



BILL DE BLASIO
MAYOR

CIVILIAN COMPLAINT REVIEW BOARD
100 CHURCH STREET 10th FLOOR
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10007 ♦ TELEPHONE (212) 912-7235
www.nyc.gov/ccrb



FREDERICK DAVIE
CHAIR

**Full Testimony of Rev. Frederick Davie, Chair of the Civilian Complaint Review Board
before the Public Safety Committee of the New York City Council
in Support of Int 2440**

Chairperson Adams, members of the Public Safety Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I am Rev. Frederick Davie, Chair of the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB).

I am here to testify today in support of Introduction 2440 that would authorize the CCRB to investigate, hear, make findings and recommend action upon complaints initiated by the CCRB alleging police officer misconduct falling within CCRB's jurisdiction. This bill is critical for the people of New York, particularly those who are most vulnerable, as it shifts the burden of responsibility away from victims and civilians most in need. As it stands now, even if the CCRB is aware of misconduct, we must receive a complaint from the victim, a witness, or other concerned citizen before we are able to investigate the complaint. This places the burden on New Yorkers to report misconduct even in situations where they might not feel comfortable, and assumes that everyone has access to the resources to and the knowledge of how to file a complaint. Furthermore, it can lead to long delays before the CCRB is able to investigate the incident which can lead to longer investigation times and the inability to collect evidence in a timely manner. If the CCRB is aware of misconduct, an investigation should not be delayed or not even occur just because a complaint is not filed. All misconduct should be addressed, and be addressed promptly. This bill will bring us one step closer.



BILL DE BLASIO
MAYOR

CIVILIAN COMPLAINT REVIEW BOARD
100 CHURCH STREET 10th FLOOR
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10007 ♦ TELEPHONE (212) 912-7235
www.nyc.gov/ccrb



FREDERICK DAVIE
CHAIR

This bill, amending the Charter to allow the CCRB to self-initiate complaints means that the CCRB can proactively open investigations without placing the burden on those most vulnerable to file a complaint themselves and has the CCRB's full support.

In addition, I cannot leave today, without mentioning another large impediment to CCRB's investigations which is that the CCRB currently does not have access to sealed records.

Currently, statutes that were enacted to seal arrest records that are often sealed due to police misconduct are used to prevent the CCRB from investigating the underlying misconduct that caused the record to be sealed. It is imperative that the CCRB have access to these and all documents that enable us to investigate police misconduct, particularly as the Agency embarks on investigating allegations of racial profiling and bias based policing. We believe that as an independent oversight agency created to investigate police misconduct, we must obtain records essential to our mission. We continue to work with our State partners to achieve the enactment of an exemption from otherwise applicable sealing statutes by the State Legislature.

The CCRB has made great strides in the last couple of years and continues to push forward changes and policies that make the agency more effective, and police accountability fairer and swifter. I believe this bill will help us to continue to push forward, as will fighting for the CCRB and all oversight agencies to be exempt from sealing statutes.

Thank you.