 The Right-to-Know Act was a law that
5 went into effect in October of 2018.

6 The law impacts interactions between
7 members of the public and the New York
8 City Police Department, which include
9 officers identifying themselves, such as
10 providing their name, badge number,
11 rank, command to members of the public,
12 and in -- in some -- with some
13 exceptions, officers should be telling
14 you the purpose of the encounter or the
15 intersection.

16 Officers should in some cases inform
17 you of a right to say "no" when they're
18 asking you to search -- for your consent
19 to search your person, property, and/or
20 home, or vehicle -- and officers, in
21 certain circumstances, should be
22 offering you a business card.

23 This business card has identifying
24 information for the officer and
25 information as to how you can file a

1 comment and/or complaint about the
2 interaction with you and that officer.
3 Civilians can request these business
4 cards in all encounters.

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

7 Now, there are few different ways to
8 file complaints to the CCRB. Just to
9 name some of the easier ways, one is by
10 going online and filing it at
11 nyc.gov/ccrbcomplaint. You can also
12 call the CCRB's hotline at
13 1-800-341-CCRB, also 1-800-341-2272.

14 Remember, if you see footage of
15 misconduct on social media or on the
16 news, you can feel free to file a
17 complaint, even if you were not there in
18 person. Our typical hash -- our typical
19 handle for the CCRB is `ccrb_nyc`.

20 Other ways to file a complaint with
21 the CCRB are by calling 311. You can
22 also come to the CCRB's office in lower
23 Manhattan at 100 Church Street on the
24 10th floor.

25 You can also file complaints with us

1 on social media. Our platforms are
2 Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. As I
3 mentioned, the handle is typically
4 ccrb_nyc. You can also file a complaint
5 in the mail by sending it to 100 Church
6 Street, 10th Floor, New York, New York,
7 zip code 10007.

8 You can also file a complaint at any
9 local police precinct. It does not have
10 to be the precinct where the interaction
11 may have taken place. Officers are
12 required to accept CCRB complaints at
13 all precincts. You can also request a
14 complaint form and a postage-free
15 envelope.

16 If you'd like an Outreach
17 presentation or informational
18 presentation about what the CCRB does
19 for virtually anyone in your community,
20 community organizations, friends,
21 family, feel free to reach out to the
22 CCRB's Outreach Team at
23 outreach@ccrb.nyc.gov. You can also
24 follow the CCRB on social media on
25 Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook.

1 Thank you -- thank you, Chair.

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

4 (No response.)

5 CHAIR RICE: All right. Thank you
6 -- thank you for the presentation.

7 I want to ask our Assemblywoman for
8 -- that represents this community, Ms.
9 -- Assembly Member Stefani Zinerman, if
10 you would like to make a public comment.

11 MS. ZINERMAN: Good to see you.
12 Good evening, everyone. It is wonderful
13 to see this room filled. This is a very
14 important civic moment for our community
15 to host the CCRB for this month.

16 I am the sitting Assembly Member for
17 Bedford-Stuyvesant and Northern Crown
18 Heights, the 56, and I want to first
19 start out by just thanking these
20 wonderful public servants that are
21 sitting behind the microphones.

22 Across this -- thank you --
23 absolutely. It's important to know that
24 we have about 700 municipalities just in
25 New York State. There's only about 200

1 CCRBs across the nation and so it just
2 really underscores just how important
3 this work is.

4 We've all lived through a pandemic.
5 We've lived -- if you're as old as I --
6 at least a half century of looking at
7 police abuses across the country, some
8 very deadly ones that we all remember
9 and we still say their names -- and so
10 what they do and what you do as a
11 community is so important.

12 We don't ever want to get to a point
13 where we are too afraid to raise our
14 voices, to use the resources that are
15 available to you through the CCRB.

16 And I know sometimes when people
17 have been terrorized, and hurt, and are
18 ashamed because they were victimized --
19 they don't want to come before another
20 municipal body in order to make a
21 complaint -- but we've invested time and
22 money in their ability to sit before
23 you, and listen to what has happened to
24 you, and advocate on your behalf.

25 So, I thank you for trusting this

1 process and coming here tonight, and
2 please spread the word, and as always,
3 we thank you all for what you do as
4 well. Thank you so much and have a
5 great meeting.

6 (Indiscernible audio.)

7 CHAIR RICE: Ms. Robin, you wanted
8 to make a comment as well.

9 MS. ROBIN: Good evening, everyone.

10 Certainly, as the Assembly Member --
11 as the Assembly Member has spoken, in
12 terms of that it's important to raise
13 your voices.

14 So, I just want to say good evening
15 to all of you and thank you, Ms. Rice,
16 and for the members of the Board, thank
17 you for being here this evening, and all
18 of you that have assembled because so
19 often that we're in the street
20 protesting and then we say, "Who do we
21 protest and have a voice to say
22 something to".

23 So, I just want to say this, when I
24 was in the City Council, there was no
25 CCRB, but then we were able to because

1 people raised their voices, there became
2 a CCRB. So, you have an opportunity
3 this evening to speak up and say what's
4 on your mind and what's on your heart.

5 And, as I saw that -- they talked
6 about what your rights are -- even if
7 you see something on footage and you
8 think it's not the right thing, you have
9 an opportunity to speak on it.

10 So, have a good evening and please
11 speak up. Thank you.

12 CHAIR RICE: Thank you so much for
13 those comments and for encouraging
14 people to speak up and to speak out.

15 We also have, joining us virtually,
16 City Councilwoman Alexa Aviles, if she
17 wanted to make her comments virtually.

18 MS. AVILES: Hi, everyone. Good
19 evening. I'm happy to be here. My name
20 is Council Member Alexa Aviles. I
21 represent District 38 in South Brooklyn
22 encompassing the neighborhoods of Red
23 Hook and Sunset Park.

24 Just glad to be here and listen to
25 the conversation and the services that

1 CCRB offers our citizens. So, thank you
2 so much.

3 CHAIR RICE: Thank you and thank you
4 for joining us. We appreciate it.

5 We will now hear from local
6 community leaders and we want to thank
7 you so much for joining us.

8 As a reminder, as you heard from our
9 Executive Director, we want to keep your
10 comments to four minutes, and, Yojaira,
11 I'm going to ask you if you could please
12 call on our first speaker.

13 MS. ALVAREZ: Thank you, Chair.

14 First, we will be hearing from Tyler
15 Campbell, who is joining us in person,
16 and then followed by Assembly Member
17 Monique Chandler-Waterman.

18 CHAIR RICE: I believe I missed
19 Assemblywoman Monique Chandler-Waterman.

20 MS. CHANDLER-WATERMAN: Yes, hello?

21 (No response.)

22 MS. CHANDLER-WATERMAN: Hello?

23 CHAIR RICE: If he can make his way
24 to the podium, that will be fine, and
25 before you go, we're just going to ask

1 our Assemblywoman if she could make some
2 remarks. Thank you.

3 MS. CHANDLER-WATERMAN: Okay. Thank
4 you so much. Thank you all so much for
5 organizing. Thank you to the CCRB team.
6 Thank you to my colleague, Assemblywoman
7 Stefani Zinerman, for all the things she
8 has done in that district.

9 So, I want to first say that I have
10 been working with CCRB for a very long
11 time in our street engagement and I had
12 the privilege of working with Jahi Rose,
13 Director of Outreach, and then passed
14 onto Venus Scantlebury, who I understand
15 will be our Outreach coordinator here in
16 District 58 covering East Flatbush,
17 Carnasie --

18 (Transmission Disruption.)

19 MS. CHANDLER-WATERMAN: Can you hear
20 me?

21 CHAIR RICE: Just one moment.

22 MS. CHANDLER-WATERMAN: Hello --
23 hello, can you hear me?

24 CHAIR RICE: We can still hear you.

25 MS. CHANDLER-WATERMAN: Hello, can

1 you still hear me?

2 CHAIR RICE: You were explaining the
3 territories that you -- the districts
4 that you represent.

5 MS. CHANDLER-WATERMAN: Hello --
6 yes. Okay. Perfect. It sounded kind
7 of low, so I'm going to continue
8 talking.

9 So, I had the privilege to work with
10 CCRB. We have done -- I have a mental
11 health task force that I've created
12 since I've been in office, and a public
13 safety task force, and CCRB has been
14 very instrumental in those task forces
15 and we have task force members in the
16 group right now. They're in front of
17 you today.

18 We've also got "Occupy the Corner"
19 and a safety alliance, where we've
20 blocked off streets and we flood with
21 resources in hot spot areas. CCRB has
22 been very instrumental in going to
23 community members, hearing their
24 complaints.

25 As you know, our community is

1 overrun by police brutality and just by
2 having that lending voice and the
3 resources that they can use and be armed
4 with information, so I really appreciate
5 the services and action on the ground --
6 being on the ground speaking directly
7 and connecting people where they're at.

8 I really appreciate that and I'd
9 like to continue our partnership with
10 CCRB in any way we can further partner,
11 I'd be greatly appreciative.

12 So, thank you, again, to Jahi Rose
13 for your leadership in our district and
14 I look forward to working with Venus
15 Scantlebury. Thank you so much,
16 everyone.

17 CHAIR RICE: Thank you -- thank you
18 so much for the comments and for your
19 partnership.

20 And so we're going to go to our
21 community leaders in the room. So, if
22 you could just state your name once
23 again and bring your comment.

24 MR. CAMPBELL: Thank you. Good
25 evening, everyone. My name is Tyler

1 Campbell. I come to you all on behalf
2 of Project Restore Bed-Stuy, which is
3 sponsored by the Bridge Street
4 Corporation for Development.

5 I had a set of remarks that I was
6 going to say today, but I was challenged
7 with speaking from the heart, and so
8 that's what I'll do. I'm going to keep
9 it brief, but I want to say I am --
10 often come to events like these cause
11 I'm often disillusioned by what actually
12 happens and what comes of these kinds of
13 conversations.

14 But what I will say is that in my
15 work that we do inside of Project
16 Restore, we work with, what you might
17 label, at-risk young men, but I call
18 them the young men who the City casts
19 aside -- right -- and one of our young
20 men just recently had a situation --
21 regular situation actually with Brooklyn
22 police where he was accosted, illegally
23 searched, and beaten by police -- right
24 -- and I asked him to come here. I
25 asked him to speak. I asked him to file

1 a complaint.

2 You know what he said? He said,
3 "Hell, no". He said, "I would not do
4 such a thing". I look around this room
5 right now and I can count on my hand the
6 number of young people in this room,
7 right.

8 So, I'm curious what we're doing in
9 terms of how are we reaching out to
10 young people, and how are we really
11 getting outside in our communities, and
12 what are we actually doing in the first
13 place -- right -- because this is what
14 I'm concerned about the most.

15 But instead of me taking up -- cause
16 I only have four minutes -- I want to
17 pass it to one of my young people who
18 was brave enough to come here and speak
19 on some of his beliefs and, you know,
20 thoughts on actually what we can do
21 about this.

22 So, I'll pass it to you, Jason.

23 MR. BOSTIC: How are you all doing?
24 Good evening. My name is Jason Bostic.
25 I'm a -- my name is Jason Bostic,

1 Justice Ambassador and I said a
2 post-interaction should be prominent on
3 problem-solving more than problem
4 escalating.

5 I said, the most common problem in
6 my community on a marginal society is
7 stereotyping. Everybody on my
8 four-block radius is considered
9 criminals. After I work two jobs and go
10 to my internship at Columbia University,
11 I shouldn't be harassed by police after
12 a long day of activities.

13 I'm judged based on how I look with
14 dreadlocks and tattoos, than rather who
15 I am. Detectives don't follow the New
16 York State law in my community and stop
17 and frisk anyone who looks suspicious,
18 but it's usually people who look like
19 me.

20 I've been hopped-out and followed
21 before to my apartment door with my
22 shirt being pulled up and crouch being
23 grabbed. It became so traumatizing that
24 I changed how I dress. I said, what the
25 CCRB can do to build trust and

1 awareness, and train these police in our
2 neighborhoods who are from other
3 communities, in social skills.

4 These cops are normal people taking
5 tests to become cops and not taking
6 actual assessments to control the
7 situation. These cops are scared of us
8 and the community we're in. Train these
9 cops in sociology to allow them to learn
10 skills to see when a person is scarred
11 from trauma and have disabilities, and
12 not causing a problem -- and that goes
13 for people who are war veterans and
14 people who are troubled kids in the
15 middle of the United States who shoot up
16 schools.

17 MR. CAMPBELL: Give it up for Jason
18 -- give it up for Jason -- give it up
19 for Jason, you all.

20 MR. BOSTIC: Thank you for this
21 opportunity. We appreciate it.

22 CHAIR RICE: -- Tyler and thank you,
23 Jason, for coming and representing for
24 so many young people. We do appreciate
25 your comments.

1 I'm going to ask if Jon wants to
2 talk at all about our Youth Advisory
3 Board and see if there are any other
4 members of the Board who want to make a
5 comment as well.

6 MR. DARCHE: Thank you, Madam Chair
7 chair.

8 So, Jason, I just wanted to thank
9 you for sharing your truth with us here
10 today. I thought it was very powerful,
11 and, Tyler, you know, one of the things
12 that -- we don't just come to the
13 community every other month when we're
14 doing Board meetings. Our Outreach Team
15 goes to groups like yours to talk to
16 people and let them know about the
17 agency.

18 And so if there is -- if there --
19 there's a way for Jahi, or Venus, or
20 anyone else from our Outreach Team to
21 come to your organization and other
22 organizations in this neighborhood that
23 have people who need to hear about our
24 agency and what we do, we will go there.

25 And one of the great things about

1 these Board Members is that they also
2 serve as advocates and ambassadors for
3 the agency -- and I know that Mr.
4 Jemmott is doing something in his
5 neighborhood tomorrow night and has
6 invited Jahi to join him -- so, these
7 are -- this is a giant city and we do
8 not have a lot of resources.

9 There are less than 250 people at
10 the CCRB to have oversight over a police
11 force with 50,000 employees and in a
12 City of 8 million people. So, we need
13 your help to let people know that we are
14 here, and just by being here, you folks
15 are helping us educate the community
16 about what we can do and why we're here.

17 One of the other things the Chair
18 mentioned is a Youth Advisory Council
19 that we have because we know it is
20 important, not just to hear from the
21 leaders and elders of our community, but
22 also from the young people who are kind
23 of at the sharp end of encounters with
24 the police and we need to hear from them
25 what they are feeling and what they are

1 experiencing.

2 MR. CAMPBELL: Quickly, just to go
3 back to that point that you just made, I
4 appreciate you responding like that and
5 I want to ask, right, what is actually
6 going to come of, you know, increasing
7 this CCRB, cause my question is -- right
8 -- to me, what this shows -- right -- as
9 you said, right, you only have a certain
10 number of people who over see this work
11 -- and I appreciate you all for doing
12 this work -- but isn't that emblematic
13 of where are our resource and where our
14 attention actually goes?

15 If we have 50,000 officers -- right
16 -- NYPD, but we have how many people
17 that are supposed to be doing this work
18 to hold them accountable, right. I
19 mean, we wonder why our communities
20 aren't safe.

21 But I think it's so interesting,
22 right, if you come and you walk through
23 Roosevelt Projects, you walk through
24 Brevoort, you walk through Marcy, you
25 know what you'll run into, police

1 everywhere and you know what happens in
2 all those neighborhoods, crime and
3 violence. You know why, because they're
4 not preventing crime at all.

5 They're merely just responding --
6 right -- and when they respond, they're
7 often -- as Jason mentioned -- harassing
8 the wrong people and we come to these
9 places -- we come to these things and we
10 always want to, you know, have our
11 voices heard. But my thing is, as one
12 of the people who was up here a moment
13 ago -- we've been talking about these
14 issues since, what, 1990 -- 1980, 19
15 whatever -- you feel what I'm saying --
16 19 whatever, we said -- right -- you
17 feel what I'm saying?

18 It has been the same issues, the
19 same problems. We get the body cams.
20 We do this thing. We do that thing and
21 we hear about the bad apples. Oh, the
22 bad apples -- right -- and my question
23 is -- not my question, but my statement
24 really is, the full bad apple analogy
25 that we love to talk about is, so many

1 bad apples spoil the rotten tree --
2 right -- and if we were talking about so
3 many bad apples, it's not a few bad
4 apples. It's the actual tree itself.

5 And so if I can leave you all with
6 anything, it's that I truly believe and
7 know the NYPD is in fact the biggest
8 gang in New York City and we have all
9 these gang task forces that are designed
10 to, you know, shut down and get on gang
11 forces, but we don't actually look at
12 NYPD -- right -- and the governing body,
13 you all, whose job it is, is
14 under-resourced and doesn't have enough
15 money to do so.

16 And so my challenge to the City
17 really is, you know, how are we going to
18 do that -- right -- and so I apologize
19 for taking up more time, and, you know,
20 by me putting my face up here, I might
21 become a target of NYPD. So, if you all
22 want to come get me, you all know where
23 to find me. Free to God.

24 CHAIR RICE: Thank you, Tyler, for
25 your comment.

1 I believe Board Member AU had a
2 response.

3 MR. HOGAN: (Inaudible) -- actually,
4 it might've been 1790 since we've been
5 having these conversations.

6 I want to coin this phrase to you,
7 Tyler. There's a phrase that says,
8 "Culture eats strategy for breakfast".
9 You bear witness to that?

10 MR. CAMPBELL: Yes.

11 MR. HOGAN: Yes - and so when you
12 look at the culture of policing and the
13 culture of young people, I don't want
14 the young brother to change his identity
15 cause part of how he dresses is who he
16 is and that's his identity.

17 So -- but you can't be afraid
18 also -- and I'm not saying you, but our
19 people -- afraid to look at agencies
20 that really are representing them and
21 because of the bureaucracy, it looks
22 like that we're not.

23 Okay. So, you can Google us. You
24 see we're doing the work outside this
25 meeting. You know, we dressed up for

1 you. We didn't dress up for us. All
2 right. We're dressing up for the public
3 to make sure that we look enough --
4 respectful enough that when these things
5 that happen -- these things -- we are
6 almost traumatized by the stuff that we
7 have to vote on.

8 We are traumatized by the budget --
9 and if you go into OMB -- Office of
10 Management and Budget -- there is a
11 question why so much money is going here
12 and so much money is not going. It's
13 intentional and so how do we galvanize
14 the population to look at the
15 intentional things that happen in these
16 seven congressional districts that --
17 where most of the crime comes from and
18 where most of the policing is present.

19 So, it doesn't show that policing is
20 stopping the crime. So, now if you know
21 and are aware of the Summer of Violence
22 -- we're in it now, right -- that each
23 -- there are five precincts in Brooklyn,
24 three in the Bronx, three in southeast
25 Queens -- that are getting 40 new police

1 officers daily to address the crime that
2 mostly, when the Mayor says, that the
3 crime is leaving.

4 So, let's just be careful and really
5 make sure that we take care of us and
6 ours and don't be afraid to invite more
7 people and -- what Jahi Rose -- the
8 brother that does the strategy of going
9 out and getting people to be aware and
10 conscious of what CCRB does, don't be
11 afraid to get young people to become a
12 part of that because that's what is.

13 As Jay Hughes says, there's levels
14 to this and young people got to learn
15 the levels to it. Thank you, Brother.

16 CHAIR RICE: We have our -- Yojaira,
17 can we have our next person?

18 MS. ALVAREZ: Yes, Madam Chair.

19 Next, we'll be hearing from StacyAnn
20 DeSouza and Mario Menjivar for Youth
21 Advocacy Corp. of the Mental Health
22 Awareness Project.

23 MR. DARCHE: I know there are people
24 who want to make comments and there will
25 be an opportunity for that at the end.

1 We will hear from folks who are in the
2 room.

3 MR. MENJIVAR: Yes, hello. My name
4 is Mario. I go by he/him pronouns and
5 I'm with Youth Advocacy Corp., such as
6 StacyAnn.

7 MS. DESOUZA: StacyAnn. I go by
8 she/her.

9 MR. MENJIVAR: It is -- so far, it's
10 an amazing work that CCRB does and I'm
11 proud to be here today.

12 For the Youth Advocacy Corp., I'm
13 representing MHAP, which is the Mental
14 Health Awareness Project here and it's
15 created to increase the importance of
16 mental health awareness and our project
17 works to normalize conversations around
18 mental health and guarantee that those
19 who need it can get to it and ensure
20 that everyone knows that it's okay to
21 not be okay.

22 And speaking of conversations from
23 before, something that should be brought
24 to the community member, likewise,
25 should be town halls where we share

1 concerns on police officers and
2 patrolling in the neighborhoods and all
3 that directly -- all this has direct
4 contact with the community members.

5 This is something that we have seen
6 and experienced on the ground -- me and
7 StacyAnn -- that students during the
8 mental health workshops share that they
9 don't feel safe with policing in their
10 schools. They share the feelings of
11 anxiety throughout our workshops and
12 overall, there's no police community
13 bond in the schools that we have visited
14 and -- which is something that does need
15 improvement.

16 Passing onto StacyAnn on this
17 matter.

18 MS. DESOUZA: All right. Here are
19 some of the topics that I -- all right.

20 So, one of the main concerns was
21 definitely students feeling anxiety and
22 stress about having heavy policing in
23 the classroom, heavy policing by the
24 train station.

25 So, when they come out of the train

1 station, they don't mind having police
2 officers at the train station, but,
3 like, when they come out of school and
4 they have, like, a whole group, like,
5 it's very overwhelming for them.

6 So, they suggested to reduce the
7 amount of officers and find ways to
8 communicate with the young adults and
9 the youths in a positive way so that
10 they have -- the officers have empathy
11 and to have less biases in diverse
12 communities so that they know how to
13 handle situations and to make the
14 students feel safe.

15 One of the ways that the City can
16 improve their communication with the
17 community is definitely increasing and
18 expanding the resources available. We
19 learned about CCRB from Venus and she
20 came to our program and did a workshop.
21 So, that's where we learned about it as
22 a group.

23 So, I think it's important for us
24 to, like, share it with our community
25 and find more ways to get the young

1 people involved by letting them know
2 about their rights -- and even the
3 adults, for them to know their rights
4 fine, and creative ways to do it at
5 resource fairs -- maybe the Advisory
6 Board for the youths -- to come out and
7 do, like, maybe, like, plays or videos
8 to kind of, like, send a message in
9 different ways so that the community
10 could receive it in different ways as
11 well -- and that's it.

12 MR. MENJIVAR: And I have one last
13 thing to add to wrap it all up is that
14 police officers should lead by example
15 with and without their uniforms, and to
16 give -- and to get respect, they have to
17 give respect.

18 MS. DESOUZA: Yes, like Sergeant
19 Clark and Venus, they set examples and
20 they help us to really see the community
21 in a different way, no matter the color
22 of our skin.

23 CHAIR RICE: Thank you so much,
24 Mario and StacyAnn for that presentation
25 and for your thoughtful strategies for

1 ways in which we can do a better job of
2 getting the work of CCRB out, as well as
3 to improve policing community relations.

4 So, I want to thank you so much for
5 your thoughtfully put together
6 presentation.

7 Jon, did you have anything you
8 wanted to add?

9 MR. DARCHE: No, that -- but I did
10 hope that you guys are interested in the
11 Youth Advisory Committee for the CCRB
12 and think about joining when we next
13 open our applications.

14 CHAIR RICE: As Jon stated, we are
15 going to have those folks who have not
16 already signed up to speak that are in
17 the room, we'll definitely have your
18 opportunity to speak.

19 So, when I call out for Yojaira, I'm
20 asking her to let us know those folks
21 who have already signed up to speak, but
22 we will get to everyone.

23 So, Yojaira, would you please call
24 on our next speaker?

25 MS. ALVAREZ: Yes, our next invited

1 speaker is Marva Brown, Public Defender
2 at Legal Aid Society.

3 MS. BROWN: Good evening, everyone.
4 My name is Marva Brown. I am a lawyer
5 with the Legal Aid Society.

6 I've been a practicing attorney for
7 16 years and in that time, I've been a
8 public defender representing clients who
9 have been arrested by the NYPD and I've
10 also done work with City Council
11 members, the Brooklyn Borough
12 President's Office, to help them with
13 their constituent affairs in instances
14 where the clients may not have been
15 arrested and have criminal charges
16 pending against them, but they have had
17 interactions with NYPD officers where
18 they want to make complaints because
19 they have been wronged or abused by
20 officers of the NYPD.

21 I am also a resident of the North
22 Crown Heights community. This year
23 makes 20 years of me living in Brooklyn
24 and I'm a proud Brooklyn resident. I
25 work in our community. I'm a member of

1 Brooklyn Community Board 8. I'm on the
2 Board of the Families and Friends of the
3 Wrongfully Convicted. I do work with
4 Save Our Streets and other
5 community-based organizations where I've
6 had the opportunity to speak to young
7 people.

8 I think the men that spoke already
9 did well to address the problems that
10 are had within our community. So, I'll
11 move onto what can the City do to
12 improve community relations between the
13 police and the community, and the one
14 thing I wanted to point out to you all
15 is that the CCRB and the police should
16 not let police get away with lying.

17 The CCRB must investigate and the
18 NYPD must root-out and punish false,
19 misleading statements that are made by
20 officers.

21 We heard from Mr. Jahi about abuse
22 of authority, but I did not hear him
23 mention the change that came into effect
24 on March 26, 2021 where abuse of
25 authority now includes untruthful

1 testimony and written statements made
2 against members of the public.

3 As a public defender, I can't count
4 how many times I've met a client in
5 arraignments and I read a Criminal Court
6 Complaint to them, and they said,
7 "That's a lie. I didn't do that.
8 That's not what happened. That's not
9 where I was. That's not what I had",
10 and then we are left with -- charged
11 with trying to prove a person's
12 innocence based on false and misleading
13 statements.

14 We know that false and misleading
15 statements by police officers make
16 people lose their liberty, their
17 inability to take care of their
18 families, be home, take care of their
19 children and work so that they can
20 support their families.

21 The scourge of criminal contacts is
22 a terrible thing because we see in the
23 media every day what society thinks of
24 criminals. Also, we know that lying
25 officers lead to wrongful convictions.

1 I know that sometimes a person who
2 has pending charges against them does
3 not cooperate with the CCRB. They don't
4 make statements to the CCRB because that
5 is in protection of their constitutional
6 rights and CCRB investigators need to be
7 trained to understand why people do not
8 make statements against them when there
9 are allegations against the officers.

10 False misleading statements during
11 CCRB interviews, or false statements
12 during court proceedings, must be taken
13 into consideration by the CCRB, whether
14 it's in official paperwork or Criminal
15 Court Complaints, or even lying on the
16 stand when they're testifying at trials
17 and hearings.

18 As an attorney, I've represented
19 clients where, in court, officers are
20 found in-credible. This needs to be
21 addressed by the CCRB and the NYPD. We
22 have hosts of cases of officers who have
23 been found in-credible. Gun suppressed,
24 charges dropped, cases dismissed because
25 officers are lying on the stand. What

1 is the CCRB doing about that? What are
2 the investigators doing? Are they
3 trained to investigate and recognize
4 false and misleading statements?

5 CCRB investigators must also weigh
6 civilian testimony equally against
7 officer testimony. Where they meet with
8 civilians, they should give the same
9 weight to civilian testimony as they
10 give to officers. CCRB investigators
11 should be trained on the impact of
12 pending criminal charges on their
13 investigations and let the public know
14 how it impacts their determination
15 findings.

16 Finally, if the City wants to build
17 police/community relations, the
18 Commissioner's frequent deviation from
19 CCRB recommendations must stop -- must
20 stop because it is an impediment to
21 change. Thank you.

22 CHAIR RICE: Thank you, Ms. Brown
23 for that powerful testimony and your
24 underscoring of the newest area that the
25 CCRB has power and authority, and that

1 is in false and misleading statements
2 and I'm going to have our Executive
3 Director speak a little bit about our
4 work in that area.

5 MR. DARCHE: Thank you, Madam Chair.

6 Ms. Brown, one of the things the
7 agency does when civilians have -- make
8 complaints, or alleged victims of
9 complaints that have been made by other
10 people, but still have pending criminal
11 charges, is we allow them to close the
12 case pending the completion of that
13 litigation and then we follow-up with
14 them and reopen those cases and conduct
15 investigations so that we can get to the
16 final determination after the civilian
17 can make a statement without impacting
18 their criminal case, and that is a
19 relatively recent change that we made --
20 or maybe I'm just very old and it is not
21 so recent.

22 Our Chief of Investigations looked
23 at me when I said "relatively recent"
24 and shook his head. So, that's why I
25 realized it's probably not as recent as

1 I thought it was.

2 The -- the other thing about how we
3 credit civilian and member of service
4 testimony is we do not favor one party's
5 statement over the other. We -- we look
6 for whether it is extrinsic evidence
7 that can confirm or deny parts of a
8 person's story or we look at the
9 elements of the story itself so that we
10 can find out what has happened in an
11 event.

12 One of the real things that has
13 helped the agency make those
14 determinations is the expansion of the
15 presence of video in our lives, not just
16 body-worn camera video, but surveillance
17 video and the video camera that almost
18 all of us carry in our hands these days,
19 and the agency has made real strides in
20 not just accepting the video from the
21 public and getting the video from the
22 police department, but in how we analyze
23 that video and it's one of the things
24 that the Investigations Unit is very
25 good at and that I take a lot of pride

1 in.

2 But we have also trained our
3 investigators to use trauma-informed
4 investigative techniques so that we --
5 our investigators, when they're talking
6 to civilians and getting their
7 statements, are cognizant that the
8 civilian -- the person we're speaking to
9 may have encountered a real trauma
10 before they came to us, whether it is
11 the incident that they're complaining
12 about or other traumas in their lives
13 and we really focus on -- in using that
14 to inform how we get the information and
15 we evaluate the information.

16 So, with regard to untruthful
17 statements made by members of service,
18 the agency has jurisdiction not only
19 over untruthful statements made to the
20 CCRB, but as Ms. Brown noted, we have
21 jurisdiction over untruthful statements
22 made by members of service in other
23 entities.

24 So, if an officer makes a false
25 statement on a Criminal Court Complaint

1 or while they're testifying at a hearing
2 or a trial, those are -- that is
3 misconduct that falls in the CCRB's
4 jurisdiction and if we receive a
5 complaint about it, we will investigate
6 it.

7 CHAIR RICE: Thank you -- thank you,
8 Jon, and thank you, again, Ms. Brown,
9 for your testimony.

10 Yojaيرا, would please call the next
11 speaker?

12 MS. ALVAREZ: Thank you, Madam
13 Chair.

14 Our final invited speaker before
15 going into public session is Somia
16 El-Rowmeim, founder of the Woman
17 Empowerment Coalition.

18 MS. EL-ROWMEIM: Good evening,
19 everyone. In the beginning, I want to
20 say thank you so much for CCRB for the
21 work that they do and for reaching out
22 to the community to educate them about
23 their rights and what they can do if
24 they face any issue with the policing.

25 As a community activist who has been

1 working with the Arab community in South
2 Brooklyn for more than 15 years, I have
3 been witnessing a lot of issues when it
4 comes to policing, especially when it
5 comes to the domestic violence survivor.

6 I have been witnessing that a lot of
7 domestic violence survivor who have been
8 through abusive relationship, they tried
9 as much as they can, not to reach out to
10 the police and call on their husband
11 because they do not feel safe. And
12 especially, like, you know, when --
13 like, there is some, like, you know,
14 cases that have happen and they call the
15 police.

16 Like, you know, the police officers
17 who came to the house, whether they
18 don't speak the language and they end up
19 hearing from the abuser and ignoring
20 what the survivor is saying or they
21 don't understand with the culture, there
22 is a culture barrier, which is a huge
23 thing and ending up taking the woman to
24 the precinct and that's -- that has
25 actually happened in my community.

1 While she's -- like, you know, she's
2 the survivor. She gets hit by her
3 husband and end up, they take their
4 kids, like, and they, like, stood by the
5 husband because there is a relationship
6 between the husband and the police
7 officer. He know him.

8 That's exactly what happened and
9 it's really sad to see that happening
10 and when we had that -- like,
11 (indiscernible) came over to our
12 organization to start doing these type
13 of training about what they can do, we
14 start hearing a lot of stories about,
15 like, you know, how -- like, our
16 community do not trust police. That's
17 really sad. We need to build this
18 trust.

19 How we can build it, there are a lot
20 of things that we can do. We need to
21 train the police officers, whether --
22 when it comes to culture things or it
23 comes to how to deal with the Muslim
24 women -- hijab-wearing women. That's
25 one of the things that we need to, like,

1 you know, talk about it deeply.

2 The second thing, there is no one
3 should be above the law. Everyone has
4 to follow the law and I don't understand
5 why NYPD, like -- it's not all of
6 them -- some of them, they actually
7 always, like, you know -- they think
8 themselves, that they are law and they
9 do whatever they think is right when
10 it's, like, you know -- and you start
11 talking to them.

12 I'm, as a person of color, who came
13 to this country in 2007 -- I had a
14 police officer who followed me after I
15 parked my car and followed me, like, to
16 in front of my office to say that, "oh,
17 you made -- you actually -- you were
18 using your phone while you are driving",
19 while actually I have a Bluetooth in my
20 car and I don't have to use my phone or
21 hold it.

22 So, he followed me in front of my
23 office and made me return back to my car
24 to give him my registration and my ID
25 number to give me a ticket, and I told

1 him, "Like, I didn't do that", and I,
2 like, you know -- I'm also, "Like, why
3 you wait until I stop my car and I
4 walked two blocks and you followed me
5 with another officer", and he said, "I'm
6 going to arrest you if you are not going
7 to go back to the car and bring the ID
8 and the registration number".

9 So, I don't understand how that
10 function, but, like, we need to hold
11 police accountable. We want to make
12 sure that even, like, the precinct where
13 they hire police officers, they have to
14 hire people who understand the culture
15 in the area and the district that they
16 are working in, and also at the same
17 time, we hope that the CCRB can push to
18 have the commanding officers to be
19 elected person, not appointed because
20 that way we can help hold this person
21 accountable.

22 Our community can hold them
23 accountable when we elect those people
24 and that's what we hope to see and we
25 had this conversation with our Mayor,

1 Eric Adams, and I felt that he's also
2 supportive for this idea and we hope to
3 see him implementing in the future.

4 Thank you so much for your time.

5 CHAIR RICE: Thank you so much,
6 Somia, for your comment and your
7 testimony.

8 Is there anyone, including our
9 Executive Director, who wanted to
10 respond to her comments?

11 (No response.)

12 CHAIR RICE: Okay. Thank you so
13 much for sharing that with us. We
14 appreciate it.

15 Yojaira, is that correct, that all
16 of the invited members have spoken and
17 we can open up to those who are in the
18 room?

19 MS. ALVAREZ: Correct.

20 CHAIR RICE: That is correct. Thank
21 you.

22 So, if there is anyone who would
23 like to share with us, once again, we do
24 have a four-minute limit on your
25 comments, but we are here to hear your

1 comments and feedback.

2 So, if you could just state your
3 name.

4 MS. BARRETT: Hello, everyone. My
5 name is Sara Barrett. I work for St.
6 Nicks Alliance Workforce Development
7 Center and I work for a program called
8 YouthBuild.

9 I didn't start the job not too long
10 ago, however, I've seen and heard a lot
11 of stories from our youth about police
12 involvement. We've also had the
13 pleasure of having Venus in our building
14 to explain to them what the CCRB does
15 and also explain to them their rights
16 and knowing them.

17 I do think that there are many
18 issues that we have with the youth
19 involving the police, but one thing that
20 I don't think that a lot of people -- or
21 a lot of youth know is how the system
22 operates and how -- and what we can do
23 to help it.

24 I do think that it's a great idea
25 that the CCRB has an Outreach Team to

1 speak to different students because our
2 students walked away with a lot of
3 information after the one meeting,
4 however, there are tons of youth, my age
5 and even, you know, in the age range
6 that, you know, don't have resources or
7 don't have things that are just being
8 looked at as a report on a paper instead
9 of as a person.

10 So, I do think that in terms of
11 representation in terms of the police
12 being involved in different aspects of a
13 young person's life, also may help with
14 the encounters that we have and then
15 also may help with the fear that we have
16 of the police.

17 I do think that not only in schools,
18 but those people that are on the streets
19 or not -- don't have direct links to any
20 type of support -- may be underneath
21 those harassment files as well, but
22 don't really necessarily know how to
23 speak for themselves -- and then we also
24 have, you know, people in our center who
25 also advocate for them as well.

1 I think that the main problem is --
2 is like getting to the person and not
3 seeing them as a case or a file,
4 understanding where they're coming from,
5 understanding whether or not they are
6 educated or are in school.

7 You know, there are 18-year-olds
8 that are on the streets that do not have
9 any type of education, who have dropped
10 out of school, that are looking for
11 work, that are looking for jobs and
12 because they have background -- because
13 they have a history, they're not
14 provided with the right information or
15 don't know where to go.

16 So, I do think that it is crucial
17 that the -- not only the CCRB, but also
18 the Police Department, provide young
19 people with resources that will allow
20 them not only to get off of the streets,
21 but to also be educated in other things
22 in terms of alternate learning, getting
23 their GED if they don't have it, or even
24 just trying to step out and explore the
25 world more than what is in New York and

1 what is in the streets.

2 So, I do think that there is a
3 connection for all the youth to be able
4 to learn something more. Like I said, I
5 haven't been in this job for long, but I
6 have realized the impact that we can
7 make and my whole staff is also youth as
8 well. We're young adults.

9 I do think that there's an impact
10 that we can make in terms of bringing
11 individuals that do cross paths with law
12 enforcement a better housing -- or a
13 better opportunity for them to reach out
14 and also learn more about themselves.
15 And learn more about the law
16 enforcement, and also learn more and
17 educate themselves more about what they
18 can do better for society. So -- yes.

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

21 May I ask you just a quick question
22 -- so, you said you're a staff person at
23 YouthBuild?

24 MS. BARRETT: Yes, I am a staff
25 member. I'm the Recruitment and

1 Retention Specialist at Saint Nicks
2 Alliance YouthBuild Program. This
3 program just started -- or was just
4 awarded in 2020.

5 So, so far we have brought in up to
6 30 or 40 individuals in our healthcare
7 and construction program that are trying
8 to look for a better life for them.
9 They're also graduating this coming June
10 with their construction and healthcare
11 certifications.

12 Most of them have had encounters
13 with the police or are just involved,
14 and what we give them is a better
15 understanding to what they can do in the
16 world to make it better -- a better
17 place for themselves and also what they
18 can do in terms of -- like, when Venus
19 came in -- with the law enforcement in
20 order to, like, actually speak to them
21 and know their rights, so --

22 CHAIR RICE: Thank you -- thank you
23 so much for your comments and YouthBuild
24 is lucky to have you.

25 MS. IRVING: Good evening, everyone.

1 I'm going to speak kind of loud so they
2 can hear in the back.

3 Okay. So, my name is Diana Irving
4 and I am the Community Liaison at the
5 Connect Program over at IDCC
6 Interborough. It's an outpatient mental
7 health facility.

8 The first thing I want to say is
9 change. Change brings uncomfortability
10 (sic), right? Change makes people
11 uncomfortable, right? So, before I say
12 what I want to say, I want to say to my
13 community -- right -- change has to
14 start in our homes because when the cure
15 violence groups are going to these
16 shooting responses, these are the
17 children from our homes and our
18 communities.

19 If we do not take charge of our
20 homes, we're going to have 50,000 more
21 George Floyds and everybody else on that
22 list. Take charge of your homes because
23 these children with these behaviors do
24 not just fall out of the sky -- okay --
25 and I had to say that because you have

1 to get uncomfortable in order to get
2 change.

3 Okay. The second thing I want to
4 say is, police. When I was growing up,
5 the police would come to our daycare, to
6 our schools, and we knew them. They
7 were friends' brothers. They were
8 friends' dads and uncles.

9 Now, they come from other states
10 where they watch the news and they see a
11 place like my hometown Brooklyn -- I'm a
12 Brooklyn girl till we die, right -- they
13 see Brooklyn on the news and then they
14 move here and then they take a job here.
15 They have a preconceived notion about
16 what Brooklyn is all about.

17 So, when they come into contact with
18 our young people, they're afraid. The
19 human response is to be afraid, so I
20 don't want to take that away. It's okay
21 to be afraid, but you have the job where
22 when the danger happens, you're running
23 straight to it while everybody runs away
24 from it.

25 I do want to acknowledge that the

1 police are human, so they are allowed to
2 be afraid, but accountability and
3 change, and then not just taking a job
4 because you passed a test.

5 Okay. So, I would like to touch on
6 the fact that the City does not take
7 into consideration that the police of
8 yesterday used to actually be from the
9 neighborhoods they worked in, but now
10 there's so much of a culture shock
11 placing people to police neighborhoods
12 that they may have -- already have a
13 preconceived notion about.

14 Most of them already have a fear of
15 the unknown, as in being afraid of the
16 very people they are paid to protect and
17 serve, not actually knowing where the
18 distrust of community and NYPD started.
19 All of these things play a big part in
20 the disconnect and it will continue if
21 things aren't shaken up and moved
22 around.

23 The police should stop into daycare
24 centers and schools and become familiar
25 with the kids to build relationships.

1 If the kids have regular conversations
2 with them, they will see them as people
3 and begin to care for them in a
4 different light.

5 Sometimes taking a page from the old
6 days works and that would definitely
7 build bridges. Thank you.

8 CHAIR RICE: Thank you so very much
9 for those comments and some concrete
10 strategies for building police community
11 relations.

12 I understand that we do have a Board
13 Member who has been on the line.
14 Unfortunately, we have not been able to
15 get her camera to work, but Esmeralda --
16 Ms. Simmons -- if you can hear us, if
17 you wanted to just introduce yourself.

18 (No response.)

19 CHAIR RICE: (Inaudible) -- to
20 acknowledge that the Public Advocate
21 Appointee, Esmeralda Simmons, from the
22 great borough of Brooklyn, is listening
23 in and is in attendance for our Board
24 meeting today. Thank you so much.

25 MR. CASE: Thank you. My name is

1 Andrew Case. I use he/him pronouns. I
2 am the Supervising Attorney at Latino
3 Justice PRLDEF.

4 I want to start with something
5 positive cause we always come in and
6 criticize the CCRB, but I want to thank
7 you and I want to thank your staff for
8 the incredible response you have had to
9 the repeal 50-a.

10 This agency has been a model of
11 transparency and producing document. I
12 know it's hard work. I've made a lot of
13 FOIL requests of you. I've gotten great
14 responses and I know it is a challenge
15 to do that and I know not every agency
16 in the City and not every agency in the
17 State is following that. So, I do want
18 to thank you for what you're doing in
19 terms of transparency.

20 I want to thank Mr. Rose, who
21 reminded me, or told me on the way in,
22 that he had seen me, when I was the
23 Outreach Director of the CCRB, give a
24 presentation at York College 16 years
25 ago and it's incredible to think that

1 the work that the CCRB does lasts like
2 that and I know that he is reaching far
3 many more people than I did when I was
4 in that position and he is making a much
5 greater impact than I did because of the
6 abilities that you have now to reach out
7 and reach many more people than we did
8 in my day. So, I want to thank you for
9 that as well.

10 I want to tell you what I'm here
11 for, which is that this afternoon Latino
12 Justice, on behalf of the Grassroots
13 Advocates for Neighborhood Groups and
14 Solution, the gangs' coalition, filed a
15 complaint based on findings that were in
16 the Inspector General's report on the
17 gangs' coalition -- I mean, sorry -- in
18 the gangs' database a couple of weeks
19 ago.

20 In that report, the Inspector
21 General for the NYPD identified discrete
22 acts of misconduct, that are within your
23 jurisdiction, and did not recommend any
24 discipline for the officers involved,
25 and so we are asking you to investigate

1 those now.

2 To -- for those who did not see the
3 gangs' database report by the OIG, it
4 found that there is a great deal of
5 noncompliance with the NYPD's own rules
6 for how people are supposed to be put
7 into the NYPD gang database -- rules
8 that we find too lax to begin with.

9 But there were seven instances
10 identified in that report where an
11 officer got someone placed into the gang
12 database by simply writing a DD5 that
13 said, "Officer "X" places Person "Y" in
14 the database", even though the NYPD
15 rules state that an officer must
16 identify the evidence by which he is
17 relying on to put that person in the
18 database. These seven entries are
19 written statements made against members
20 of the public in the performance of
21 their official duties, and, therefore,
22 are abuses of authority.

23 In addition, the OIG identified 49
24 instances in which an officer who wished
25 to place somebody into the gang database

1 also signed off as his own supervisor,
2 even though the NYPD rules require that
3 a detective assigned to put someone in,
4 a supervisor review that, and sign-off.
5 When a detective signs as his own
6 supervisor, he's making a written
7 statement against the members of the
8 public in his own police duties. This
9 too is an abuse of authority.

10 In addition to the 49 instances of
11 self-signing and seven instances of no
12 evidence, we ask that you investigate
13 all of these. We've submitted a
14 detailed letter identifying them, but we
15 also ask that you investigate these as
16 racially-biased policing incidents.

17 The gangs' database is 99 percent
18 black and Latino even though the Proud
19 Boys and the Oath Keepers operate in New
20 York City, they are not included in the
21 gangs' database at all. Every entry in
22 the gangs' database is an act of
23 racially-biased policing.

24 These 49 instances, and the
25 additional seven instances, are acts of

1 racially-biased policing, in addition to
2 abuses of authority. We ask that you
3 investigate them as such.

4 I heard very quickly that Acting
5 Chair Rice said you might be abandoning
6 the City Council's mandate that you
7 investigate those cases. I know that's
8 not made lightly. You said it's
9 partially resources. We know it's also
10 -- and from your last -- from the
11 minutes of the last meeting -- it's also
12 because the NYPD is not providing you
13 needed documents. If that goes through
14 and you can't investigate those cases,
15 we would ask that you continue to
16 investigate these gang database entries
17 as abuses of authority.

18 Don't hand those cases over to the
19 NYPD to investigate themselves. Thank
20 you.

21 MR. DARCHE: Mr. Case, I -- you and
22 I have spoken on several occasions,
23 although this is the first time we've
24 met, so it is good to meet you in person
25 and you said you submitted a letter?

1 MR. CASE: I submitted a letter this
2 afternoon. I have a copy of it here as
3 well. So, if someone needs it -- I
4 don't know if you want to do an intake
5 interview. It's just reporting stuff,
6 but I'm happy to do it.

7 MR. DARCHE: So, I think we will
8 reach out to you, not tonight --

9 MR. CASE: Fine.

10 MR. DARCHE: -- we'll figure out how
11 to move forward on this.

12 MR. CASE: You have my information
13 and I do -- I do mean it about the FOIL
14 stuff. You guys have been really,
15 really positive. Thank you.

16 CHAIR RICE: Thank you so much for
17 that investigative work and bringing
18 that to the attention of this -- of both
19 the Board and to the staff. We do
20 appreciate that, Mr. Case.

21 MS. ROBERSON-DANCY: (Indicating.)

22 CHAIR RICE: Yes, ma'am.

23 MS. ROBERSON-DANCY: Good evening,
24 everyone. My name is Antoniqua
25 Roberson-Dancy. I use she/her/hers

1 pronouns and I am the MAP Engagement
2 Coordinator for the Red Hook Community
3 Justice Center.

4 MAP stands for the Mayor's Action
5 Plan for Neighborhood Safety Initiatives
6 and I think all of the speakers have
7 done a great job at highlighting some of
8 the injustices that go on more here in
9 New York.

10 More recently there was a raid that
11 happened in the Red Hook Houses in South
12 Brooklyn and I think we really need to
13 highlight the militarization of policing
14 that's going on in the community. It's
15 not just average policing.

16 This is really, really, really,
17 really, really intense policing and many
18 of the residents that I oversee within
19 the Red Hook Houses have, you know,
20 expressed their trauma, expressed the
21 anxiety, expressed the fear of just
22 being able to leave outside of their
23 doors.

24 On that particular day, NYCHA --
25 NYCHA should also be present here during

1 this meeting, but they're not, I'm sure
2 -- but, you know, just thinking about --
3 just thinking about the infrastructure
4 of NYCHA, thinking about the building
5 infrastructure as well and how -- how,
6 you know, people are living within close
7 proximity to one another within these
8 quarters.

9 And so when the NYPD comes out and
10 when they, you know, participate in
11 these different raids, the ripple effect
12 that it has on a community -- and one of
13 the speakers highlighted how a lot of
14 the, you know, NYPD officers -- in that
15 particular raid, it was ATF as well --
16 but a lot of these officers are not from
17 the community, and so that increased
18 fear is highlighted in the
19 militarization of policing here.

20 I think that there needs to be a lot
21 more training in terms of cultural
22 competency to ensure that the community
23 -- that the officers that are serving
24 the community, whether they're from
25 there or not from there, are aware of

1 the demographics within the community
2 and are aware of how to adequately
3 address the root causes of crime within
4 the community.

5 Increasing police, as we've seen it,
6 does not decrease crime. We need
7 increases in resources. We need -- we
8 need more -- more programming. We need
9 the CCRB, as well, to come out to
10 community partners and actually let the
11 community know about these different
12 things.

13 As one of the other speakers
14 mentioned, when we look around the room,
15 we don't see a lot of young people and
16 young people are at the forefront. The
17 Red Hook Houses in particular right now,
18 there's a lot of construction going on
19 -- and I'm sure within a lot of other
20 NYCHA developments across the City --
21 there's construction going on.

22 As the constriction happens, parks
23 get closed and there's less places for
24 young people to be able to hang out and
25 to congregate. And so I think that

1 knowing such, NYPD should also be aware
2 of the different closures that are going
3 on, particularly in Red Hook right now.
4 The library just recently closed.
5 That's a cooling center. That's also a
6 place for young people to be able to
7 hang out in the summertime and now that
8 that's closed and now that there's so
9 much construction going on, where do our
10 young people go?

11 They're going to go to places like
12 Coffee Park, and so these places have
13 become target areas for the NYPD to
14 target our young people in. Enough is
15 enough. Thank you.

16 CHAIR RICE: Thank you so much for
17 your comments. I'm sorry, can you say
18 your first name for me one more time?

19 MS. ROBERSON-DANCY: Yes, my first
20 name is Antoniqua, last name is
21 Roberson-Dancy.

22 CHAIR RICE: Antoniqua?

23 MS. ROBERSON-DANCY: Yes, ma'am.

24 CHAIR RICE: Nice -- thank you.

25 MS. ROBERSON-DANCY: Thank you.

1 MR. DARCHE: So, I just wanted -- if
2 -- I just want to point out that if
3 you're -- the people who you work with
4 and who are your clients don't feel
5 comfortable filing a complaint, you can
6 file a complaint on their behalf.

7 And it's one of the things about our
8 agency that many aren't aware of, is we
9 do accept third-party complaints --

10 MS. ROBERSON-DANCY: Okay.

11 MR. DARCHE: -- and so if you think
12 that the way the police behaved was
13 inappropriate and outside of their
14 guidelines, then please file a complaint
15 with us on behalf of the people who you
16 work with and work for.

17 MS. ROBERSON-DANCY: Thank you.

18 MR. HOGAN: Are any of the young
19 people working on these construction
20 projects?

21 MS. ROBERSON-DANCY: So, there is a
22 Recovery and Resiliency Program that is
23 in the process of trying to get more
24 young people to get the jobs, but
25 there's a minimal amount of jobs for it.

1 MR. HOGAN: Okay. There shouldn't
2 be a minimal amount. Once you go back
3 to NYCHA, there is something called 964
4 Regulations under Section 3, that has to
5 be 15 percent of the overall contract --

6 MS. ROBERSON-DANCY: Okay.

7 MR. HOGAN: -- and of the people that
8 live in Red Hook.

9 MS. ROBERSON-DANCY: Okay.

10 MR. HOGAN: Okay. So, you go back
11 and you question the president of that
12 development and tell him about 964
13 Regulations, Section 3, and give some of
14 the young people -- 10 to 15 young
15 people at least to have --

16 MS. ROBERSON-DANCY: Jobs.

17 MR. HOGAN: -- jobs over the summer
18 until that project is finished.

19 MS. ROBERSON-DANCY: Thank you.

20 MR. DARCHE: We don't want to put
21 all of this on you, right.

22 MS. ROBERSON-DANCY: Right.

23 MR. DARCHE: Like, that's not --
24 like you should come to us to help you
25 solve your problems. We're not telling

1 you, "Well, you go tell this person tell
2 that and go tell the president of your
3 development something else".

4 This agency is here to make -- if
5 you have a -- are aware of misconduct by
6 police officers and have a complaint, we
7 will investigate it. And so we have
8 people here tonight who can take your
9 statement.

10 It's -- it's -- it is -- you took a
11 first step by coming here tonight and we
12 appreciate it and we appreciate you for
13 doing it --

14 MS. ROBERSON-DANCY: Thank you.

15 MR. DARCHE: -- and if there's more
16 you can do, we'll take help.

17 But, like, I don't -- I don't want
18 you to think that we're just sending you
19 away -- and I know that wasn't AU's
20 intent -- but I want you to understand
21 that we appreciate that you came forward
22 here tonight.

23 MS. ROBERSON-DANCY: Thank you and
24 you all will be tabling at our event
25 next Wednesday, May 17th. We will be

1 having a local neighborhood event
2 located at Bush Clinton Park in South
3 Brooklyn in the Red Hook community.

4 That event will be open to the --
5 the entire community can come out, but
6 particularly residents within the Red
7 Hook Houses will the opportunity to be
8 able to vote on different issues going
9 on in their community, and based off of
10 the ballots that we receive from there,
11 we'll be able to take \$30,000 to be able
12 to reinvest into that community.

13 So, I open up the invitation for you
14 all to come out next week. Thank you
15 all.

16 CHAIR RICE: We appreciate that and
17 thank you so much for your comment.

18 MS. BAILEY: Hi. Good night,
19 everyone.

20 CHAIR RICE: Do you mind pulling the
21 mic just a little bit towards you?

22 MS. BAILEY: Oh, okay. (Complying.)

23 CHAIR RICE: Yes, thank you. We
24 want to hear you.

25 MS. BAILEY: Sorry. Hi. Good

1 night. My name is Sofia Bailey. I'm a
2 landlord and I'm a mother of two.

3 So, every time I think about -- so,
4 on February the 9th, that just gone
5 (sic), my son was arrested by the NYPD.
6 My precinct is the 73rd Precinct.
7 First, I want to give a shout-out to my
8 -- to the CO of the 73rd Precinct,
9 Vasquez.

10 He's -- I met with him. You know,
11 he's very sympathetic and empathetic and
12 -- you know, he's a good listener and
13 he's trying to help me over this
14 situation, but I did contact the CCRB.

15 What happened is we called the
16 police and the police -- my son was
17 attacked by one of the tenants, which is
18 pending eviction. I actually evict her
19 house in court today to get them evicted
20 and he was attacked and struck in the
21 face by one of the tenants.

22 We called 911. When the police
23 came, we went upstairs -- I don't know
24 what she told them. They came back
25 downstairs and they asked my son, "Are

1 you hurting". My son said, "No, she hit
2 me in my face, but I'm okay". Then they
3 turn and tell my son, "Oh, we have to
4 arrest you". I said, "Arrest my son?
5 We're the ones that called the police".
6 He said, "Oh, the tenant said that my
7 son slapped her and she's hurting".

8 So, they turned and said -- I said,
9 "But, you know, this can't be right
10 because what you're going to arrest him
11 for". At first, he told us that he was
12 going to arrest my son for assault.
13 When they get to the precinct, they put
14 my son through the system. From 8:30 in
15 the night till 5:30 in the morning, my
16 son was at the 73rd Precinct.

17 They run him through the system,
18 then they came back to me and said, "Oh,
19 your son have a clean record". I said,
20 "He was born and raised in Crown
21 Heights. Never had a record and he
22 never touched that lady". But, anyway,
23 the long and short of the story is that
24 they charged my son with Harassment,
25 Third Degree.

1 So, the arresting officer -- well,
2 he was okay, but it was the sergeant
3 that gave him the okay. So, when CCRB
4 went and investigated the case to
5 Internal Affairs, they were actually
6 investigating the wrong officer. They
7 were interviewing the arresting officer
8 instead of the sergeant, which is the
9 one that gave the command to arrest my
10 son.

11 So, I just want to say, you know --
12 you know, we need the police, you know,
13 and we have some good community officers
14 at the 73rd Precinct. You know, I go to
15 the meetings. You know, the public
16 needs to come out more to these meetings
17 because then you get to meet the COs,
18 you get to meet the community officers.

19 I did recommend three of the
20 officers -- Bishnoff (phonetic), Donner
21 (phonetic), and Beckford (phonetic) --
22 they're very good and they come -- you
23 know, any problem I have in the
24 neighborhood and we have in the
25 neighborhood, they are dear.

1 So, you know, I mean -- you know,
2 it's not like -- you know, I'm a nurse.
3 They have good nurses and bad nurses and
4 they have good police and bad police.
5 But, you know, we, as a community, need
6 to reach out more to the police and, you
7 know, attend the meetings. You can
8 attend the meetings. You see the -- you
9 know, you see the other part of them.

10 Okay. And I just want to say, you
11 know, I spoke to Venus Scantlebury.
12 She's a very articulate young lady and I
13 spoke to her supervisor, but so far,
14 this is three months now and I haven't
15 heard back anything from the CCRB
16 because I think sergeant acted
17 inappropriately giving me false
18 information.

19 He told me he was arresting my son
20 for assault, then he put him through the
21 system, and then, you know, he couldn't
22 tell me -- he can't come out and
23 apologize to me? He can't tell me, you
24 know, the reason -- the specific reason
25 why my son, you know, was arrested. He

1 said, oh, if my son had that he was
2 hurting, he would've arrested the tenant
3 also.

4 So, you have to lie to the police.
5 It shouldn't be that way.

6 CHAIR RICE: Thank you, Ms. Bailey,
7 for your comment.

8 I'm going to have Jon respond in
9 regards to the open CCRB case.

10 MR. DARCHE: Ms. Bailey, if you
11 could speak to Jahi or Venus before you
12 go, and just make sure they have your
13 up-to-date information, cause I'm going
14 to have someone give you a call tomorrow
15 and we can update you on the status of
16 the investigation.

17 MS. BAILEY: Thank you so much.

18 MR. DARCHE: So, I just want to say
19 because we do have to end at 8:30 and
20 there is such a long line of folks who
21 still have to speak, we're going to just
22 try and shorten the period to
23 three minutes just so we can make sure
24 everyone gets a chance to talk.

25 I apologize, sir.

1 MR. SMITH: Hi. Good evening. My
2 name is Cyrus Smith. I'm with the
3 Brownsville Think Tank Matters.

4 We have offices both in Brownsville
5 and Flatbush. We have -- we are part of
6 the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice
7 Crisis Management System as well with
8 sites both in Flatbush and Brownsville.
9 Also, in East Flatbush, we're part of
10 the AD58 Public Safety Task Force.

11 I would echo a lot of what has been
12 mentioned already, but I just wanted to
13 highlight, a couple of years back, there
14 was an article in the New Yorker,
15 "Bridging the Divide Between the Police
16 and Policed in New York", and what that
17 article did was it talked about how
18 police and community relations,
19 especially during the pandemic work
20 together -- unite to get rid of -- unite
21 some of the officers that were engaged
22 in nefarious acts.

23 So, what happened was you had
24 community groups, you had residents, you
25 had folks maybe from the Community

1 Board, and then you even had officers
2 who wanted to do the right thing that
3 were speaking out on some nefarious
4 police tactics.

5 But, unfortunately -- or fortunately
6 rather, one of the ways that we had one
7 of the Deputy Inspectors removed, was he
8 was caught on camera, you know, doing
9 something that went nationwide, and
10 because of that publicity -- because of
11 that press -- that's how that officer
12 ultimately was able to get moved out of
13 our precinct. But even though we didn't
14 want him in our precinct, it wasn't fair
15 to dump him in somebody else's precinct
16 as well.

17 So, I just wanted to talk about, you
18 know, like a little bit with regards to
19 what's happening in social media and
20 maybe using social media in a positive
21 way to talk about, you know, like some
22 of the success that we did have.

23 Real quickly, I'll share with the
24 folks that have been around for a while,
25 I got into this work in the early 90s

1 and I was on those committees that led
2 to the development of the CPR
3 campaign -- what is it, professional --
4 courtesy, professional -- you know, and
5 like respect -- and then also I was on
6 those committees that led to the
7 development of the CCRB.

8 So, although it takes, you know,
9 like a really long time and it seems
10 like things are not happening, these
11 meetings, for the people who, you know,
12 are like a little bit skeptical, we are
13 taking steps, you know, like in the
14 right direction.

15 I do want to thank, publicly, Jahi
16 and Venus for coming out. They've
17 worked with us in our middle schools.
18 They've worked with us, you know, like
19 in the afternoons and they even work
20 with us in the evening.

21 Not only do they table, but they
22 actually canvas with our team and
23 there's a lot of value in terms of them
24 coming out canvassing because our
25 canvassing starts when the sun goes

1 down. So, to have somebody at that
2 level canvassing with our community --
3 you know, like, engaging with them a lot
4 of the time -- helps.

5 I will say, you know, that we do
6 have some members who have gone through
7 this process and the turnaround time --
8 because I think people are a little
9 anxious -- they just get concerned. So,
10 I know of one incident where we have
11 four complaints against one officer and,
12 you know, like that issue still has not
13 been resolved.

14 But I will close there, but just
15 definitely wanted to thank you all for
16 the resources that you have shared with
17 us already, but we definitely need more.
18 Thank you.

19 CHAIR RICE: Thank you for your
20 comments and for your commitment. We
21 appreciate it.

22 MR. RACINE: Good evening. So, my
23 name is Rudy Racine. I am the founder
24 and CEO of Watch The Block.

25 Before I tell you what Watch The

1 Block is, I want to say first that, you
2 know, I feel encouraged seeing this
3 large number of people here tonight and
4 I want to say thank you to the CCRB and
5 the members on the Board.

6 I heard from other speakers this
7 evening and they said -- they talked
8 about good apples and bad apples, and
9 young ladies talked about which
10 precincts that have trust or which
11 precincts -- which officers we trust or
12 how much trust we have in officers in
13 the precincts, right. I think that's
14 where we need to start, right.

15 Watch The Block is a mobile
16 application. So, my company has a
17 mobile application that allows users in
18 the community to rate their interaction
19 with an officer and it assigns that
20 rating to the precinct responsible for
21 policing the area that the user is in.
22 So, it allows for the community to
23 understand the community satisfaction
24 score for the precinct.

25 So, within a three-mile radius, we

1 have the 79th Precinct -- we've got the
2 77th Precinct, the 88th Precinct, the
3 71st Precinct, the 90th Precinct -- and
4 I agree that there are some good
5 officers that really work in that
6 precinct -- or in those precincts -- and
7 there are some bad apples.

8 We don't know which percentage or
9 what percentage of bad apples are in any
10 of those precincts. The app "Watch The
11 Block" allows us to kind of get an idea
12 of that the public's opinion of those
13 precincts and my purpose for coming to
14 this meeting -- for attending the
15 neighborhood community officer meetings
16 -- the community council meetings -- is
17 really to raise awareness in the
18 community to let them know that this
19 resource exists. The information is out
20 there as well.

21 I'm happy to partner with the CCRB
22 and provide information on the ratings
23 that we get in the community. Again,
24 our company is the goal. Our mission is
25 to build healthier relationships between

1 the community and the police that are
2 tasked with protecting them. We hope to
3 use data to inform the community so that
4 we are empowered when we go to the
5 community council meetings.

6 If a precinct has a 20 percent
7 satisfaction rating, then we got to show
8 up, right. If a precinct has a 95
9 percent satisfaction rating, we should
10 probably still show up, but we should
11 show up to celebrate, and encourage, and
12 empower those officers to keep up the
13 good work, right.

14 So, the data is in our hands. I
15 know that the CCRB does some amazing
16 work. I know that there are some bad
17 apples in every single precinct. We
18 would be naive if we didn't say that
19 there were, right, but the data is not
20 in our hands.

21 I want to empower the community, so
22 I have my card. You can download the
23 app. I encourage you to rate using
24 Watch The Block. If anyone on the CCRB
25 wants to partner with Watch The Block,

1 happy to do so.

2 I can tell you that in the Brooklyn
3 region, we don't have any ratings yet.
4 But 2023, we are here. We're not going
5 anywhere. We encourage you to use the
6 app, download the app.

7 We're not affiliated with the NYPD.
8 We're not affiliated with the CCRB.
9 We're not affiliated with New York City.
10 Independent organization founded by me,
11 funded by me. And, again, I'm
12 encouraged in the importance of
13 accountability and sharing data to
14 inform and build healthier
15 relationships.

16 That's all I got. Thank you.

17 MR. DARCHE: Did you sign in, sir?

18 MR. RACINE: (Indiscernible) -- my
19 card as well. My card has the barcode
20 if you want to download the app. So,
21 I'm happy to share my card -- whatever
22 you want. I'll be here till the end of
23 the meeting if anybody wants to talk to
24 me.

25 MR. DARCHE: Excellent. Thank you.

1 CHAIR RICE: Thank you, Mr. Racine.
2 We appreciate it.

3 MS. SHARPE: (Indicating.)

4 CHAIR RICE: Yes, ma'am.

5 MS. SHARPE: Hi. Good evening. My
6 name is Nicole Sharpe and I work at SUNY
7 Downstate Health Sciences University.

8 I'm also on the Advisory Council for
9 the New York State Office for the
10 Prevention of Domestic Violence. I'm an
11 advocate for domestic violence awareness
12 for 15 years now, having lost my mother
13 to domestic violence. I also sit on the
14 Advisory Council for the New York City
15 Department of Health Women's Advisory
16 Board and the black and latina
17 subcommittee. I do a lot of advocacy
18 work in my community.

19 I'm speaking as a civilian today who
20 has been harassed by police officers
21 nine times. I count them. I've been
22 harassed to the point where I've had
23 sexual advances by cops and I've been
24 threatened to be arrested if I don't
25 approve of their advances.

1 I have been ambushed -- that's the
2 second to last time -- this was last
3 August -- by three cop cars, unmarked,
4 heavily tinted -- ambushed, pictures
5 taken. I even called 911 cause I
6 thought I was about to be human
7 trafficked and 911 told me to get their
8 license plates and they helped me.

9 I made a complaint with your Board.
10 Since last year, I haven't heard
11 anything since. I even made a request
12 for FOIL. I haven't heard anything
13 since. I've been working with the
14 Senator, Kevin Parker's office. I
15 haven't heard anything from your Board.
16 I'm sorry to say that, but it's the
17 truth.

18 I even made a complaint a couple of
19 years before that as well where a cop
20 lied on me for jumping the turnstile
21 with my daughter, which I never did and
22 here I was, the seconds to last time
23 coming from church one evening and just
24 being attacked. I don't like to leave
25 the house feeling that I may be

1 triggered and traumatized once again by
2 people who are supposedly -- who are
3 paid to protect me, but obviously that's
4 not the case.

5 The last incident was cops just --
6 five of them just came up to my car as
7 I'm sitting right around the corner from
8 where I live in my car coming from
9 work -- model citizen -- and I don't
10 want to be used as a teaching moment for
11 police officers cause that's what it
12 was, and if I didn't call Assemblywoman
13 Monique Chandler-Waterman's office and
14 she called the CO, they would've still
15 been harassing me.

16 They actually stopped after that.
17 So, I shouldn't have to do that. I
18 actually sit on her -- the Assembly
19 Member's Public Safety Task Force as
20 well. So, I'm very active in the
21 community, but I can say, firsthand,
22 that I have been harassed, harassed,
23 harassed by police officers and I do not
24 get any type of response.

25 Thank you very much.

1 MR. DARCHE: Ms. Sharpe, I just
2 wanted to first of all apologize on
3 behalf of the staff and the agency for
4 not getting back to you, and if you
5 could stick around till the end, I'd
6 like to talk to you and follow-up, get
7 some more information, and follow-up on
8 your prior complaints.

9 And if you would like to file a
10 complaint about something that you --
11 the most recent incident, we have an
12 investigator here who will take your
13 statement and you don't have to wait
14 till the end. You can start that
15 process now. Just tell Mr. Rose in the
16 back.

17 CHAIR RICE: Thank you, Ms. Sharpe
18 and no need for apologies. We need to
19 be accountable. So, thank you so much
20 for sharing that.

21 MR. JENNINGS: (Indicating.)

22 CHAIR RICE: Yes, ma'am.

23 MR. JENNINGS: My name is Anthony
24 Jennings. I'm a representative of Life
25 Camp, Queens, New York. I'm the Youth

1 Development Specialist and Gang
2 Specialist.

3 I have gotten training from law
4 enforcement throughout the nation and we
5 are trained to de-escalate. We have no
6 guns. We have no vests in CMS and it
7 never escalates to a violent situation,
8 right. We talk about training,
9 training, training, but yet we keep
10 having these tragic events in our
11 community, right.

12 So, just hearing the lady talk, if
13 that was a bunch of youth, they would be
14 locked up right now for conspiracy, RICO
15 acts, and it's all led by Patrick Lynch.
16 You all are more afraid of him than
17 making decisions that help this
18 community.

19 I work with 33 youth that recently
20 got locked up for conspiracy in Queens,
21 New York. With flimsy evidence against
22 them, they are in jail awaiting trial.
23 We have so much evidence against these
24 officers that commit these crimes in our
25 community and they just get moved from

1 one precinct to the next, and we're
2 talking about accountability and
3 training. Then who is responsible for
4 committing this RICO act, which we call
5 law enforcement.

6 This conspiracy act to endanger
7 these young black and brown youth and
8 put them in a system -- when we talk
9 about mentally challenged -- every time
10 something happens to an officer, the
11 youth's record come up -- they didn't
12 know that going into the incident, but
13 then we vilify them with their record or
14 their mental capacity cause we know
15 they're mentally challenged. Why are we
16 putting them in the system that ain't
17 helping them?

18 We lock -- everything is lock up,
19 lock up, lock up, but we are not helping
20 these young men and women who is getting
21 arrested and getting them proper
22 treatment. Locking them up is not the
23 answer, but we in CMS do not get the
24 same budget. None of us choke no kid
25 out. That's worse stuff than they ever

1 do to the officers, but we still
2 de-escalate it and we walk away from a
3 peaceful solution. So, it ain't
4 training.

5 But a lot of this crime in the
6 community that we commit crime in is
7 poverty stricken cause all the resources
8 were taken out of these communities. We
9 have to put the resources back and we
10 won't have the problem we have.
11 Policing will become a community again.
12 But, now, it's like she said, military.
13 They just come knock down doors, lock
14 people up.

15 We got to change that. Our people
16 shouldn't be afraid to come out their
17 house from the police. They're supposed
18 to be there to protect and serve. Thank
19 you.

20 CHAIR RICE: Thank you, Mr.
21 Jennings, for your comments and even
22 more importantly, for your decades of
23 service to the young people in Queens
24 and in the larger New York City
25 community.

1 I wanted to know if any members of
2 the Board wanted to make any comment
3 before we went onto our next speaker --

4 (No response.)

5 CHAIR RICE: -- okay.

6 MS. STEVENS: (Indicating.)

7 All right, ma'am.

8 MS. STEVENS: My name is Pamela
9 Stevens. I work with Monique
10 Chandler-Waterman as her Public Safety
11 Task Force. We did "Occupy the Corner".

12 I want to say thank you to Jahi and
13 Venus because I didn't know anything
14 about your company until I started
15 Occupy. I went out giving out all your
16 resources and explaining to them and I'm
17 hearing accountability and I'm hearing,
18 "We go after the officers", but I feel
19 we should go after the precinct because
20 if we go over the precinct the officers
21 are from, then they will train their
22 officers to do the right thing.

23 And that's the only statement that I
24 have to make. You all have a good
25 evening.

1 CHAIR RICE: Thank you, Ms. Stevens,
2 for your comment.

3 MR. ABDULLAH: (Indicating.)

4 CHAIR RICE: Yes, sir.

5 MR. ABDULLAH: Good evening. My
6 name is Idris Abdullah. I am a member
7 -- long-term member of the 79th Precinct
8 Community Council.

9 First, I want to thank the CCRB for
10 the job that your guys do in
11 investigating the officers in the cases
12 that need to be investigated and I think
13 if you all did not do -- or the CCRB did
14 not do part of that strong effort in
15 putting out, I think we might be a
16 little further behind the eight-ball.

17 So, I definitely want to thank you
18 all, but in the interim of us looking at
19 officers, cause just like it was said --
20 and I don't want to reiterate -- there
21 are good officers and there are bad
22 officers.

23 I am a long-term member of the 79th
24 Precinct Community Council. We have to
25 understand and realize one thing,

1 getting to know our officers,
2 communicating with our officers, this is
3 how we can begin to start looking at how
4 we can communicate and figure out what
5 is the problem to some of these
6 situations that we're having.

7 Sometimes these officers, they come
8 into our community, they're afraid.
9 They're scared. Even though they're
10 supposed to be trained a certain way,
11 it's always different when you get out
12 there and you begin to start doing --
13 using hands-on. You never know what's
14 going to happen in the spare (sic) of
15 the moment although you're trained.

16 The human instinct is to respond
17 sometimes cause sometimes our officers,
18 they get caught like that. So, coming
19 out to these precinct community council
20 meetings is extremely important.

21 Find out when and where your
22 precinct community council meeting is.
23 Find out who your community field
24 officers are. Begin that dialogue.
25 Back in the days, the officers that were

1 the most effective were the officers
2 that communicated with the community,
3 the officers that communicated with the
4 homeowners, the officers that
5 communicated with the kids.

6 So, this is where we like it now.
7 Remember, our children are either part
8 of the problem or part of the solution.
9 We, as parents, are either part of the
10 problem or part of the solution.
11 Sometimes we don't want to say and tap
12 our neighbor on the shoulder and say,
13 "Your son is doing such and such, such
14 and such" or "Your daughter is doing
15 such and such, such and such".

16 But when we begin to start doing
17 that, then we begin to take control over
18 the situation. We begin to take control
19 over the good officers, the bad
20 officers, the way they react, the way
21 they respond.

22 So, again, find out when, where your
23 community -- I mean, your precinct
24 council meetings is, get to those
25 precinct council meetings. Unless we

1 have the most safest neighborhoods in
2 the community, there should be standing
3 room only in them.

4 I'm just coming from a meeting from
5 the 79th Precinct Community Council in
6 reference to the block associations for
7 the summertime, and that communication
8 that we have there with our community
9 affairs officer, our new inspector, the
10 captains -- we have a very good response
11 -- a very good communication.

12 So, if you're in the 79th Precinct
13 Community Council area or 79th Precinct
14 area, come to that meeting. If you're
15 in the 81, 79 -- whatever area you in,
16 go to those meetings. They are
17 extremely important. That is where it
18 begins.

19 It starts at home and it starts with
20 the people that are teaching in the
21 homes. Thank you.

22 CHAIR RICE: Thank you,
23 Mr. Abdullah, for your comment.

24 MS. MORALES: Good evening,
25 everyone. My name is -- oh --

1 CHAIR RICE: Sorry, one of our Board
2 Members had a comment.

3 Yes.

4 MR. FOX: This is important and your
5 presence is important tonight, but I
6 just want to add that what Mr. Abdullah
7 mentioned is every precinct commander,
8 and housing commander, and transit
9 commander attendees, are at those
10 meetings that he described.

11 They're on the website. They have
12 to be there. I mentioned that I was a
13 Chief for 20 years. I would've accepted
14 nothing less, nor would any commanding
15 officer do anything less.

16 They have to be at that meeting and
17 this clock is important cause we need to
18 get to everybody, but at these meetings,
19 you stand up, you speak as long as you
20 want. You can see the CO -- Commanding
21 Officer -- before he or she comes in.
22 You can follow them out the door if
23 you'd like. You can speak during the
24 meeting. You get direct access.

25 This is a separate body than the

1 NYPD and that's one of the reasons I
2 believe in it, of course, and I'm a
3 Board Member, but that is another
4 resource. There are many resources and
5 that's one way. You have direct -- just
6 like this -- with the Commanding
7 Officer, and you -- and everything that
8 I've heard or been said tonight can be
9 said there and these are professionals.
10 You know, they'll hear you.

11 There was somebody else who
12 mentioned -- the woman whose son was
13 arrested. You know, she mentioned that
14 Inspector Vasquez is a good listener and
15 she had -- not the outcome that she
16 wanted, but she has his attention.

17 They -- or they not be in those
18 positions. So, I just wanted to pass
19 that on. Thank you.

20 CHAIR RICE: Appreciate that.

21 MS. MORALES: Good evening,
22 everyone. My name is Miesha Morales.
23 For transparency, I initially was here
24 as the constituent advocate for State
25 Senator Jabari Brisport. He apologizes

1 for not being here himself. He is
2 traveling from Albany back to the
3 district.

4 It is after 8 o'clock and I -- after
5 hearing some things, I decided to get up
6 and speak. So, I am now speaking as
7 Miesha Morales who was born and raised
8 in Senate District 25, started off in
9 Bed-Stuy, four generations currently
10 living in Fort Greene, Brooklyn.

11 I am an advocate, community
12 organizer, and fighter. I'm speaking --
13 and -- but most importantly, I am the
14 mother and I am speaking as the mother
15 of an Afro-Boricua son who is a
16 beautiful young man, and my experience
17 with my son and how it started off as
18 walking down the street with him being a
19 little boy holding his hand and him
20 seeing officers and firemen, as most
21 children do, right, and they wave "hi",
22 and -- just very friendly -- to walking
23 down the street with him, clearly as he
24 was getting older -- at 10, they don't
25 want mommy holding their hands, right --

1 but walking along side and seeing that
2 same community officer look at my son
3 and put his hand on his holster as if my
4 son is a threat.

5 I live every day in fear that is
6 today going to be the day that I get
7 that phone call, right. As an
8 organizer, as a Community Board Member,
9 I'm for my people. I work with and
10 organize with the residents, but
11 especially public housing residents.

12 To hear the harassment that they are
13 going through -- not only young people,
14 right. We have elders in our community
15 who are currently -- public housing
16 residents -- who are currently being
17 harassed by NCO officers -- right -- and
18 this is not to say that all NCO officers
19 are bad officers, but there are some bad
20 apples out there and they put a bad name
21 for those that are trying to do their
22 job in a professional way.

23 I'm constantly seeing harassment of
24 our elders, our women -- our young women
25 in the community. So, I'm speaking for

1 them and I'm speaking for my son and as
2 a mother -- and I'm sure there are many
3 of us here -- who live in fear of
4 whether or not today is going to be the
5 day that we get that phone call.

6 And as an organizer, yes, I
7 understand about attending the precinct
8 council meetings. I understand about
9 reaching out to CCRB and working in
10 partnership -- I do a lot more outside
11 of even what I just told you -- but,
12 unfortunately, what is happening is that
13 we have these certain bad apple
14 officers, if you want to call it that.
15 They continue to be moved from one
16 public housing development to another,
17 and over and over again even though
18 there is a track record of their bad
19 behavior.

20 And so hearing today that CCRB is
21 looking at being defunded, it's
22 concerning for me -- right -- because,
23 yes, you need more staff and I implore
24 the community to get involved, and
25 anyone who is listening on this call --

1 if you're a public official, whether it
2 be the Mayor or the Council Members --
3 please, fully fund CCRB.

4 But I also ask you guys and your
5 Outreach Team -- I don't know -- work
6 with your public officials. We need
7 more outreach. We need CCRB's Outreach
8 Team to be in public housing, showing up
9 to those TA meetings, in the streets.
10 We don't even have to wait for a
11 meeting.

12 And I am more than happy, as Miesha
13 Morales, the community advocate, to work
14 with your department, and so thank you.

15 MR. DARCHE: So, I know we're short
16 on time.

17 I just wanted to thank Ms. Morales
18 for speaking, and one of the things
19 you've all heard tonight are the people
20 who know Venus and know Jahi, and I can
21 assure you, in different neighborhoods,
22 they're different names that will get
23 mentioned because we have five people on
24 the Outreach Team at CCRB for this whole
25 City, and if you think about that, the

1 fact that anyone knows Venus's name in
2 this neighborhood is a miracle.

3 But they do -- the work that Venus
4 does -- and Tim, and Prince and -- and
5 really the whole team -- and Jahi, as
6 the leader, and Yojaira as the Special
7 Advisor and Head of Intergov -- like --
8 and I know I've missed people and I'm
9 going to regret it as soon as this call
10 is -- as soon as we're done -- but it is
11 just not enough.

12 And so when Ms. Morales was talking
13 about the budget and we talked about the
14 budget earlier, it is key that we get
15 the support to do the work that we need
16 to do for you.

17 Sorry, sir.

18 MR. GUISE: Good evening. My name
19 is Terrell Guise. I am a representative
20 of the Black Opportunity Project. We're
21 a nonprofit organization that fights for
22 social and economic justice. I have a
23 few points that I would like to focus
24 on.

25 One is the community and the police

1 have to play more of an effective role
2 in bridging the gap in the communication
3 and trust with the youth in these
4 communities. Parents need to take some
5 of the blame as far as the youth are
6 concerned also though.

7 After speaking with you in the
8 Bronx, we were informed that the police
9 are calling youth out their name -- by
10 name -- calling youth by name, picking
11 them up as if they're being arrested and
12 taking and questioning them, and
13 dropping them off in rivals'
14 neighborhoods.

15 They're riding through the
16 neighborhood throwing down gang signs
17 and dropping them off with their rivals,
18 and -- pardon me -- excuse me -- the
19 police are being -- the police are being
20 captured on video doing these activities
21 and we recently sent the video to the
22 CCRB on Instagram. What kind of trust
23 can this behavior build? What kind of
24 example is being set?

25 These young people, they want to

1 live in Chicago, but the police
2 shouldn't indulge in that behavior with
3 them. This is not Chicago. This is New
4 York City. We should act as such.

5 But last, but not least, more has to
6 be done to strengthen the CCRB.

7 Electing the CCRB president official is
8 not the answer. If the Commissioner has
9 final authority to dole out discipline
10 according to the City Charter, what
11 would electing a CCRB do if the
12 Commissioner would still have the final
13 authority? What kind of fiasco would we
14 have on our hands with the election for
15 positions you people have right now?

16 Thank you.

17 CHAIR RICE: Thank you.

18 Sister, did you have a comment?

19 MS. JONES: (Inaudible.)

20 CHAIR RICE: Yes, please.

21 MS. JONES: Hello, everyone. My
22 name is Ms. Jones. I'm from the
23 Flatbush Garden community. The 67th
24 Precinct is the precinct that covered
25 my -- the Flatbush Gardens.

1 So, I'm here today because I feel
2 like this 67th Precinct, the way they're
3 handling complaints and coming out to
4 investigate the complaints is unfair and
5 biased.

6 So, I don't even know how to explain
7 this to an employer. That's why I'm
8 here today to give my testimony. Like,
9 when I go for jobs and they want to
10 interview me or whatever, but my case
11 was dismissed and thrown out, but still,
12 you know, a record had occurred.

13 So, back on October 5, 2022, I had a
14 problem with a postal service worker,
15 but I was -- I had to go the Central
16 Bookings -- I was detained for the video
17 that -- it was like a video that the
18 police chose to pick, you know, and he
19 didn't want it to bring the whole -- you
20 know, take the whole video.

21 He chose to put wrong footage and
22 wrote a false report -- a false
23 statement -- like, he wrote a false
24 statement causing me to get a record.
25 So, how can I clarify this or have an

1 investigation done, you know, on my
2 behalf?

3 MR. DARCHE: So, there -- we will
4 have someone take a statement from you
5 and investigate the incident, and we
6 also have someone here today from our
7 Civilian Assistance Unit who will see if
8 there are other services that we can
9 connect you to that might be able to
10 help you.

11 So, if you could just -- if you
12 wait, there's someone in the back, I'm
13 sure, who will reach out to you and take
14 a statement from you tonight.

15 MS. JONES: All right. Thank you,
16 ladies and gentlemen.

17 CHAIR RICE: Thank you, Ms. Jones.

18 MR. DARCHE: I think there's one
19 more person here, and there's someone
20 online, and then we really have to
21 finish up.

22 CHAIR RICE: Okay. Thank you, Ms.
23 Jones.

24 Ma'am, if you have your comment --

25 MS. BROWNE-PEYTON: (Indicating.)

1 CHAIR RICE: Yes.

2 MS. BROWNE-PEYTON: I actually came
3 to observe, but I'll be amiss if I
4 didn't say something.

5 My name is Santana Browne-Peyton.
6 I'm actually a resident of Bed-Stuy.
7 I'm also on the Community Board 3 and
8 I'm going to just basically say that my
9 understanding, from where I'm standing,
10 is that respect is due and respect
11 should be given on both -- on the
12 community level, but it should be more
13 so identified and focused on the Police
14 Department, if they're here to
15 protect -- right -- respect and protect.

16 That's not something that is done
17 because we have had a history of black
18 Americans in this country have not been
19 respected at any cost and they still
20 haven't. It's won't stop because we
21 have several meetings, but it can stop
22 if we all take initiative to look back
23 at some of those cases that we have put
24 in file, that those officers that have
25 had complaints, that no one has touched

1 on, that they almost close to retirement
2 and folks are going out -- and they
3 could go on vacation.

4 But our folks that are still locked
5 up in jail to this day because of minor
6 incidents that could've been probably
7 revealed by a Board as such are -- and I
8 come -- I'm raised in Marcy Project and
9 my mother had 20 children. So, you can
10 imagine, I can stand up here and tell
11 you some horror stories in regards to
12 police officers.

13 But there are some good police
14 officers as well as there are community
15 folks, and as an advocate for the
16 community every day, the difference is
17 that we keep forgetting about the
18 pandemic. We keep forgetting about
19 slavery. We keep forgetting that there
20 are no -- I heard the brother say, "The
21 parents are responsible as well".

22 If you could look back at the crack
23 epidemic that was not long ago --
24 1987 to be exact -- where most of our
25 children are in institutions. They're

1 not home. They're not being trained by
2 home. Then you have other children who
3 are in the ages between 50 or less,
4 either have had experience in crack or
5 sold, are now substance abusers, right.

6 So, most of them on the streets are
7 either -- have some kind of mental
8 illness or they're experiencing some
9 kind of trauma, and most of it has come,
10 not just from the policemen, but because
11 we keep acting like these are heroes --
12 superheroes. They're not.

13 They're human-beings. They're not
14 being trained, and those that have been
15 trained have to retrain themselves
16 because -- as we have to do so --
17 because now we're dealing with a new
18 community with a whole different
19 generation where we are being educated,
20 but what are doing with the education?

21 So, I'm just saying that, just like
22 they have GoFundMe to make sure you guys
23 get some money, well then I think that
24 you guys need to attack the -- our
25 friendly politicians who do -- idea of

1 monies being distributed in the
2 community, that's the idea -- where the
3 money should be going.

4 I don't say, "Stop the police",
5 because they are needed, right. But if
6 they're only taking the job because
7 that's a career choice and the only
8 choice that they have, they should be
9 looking at another one -- and then you
10 have those who feel that they're
11 qualified, like the lady said earlier --
12 of taking the test.

13 Then, they should also be tested for
14 mental illness, substance abuse because
15 they also are dealing with the same
16 trauma. They're drinking the same water
17 that we are.

18 I know when I came, we had Police
19 Athletic League where we did -- there
20 was Aviation. There was Vanguard.
21 There was Colony Houses of Brooklyn. We
22 had places where our children could go,
23 our elders could go. We don't have any
24 of those places right now and there is
25 no activities. We are all home, and

1 looking at the news, and constantly
2 being trauma (sic), that when we see
3 trauma, it's like looking at cartoons
4 today.

5 So, it's not just one particular
6 issue that we need to focus on, but if
7 you guys are focusing on the activities
8 and the accountability, you need to be
9 accounting where the money is going.
10 You need to account how we are servicing
11 our community better. We need to also
12 recognize that who is getting more
13 privileges than others and how we can
14 make it equal for everybody and not
15 somebody.

16 I think I said more than I needed to
17 say. Thanks.

18 CHAIR RICE: I believe we had one
19 last comment from somebody who was on
20 the line.

21 Yojaيرا?

22 MS. ALVAREZ: Yes, we'll be hearing
23 from Daniel Heredia, followed by
24 Assembly Member Cunningham, and that
25 will conclude our public session.

1 MR. HEREDIA: Thank you for the
2 opportunity to speak this evening --
3 yes, how is everyone?

4 My name is Daniel Heredia
5 representing Council Member Farah Louis
6 of the 45th Council District. Thank you
7 all so much for hosting this forum and
8 while I'm disappointed to not have been
9 able to attend in person, we definitely
10 have heard a great amount of community
11 input and testimony.

12 And I want to especially thank Venus
13 for always offering to train our team on
14 CCRB response and reporting. It has
15 been very helpful for navigating some of
16 these cases that we take in our office.

17 Tonight, I'm particularly intrigued
18 with some of the comments that were made
19 in the testimony regarding the false
20 statements from NYPD officers during
21 criminal trials, as well as how the City
22 can more adequately address and respond
23 to domestic violence cases with
24 sensitivity.

25 I want to ask a question in terms of

1 helping us guide policy here -- and
2 hopefully the Board is able to
3 respond -- I'm wondering if it would
4 make sense to mandate or permit CCRB
5 participation in some of the criminal
6 cases that our constituents face at
7 times when dealing with interactions
8 with the police and to self-initiate
9 complaints based on the information
10 discovered during the trials.

11 As, you know, we heard tonight, that
12 many -- many of the people in court, you
13 know, for a variety of reasons may not
14 be able -- or may not be willing to go
15 to the CCRB to report that there's false
16 testimony against them, but perhaps
17 there's a way that the CCRB can be more
18 involved with what happens in criminal
19 court to be able to assist and
20 investigate these cases proactively.

21 Thank you.

22 CHAIR RICE: Thank you so much for
23 your question.

24 MR. DARCHE: Thank you, Madam Chair.

25 I just wanted to correct a mistake I

1 made earlier by leaving out Naqi and
2 Maroua, who are also two key members of
3 our Outreach Team and who have done
4 tremendous work for us and I truly
5 appreciate them and I shouldn't have
6 forgotten them.

7 CHAIR RICE: All right. I believe
8 that concludes all of those who have
9 public comments this evening. I want to
10 thank you for those.

11 MS. ALVAREZ: Sorry, Chair --

12 CHAIR RICE: Do we have any old
13 business to come --

14 MS. ALVAREZ: Sorry, Chair --

15 CHAIR RICE: -- before the Board?

16 MS. ALVAREZ: Chair -- sorry, we
17 have one more comment.

18 Assembly Member Brian Cunningham has
19 joined us and would conclude our public
20 session. Apologies.

21 CHAIR RICE: Thank you.

22 (No response.)

23 CHAIR RICE: Is Assembly Member --
24 virtually -- yes -- okay.

25 MR. CUNNINGHAM: I apologize for

1 being on late, but I'm joining from
2 Albany. I just wanted to just commend,
3 again, the CCRB for the incredible work
4 they've done tonight, and hearing from
5 the public.

6 As everyone knows on this call, I've
7 been committed to criminal justice
8 reform since my time with the Center for
9 Court Innovation and I just wanted to
10 stop in tonight to just commend the work
11 we're doing and continue to foster
12 community participation.

13 Again, I know the night has been
14 long, so I don't want to waste too much
15 time, but just wanted to be with you
16 here tonight in spirit. Thank you so
17 much.

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

20 All right. One more time, I believe
21 that concludes the public comments
22 portion of the meeting.

23 Do we have any old business to come
24 before the Board?

25 (No response.)

1 CHAIR RICE: Any old business?

2 (No response.)

3 CHAIR RICE: Do we have any new
4 business to come before the Board?

5 (No response.)

6 CHAIR RICE: Okay. Hearing none, I
7 am going to move now that we break into
8 executive session.

9 The agenda for the executive session
10 is the Board will deliberate on a full
11 Board case, receive an update from the
12 Executive Director on pending personnel
13 actions and Board Member training, and
14 the General Counsel will update us on
15 litigation.

16 I'd like to make a motion that this
17 meeting be concluded.

18 BOARD MEMBER: Second.

19 CHAIR RICE: Second -- all those in
20 favor?

21 (Chorus of "Ayes".)

22 CHAIR RICE: So moved. Thank you.

23 (Time noted: 8:45 p.m.)

24

25

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 10th day of May, 2023.


Julia M. Speros