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**Based on CCRB Recommendation, NYPD Retrains Officers
Who Patrol NYCHA Buildings**

The Chairman of the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB), Ernest F. Hart, announced today that as a result of the CCRB's recommendations, the New York City Police Department (NYPD) has revised its guidelines and retrained NYPD officers who patrol buildings that are owned and operated by the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA).

For more than a decade it has been the responsibility of the NYPD to patrol NYCHA buildings. To accomplish this, police officers regularly engage in vertical patrols. During a vertical patrol, two or more police officers check each NYCHA building's publicly accessible spaces – rooftops, hallways, lobbies, stairways and landings. The purpose is to prevent and eliminate trespassing and other crimes.

New York State law allows a police officer to stop a person if the officer has *reasonable suspicion* the person has committed, is committing or is about to commit a crime. Knowledge of this standard is so critical that, it is printed on the inside cover of every NYPD officer's memo book, along with the legal standards for question, search and arrest. The *reasonable suspicion* standard for a stop applies whether the stop occurs on the street or on NYCHA property.

In early 2009, the CCRB noticed an increase in the number of complaints it received from people who alleged that they had been improperly stopped in and around NYCHA buildings. As these cases were investigated and the CCRB interviewed civilians and officers, a pattern emerged. Officers frequently indicated that they could stop people simply because they were in, entering or exiting a NYCHA building, and that these stops did not require *reasonable suspicion*.

In April 2009, the CCRB met with the NYPD to discuss the rise in allegations of improper stops in and around NYCHA buildings and to inform the Department that many of the involved officers were unaware that merely observing someone in, entering or exiting a NYCHA building was an insufficient reason to stop that person. The CCRB recommended retraining, specifically that stops in NYCHA building still require *reasonable suspicion*.

The CCRB also analyzed complaints received from July 2008 through November 2009, of improper stop and/or question on NYCHA property and in Clean Halls buildings. Clean Halls buildings are privately owned buildings that participate in the Trespass Affidavit Program in which landlords give NYPD officers permission to patrol their buildings. The agency determined that these allegations were being substantiated at a rate that was approximately three times the agency's overall substantiation rate. In early 2010, the CCRB brought this disparity to the attention of the NYPD and again recommended retraining.

In response to the CCRB's information and recommendations, the NYPD made several important changes. In June 2010, the NYPD revised its Patrol Guide provisions governing vertical patrols in NYCHA buildings. The new order makes clear that officers must have *reasonable suspicion* to stop a person in, entering or exiting a NYCHA building.

Additionally, by the end of November 2010, all NYPD officers assigned to the Housing Bureau and certain patrol officers, approximately 2,000 in total, will have received training on the specific legal standards governing stops in NYCHA buildings. The Department is considering future plans to provide a condensed version of this training for patrol officers and to develop new guidelines and training on the appropriate legal standards governing stops in Clean Halls buildings.

Chair Ernest Hart said, "The CCRB is uniquely positioned to notice patterns in policing through its investigation of complaints, and data collection and analysis. We notify the Police Department when these patterns may warrant changes in policing practices, as in the case of police stops of civilians in and around NYCHA buildings. The Board is pleased that the Department has responded to our recommendations with substantive changes that will improve police community relations. The Board looks forward to continued collaboration with the NYPD on this issue and any others that may arise."

The CCRB is the independent City agency mandated to receive and investigate complaints from the public about certain forms of police misconduct. These include: complaints about unnecessary or excessive force, abuse of authority, for example an improper stop, question or frisk, discourtesy and offensive language. As part of its oversight function, the CCRB monitors complaint activity for broader policing issues and brings problematic policies or patterns of police misconduct to the attention of the Police Commissioner.

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