CIVILIAN COMPLAINT REVIEW BOARD
PUBLIC MEETING
September 13, 2017
6:36 p.m.

IS 49 Berta A. Dreyfus
101 Warren Street
Staten Island, New York 10304

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

BEFORE:
DEBORAH N. ARCHER, ESQ., Acting Chairperson
JONATHAN DARCHE, ESQ., Executive Director

Reported By:
Bonita Richards

STENO-KATH REPORTING SERVICES, LTD.
139 MAMARONECK AVENUE
MAMARONECK, NEW YORK 10543
212.95.DEPOS (953.3767) * 914.381.2061
FACSIMILE: 914.722.0816
E-MAIL: stenokath@verizon.net
PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA:
=============================================================================
1. Call to Order
2. Report from the Chair
3. Report from the Executive Director
4. Presentation by Outreach on the CCRB
5. Presentation from Policy on Data
6. Comment from Community Groups
7. Public Comment
8. Old Business
9. New Business
10. Adjourn to Executive Session
BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

DEBORAH N ARCHER, ESQ., Acting Chairperson

SALVATORE F. CARCATERRA, Board Member

JOSEPH A. PUMA, Board Member

LINDSAY EASON, Board Member

FRANK J. DWYER, Board Member

FREDERICK DAVIE, Board Member

MABRE STAHLY-BUTTS, Board Member

JOHN SIEGAL, ESQ., Board Member

RAMON PEGUERO, ESQ., Board Member

YOUNGKIK YOON, ESQ., Board Member

JONATHAN DARCHE, ESQ., Executive Director
Proceedings

MS. ARCHER:  Good evening, everyone.

I'd like to call to order the

September meeting of the New York City Civilian
Complaint Review Board. My name is Deborah
Archer. I am the Acting Chair of the CCRB, and I
am a mayoral designee.

Before we get started, I want to ask
all of my fellow board members to also introduce
themselves. We'll start down at the end.

MR. CARCATERRA:  Hi, everyone.

I'm Sal Carcaterra, and I'm a police
commissioner representative on the board.

MR. EASON:  Good evening, everyone.

My name is Lindsay Eason, and I'm also
a police representative.

MR. DWYER:  I'm Frank Dwyer, and I am
also.

MS STAHLY-BUTTS:  Good evening, I hope
everyone's well.

My name is Mabre Stahly-Butts, and I
am a designee from Brooklyn for the City Counsel.

MR. DARCHÉ:  I'm Jonathan Darché. I'm
the Executive Director of the agency.
Proceedings

MR. SIEGAL: Good evening.

John Siegal. I was appointed by our Mayor, Bill de Blasio.

MR. PEGUERO: Good evening.

My name is Ramon Peguero, I am the City Counsel designee for Queens.

MR. YOON: My name is Youngik Yoon. I'm also a City Counsel designee.

MS. ARCHER: Thank you.

For those of you who may need it, we do have translation services available in Spanish and French. If you want to utilize those services, please just go to the back and you can grab a set of headphones.

For those who are not aware of what the CCRB does, we are an independent civilian oversight agency. We're charged with receiving, investigating, and evaluating civilian complaints alleging police misconduct.

Again, we're an independent agency, that means we're not a part of NYPD and it also means that the members of this board are not employees of the NYPD.

We're really happy to be here with you
Proceedings

in the community. It gives us a unique opportunity to get a better understanding of what the issues are in this community, your concerns around policing and police engagement. It also gives us an opportunity to facilitate a conversation between members of the local precinct and members of the community.

So, to that end, we have several community organizations here with us, and we've also invited members of the local precinct to help facilitate that conversation.

And I also think it helps advance our understanding of what's going on, and it's certainly a better understand of what is going on in the communities around New York City will really help inform our work.

Before we get started, I do want to acknowledge some members of the community and community organizations that I know are here to participate.

And first we have a representative from Councilwoman Debbie Rose's office, Vincent Gregnanie.

Thank you for coming.
Proceedings

We also have Barry Houses from NYCHA. If you can stand up so folks can see you, I appreciate that. Thank you.

We have someone here from the African Community Organizations of Staten Island. Thank you.

Someone from Mount Sinai United Christian Church.

A representative from Staten Island Coalition of Churches.

We also have Cesar Vargas from Dream Action Coalition. Thank you.

Michael Riley from Staten Island Community Education Council 31.

And we have Sherise Lewis from NYCHA, South Beach Houses. Thank you.

I look forward to -- we look forward to hearing from you all and receiving your comments.

We're going to start off with a report from Executive Director, and then also provide some information to you all about what we're
Proceedings

seeing in your community. And then we'll take
community comments.

I'm going to turn it over to our
Executive Director.

MR. DARCHE: Thank you, Madame Chair.

I'm actually going to keep my remarks
quite short. The full remarks are online, or if
you would like a copy, you can ask someone at the
desk out front and we'll give you copy.

I just wanted to say, thank you to our
host, the Jewish Community Center of Staten
Island, and particular Ingrid Ebanks and
Steven Kessler for allowing us to have this
meeting here. That's it.

MS. ARCHER: Okay, thank you.

I did miss that we have Pat Russo from
Cops and Kids.

Thank you for coming.

Next, we're going to have a
presentation by our outreach group.

MR. TUBBS: Hi, my name is Keith Tubbs.
I am the Outreach Director and Inter-government
Relations Director for the CCRB.

I'm going to do a short presentation
Proceedings

for you guys.

Hang on.

So, the CCRB, The Civilian Complaint Review Board is a City agency that investigates, mediates, allegations of misconduct filed against members of the NYPD. In certain cases, the CCRB Administrative Prosecution Unit prosecutes officers who are found of having committed misconduct.

What the CCRB investigates, we investigate complaints alleging police misconduct. Each police action that the complainant or the victim describes, is considered a distinct allegation even though only a single complaint is filed. We don't review and investigate every type of police encounter.

The four types of allegations that the CCRB has jurisdiction over, we like to use an acronym called FADO. F is for force, A is for abuse of authority, D is for discourtesy, O is for offensive language.

Force would include anything like punching, kicking, slapping, grabbing, pushing; use of impact weapons like nightsticks, pepper
Proceedings

spray, or tasers, or use of a firearm. So, even if someone was to brandish a firearm, that would be considered an act of a force.

Abuse of authority, would be stops of persons in vehicles, frisks of persons, searches of persons in vehicles and residences without sufficient cause; refusal to provide name or shield number.

Discourtesy, would be the use of foul language, use of profanity, discourteous conduct, discourteous gestures, and actions. So, another example was, if I were to have a police interaction and I gave him my ID and that ID ended up being thrown on the ground. It would be considered an act of discourtesy.

Offensive language, would be use of racial and religious epithets; language that inappropriately refers to race, nationality, religion, gender, perceived sexual orientation, and/or disability.

The life of a CCRB case, a complaint is filed in person, by email, phone, or on our website, and a person from our intake unit will speak with that complainant. The matter will
then be sent to the investigation unit, then the matter will be mediated, and/or investigated.

If the matter is investigated, the investigator presents his or her findings and recommendations to a three member panel that includes a NYPD, City Council, and mayoral appointees. The panel reviews the investigators findings and makes a recommendation. The matter may then go to the Administrative Prosecution Unit.

To file a complaint, again, you can call 311; you can go to the website which is www.nyc.gov/ccrb; you can call, 1-800-341-CCRB; or you can come to our office which is at 100 Church Street, New York, New York 10007.

You can also -- we have partnered with the City Council's office. And so we have office hours every third Thursday of the month from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Council member Debbie Rose's office. We have some of these located at the front desk with our outreach team.

Also, if anybody is here from an organization that's interested in having a presentation from the Outreach Unit, you should
Proceedings
come talk to us and we will be more than happy to
come out to your organization and give a
presentation.

Thank you guys and have a great day.

MS. ARCHER: Thank you very much.

Now, we're going to hear about some
data from Lincoln MacVeagh in our Policy Unit.

MR. MACVEAGH: Hi, my name is
Lincoln MacVeagh. I'm the Director of Analytics
at the CCRB, and I want to talk briefly about the
complaint activity we see in Staten Island.

Let's start with the big picture.

This graph shows the total number of
complaints the CCRB has received Citywide, 2003
to 2016. Focusing on Staten Island, this chart
breaks out the CCRB complaints by borough.

As you can see that top line, most of
our complaints come from Brooklyn, followed by
Manhattan and the Bronx, then Queens. And that
little line at the bottom is Staten Island.

At first glance, this chart may give
you the impression that Staten Island doesn't
generate many CCRB complaints, and in absolute
terms that's true. But it's important to
Proceedings

remember that Staten Island is the borough of parks. It is not as densely populated as the other boroughs.

So, let's compare the Staten Island complaint numbers to the size of it's population. The green one on the far right is Staten Island. Staten Islands makes up 5.7 percent of the City's population, and last year it accounted for 4.6 percent of the CCRB's complaints. When you look at it that way, the number of CCRB complaints from Staten Island doesn't seem particularly low. In fact, it's pretty much what you'd expect.

The real outlier in terms of CCRB complaints is Queens. Queens represents 27.3 percent of the City's population, but only generated 16.8 percent of all CCRB complaints.

Digging a little deeper, we want to know where the complaints in Staten Island are coming from.

This map breaks down the complaint numbers by police precinct. We can see that the majority of the Staten Island complaints come from the north. The 120th precinct generates the most complaints, followed closely by the 121,
Proceedings

with both the 122 and the 123 far behind.

But the precinct numbers can be deceptive, because some of the Staten Island precincts encompass very different neighborhoods. For example, if we look just at the precinct numbers, it seems like the center of the CCRB complaint activity in Staten Island is in the northeast, but oddly enough that is not true. In fact, the center of Staten Island complaint activity is on the other side of the island in the northwest, in that red zone.

This slide breaks down the 2016 complaints by the zip code of the alleged victims. Our zip code data is not perfect. Complainants don't always give us their zip codes, and when they do we can't always verify them. But what this map shows is the home address zip of complainant victims involved in 2016 CCRB complaints.

For each zip code, we have the percentage of CCRB complainant victims, and the percentage of Staten Island's population that the zip code represents. It's very little text, but I will tell you -- you can't read it but -- when
Proceedings

we looked at the 10303 zip, which is the red on in the top left, we see that although it represents only five percent of Staten Island's population, it is the home zip of fully 15 percent of the CCRB complainant victims. All of the northern zip codes are over represented in CCRB complaints, but it's the 10303 that is the most over represented.

To close out, I'd like to change tact a little bit and talk about truncation rates. A truncation occurs when somebody makes a complaint with the CCRB, but then does not follow through with the investigation. Sometimes truncations happen because the complainant has trouble getting to our office.

This chart breaks out the truncation rates by borough. The truncation rate is lowest in Manhattan, that's the red line where our offices are located, and higher in other boroughs where complainants may find it hard to travel to us. For Staten Island, the truncation rate was 56.5 percent. That means that 56.5 percent of the complaints had to be closed without an investigation.
Proceedings

Another cause of truncations, is sometimes we just lose contact with our complainants. The CCRB wants to reduce truncations, we want to fully investigate cases. One thing we started doing in 2016 is asking complainants permission to text message them, in order to stay in touch. The text messaging has proved remarkably effective. That top chart shows the 2016 truncation rates, broken down by whether or not the complainant agreed to let us send them text messages. Without text messaging, the truncation rate was 60 percent. But with text messaging, the truncation rate was only 46 percent. That's a big difference, and text messaging is only going to get more important as more of you, more -- everyone abandons landlines.

Finally, the last chart is just a curiosity. It shows that in 2016 Staten Island complainants were the least likely to give CCRB permission to send them text messages. So, I'm going to end with a request, let us text you. It will help investigate your complaints.

Thanks a lot.
Proceedings

MS. ARCHER: Thank you.

I'd like to acknowledge that we also now have with us a representative from Council member Steve Matteo's office, and also a representative from Speaker Mark Viverito's office.

Thank you for joining us.

So, now we're going to turn to inviting some of the community organizations who've come to speak, and I have a list here of folks.

We're going to start with Cesar Vargas, co-founder of the Dream Action Coalition.

MR. VARGAS: I want to thank everyone, for the CCRB for giving me the opportunity to speak. My name is Cesar Vargas, and I am an immigration attorney here on Staten Island.

I work primarily with the immigrant community, especially the Latino community in the North Shore and mid-island and South Shore as well. I am actually myself, I'm also undocumented and also a DACA recipient, as we all have been hearing in the news.
Proceedings

So, needless to say, there is a lot of anxiousness in the immigrant community, specifically of all the politics that has taken place across the country. On Staten Island it's no different.

We have been seeing that the immigrant community is much more reluctant to see the police as an agency that's there to serve them. Of course, many of this is unfounded and I got to give credit to the NYPD for actually keeping in place a very key policy, which is not to ask immigration status of people they detain, people that either through traffic stops or on the streets.

However, one of the concerns that we are seeing on Staten Island, is the lack of language, which we have seen create some type of miscommunication/conflict with the NYPD. Specifically, when either there is a -- for example, a neighbor dispute between neighbors and one of the neighbors doesn't speak English and the other neighbor is obviously fluent.

One of the things that we have been seeing more often here on Staten Island is that
Proceedings

usually the NYPD officer sides with the English speaker, you know, for many factors. Obviously most primarily because he can understand the English speaker more than the person who has no access to the English language or key word.

So, we have seen where, for example, a domestic dispute with an employer/employee. We saw that the NYPD took the report saying that the actual immigrant worker was threatening and assaulting the employer; which was not true because we have actually investigated and we're still working on it, where it was the other way around but the worker could not communicate that type of concern.

Now, one of the things that we've been seeing that we hope to see, is an ability for that type of bridge between the NYPD and the immigrant community and the Latino community, when it comes to that type of concerns. We have -- at this moment, fortunately we have not seen any complaint of immigration status being that type of complaint from immigrant community. But there's no question that the immigrant -- that the access to language has been a big
Proceedings

barrier. Not just because some of the community don't speak English, but because the wide range of languages as well; which includes Spanish, which includes Middle Eastern languages, Asian languages, as well as indigenous languages.

One of the things that we -- you know, another example we saw, is an officer stopping a young man who didn't speak Spanish or English. And the officer took it as ignoring the young man's request for information, which eventually got a little bit tense. Fortunately, he was able to resolve the situation without any type of major incident. But those are the specific situations what we are seeing here on this.

As an attorney, I try to provide them as much information on their rights. But also having this opportunity with this venue here, to ensure that if there is any instances where there is a violation of their rights, or a complaint, grounds for a complaint, then I hope I can provide them with concrete information that the CCRB has provided me. And I hope to continue to work with you, to ensure that we, the NYPD, and the CCRB, and the New York City government works
Proceedings

for every New Yorker, regardless of immigration status.

So, everyone thank you so much for giving me the opportunity, and I hope to continue to work with everyone.

Thank you.

MS. ARCHER: Thank you.

Does anyone on the board have any questions for Mr. Vargas?

(No response.)

Thank you very much, we appreciate it.

MS. ARCHER: We have next, Michael Riley from the Staten Island Community Education Council.

MR. RILEY: Good evening, Madame Chair, thank you so much for the opportunity.

I think I have a unique perspective. I'm a Community Advocate, I'm the President with the Community Education Council, but I'm also a former New York City Police Officer. I retired as a lieutenant in the NYPD, and to be clear, I was the subject of at least five civilian complaints.

I'd like to discuss some of the things
Proceedings

that I've learned from that experience, and some of the things that I've learned now as a Community Advocate.

One of the things that we received before speaking was some of the questions that we would like to touch on. So, I'm going to touch briefly on them and hopefully I can shed some perspective.

One of the things that I really want to touch on, is that presentation that we saw and it talked about the impact of the CCRB by percentage, by population. One of the things that we saw in the questions here is that, the 120 precinct is historically the highest CCRB complaint generated in Staten Island. I think one of the things that needed to be added to that data, is how many radio runs, calls to service, those officers receive. And also the arrests made in that area, because that is something that plays a pivotal role throughout the City.

And I guarantee if you look at the data across the City in all patrol boroughs, the precincts with the highest activity including radio runs, arrest activity, you will see higher
Proceedings

CCRB rates. That is something that I truly believe in.

I also am curious, and I know there's a push to keep track and use police officer's records of CCRB's in future investigations. I know there's talk about that. I also would like to know if there's a recidivist list of people that file CCRB's, and if they're against the same officer.

The reason why I ask this, that happened to me. I arrested an individual back in 1995 as a police officer in Midtown, and he was a pimp. He beat up his prostitute, I arrested him for assault. He filed a CCRB against me. It was unsubstantiated, of course, but that's the key here, unsubstantiated. That's not proven, not unproven. That stayed on my record for my whole career.

He also, less than a year later, assaulted her again. I responded, he tried to take my firearm, he pulled me down to the ground, held me down. It was an SRO, a single room occupancy in Midtown North precinct, and he was swatting for my firearm. I hit his hand away,
trying to keep it away, I could not. At one point, I had to punch him in the face, I knocked out two of his teeth. I was investigated by CCRB, I said that in the investigation. Went all through it, I had hospital report for my finger. Having done that, I admitted doing it, it was unsubstantiated.

I would like to see the CCRB gain trust with the public and the NYPD by actually exonerating officers when they can, and when the evidence proves that. And by all means, find them guilty when the evidence proves otherwise. That is something that will build trust across the board, and that's something that's lacking right now.

The next thing I would like to talk about real quick, is the NCO program. I think it's a tremendous thing. I think it's doing a great service. And listen, we didn't reinvent the wheel, it was called CPOP when I was on the job. But it's something now that technology's enhancing. You're able to email the NCO, you're able to get his phone number, because they all have phones. This is a great thing for the
Proceedings

community. And that's something that's going to close that gap.

I would also like to see --

MS. ARCHER: Sorry, I want to interrupt you.

For folks who might not be aware of what the NCO program is, can you give two sentences about that?

MR. RILEY: Sure, it's the Neighborhood Community Officers Program. It basically assigns an officer to a beat in the precinct. And they cover a certain area, and they hold community meetings, they respond to quality of life complaints, they respond to crime complaints, all things of that nature. So, they're more available and there's more access to them.

MS. ARCHER: Thank you.

MR. RILEY: I'm sorry, let me see.

The first question that was presented to me and I forgot to touch on this is, "what do you consider a major concern about police action in your respective precinct." I'm going to talk globally, not just my precinct. I live on the South Shore, in the 123 precinct, but I want to
Proceedings
talk globally on it.

I think one of the major concerns is, that there's a disconnect between what's the law, what's police department policy, and what's public perception. Now, if we had more outreach where we could give maybe dual training, have the NYPD training unit and CCRB give a dual training to the public, two officers. We'd actually take away that disconnect a little bit. And that's what it is, it's about building relationships, and that's a relationship that's going to actually improve things.

The last thing I'd like to touch on if I can, is the body cameras. There's -- there's going to be more officers wearing them by 2018, I think it's 5000, if I'm not mistaken. There's pros and cons, everybody talks about it, right?

Remember, police officers that are going to wear these if they have a certain number of years on the job, on patrol, it's going to be a little different to them. I like the idea, I think it holds everybody accountable, and the public, the police officer as well.

The one thing I see is going to be a
Proceedings
challenge, is sometimes it's not going to provide enough information; whether it's to clear the officer or to find him guilty. The reason why is, it's going to have a single lane view. You won't be privy to everything around them. You may hear sound, right, I'm not fully aware of the cameras capacity of hearing the sound, but there maybe other things. And that's the case in every -- in all cases, right. There's always some other issues that maybe there, but I think it's something that's going to help the community.

I'm sorry if I was a little long winded, but thank you so much.

MS. ARCHER: Just very quickly, in response to two of your questions or at least the question, an issue that you raised.

In terms of civilian complaint CCRB activity, that is included when we receive a report for a specific complaint, that particular civilian's CCRB history is included. So, that information is provided.

And in terms of exonerations, we do have a category where we can exonerate officer'
of allegations against them. In August of 2017, at that point in the year, we had 19 percent of the cases that we did a full investigation were exonerated. And year to date, this year, 18 percent have been exonerated.

So, it is an option for members of the board, and something that they do utilize. But I appreciate you raising that issue, because it is important that we accurately access what's going on in those cases. And if the facts indicate it, there should be an exoneration.

Thank you.

MR. RILEY: Thank you.

MS. ARCHER: Does anyone else on the board have any questions?

Yes, Mr. Siegal.

MR. SIEGAL: Just a follow-up on that.

We get not only a report of prior CCRB complaints filed by that complainant, but we do also get a report of prior CCRB complaints filed against the officers involved in the case.

And I think anybody whose read the volume of cases that we all read regularly, would recognize that most police officers, particularly
if they've been on the job a number of years, have some CCRB complaints. And that most police officers most of the time, they're not substantiated complaints. And the existence of a complaint alone against a police officer, doesn't say anything other than the fact that they're on the job.

You have to analyze what those are, if there are trends, the same way you have to analyze for a complainant if there are trends, they make the same kinds of reports against the same officer or whatnot. So, we do see the full picture and it's important.

MS. ARCHER: Thank you.

MR. RILEY: Can I make one more comment? See, that's something that the public and the police need to know. So, that's something that can come out of a joint meeting, and just -- I think it will be great.

Thank you.

MS. ARCHER: Thank you.

Next I'm going to invite Sherise Lewis from NYCHA South Beach Houses.

MS. LEWIS: Good evening, thank you for
Proceedings

the time to speak.

As the Resident Leader for South Beach Houses for the last 17 years and one of NYCHA's youngest president's, I see the tremendous change in the police department. However, South Beach is one of the top development's in Staten Island. And as a president, we have an existent relationship with the police department, the 120, the 122, the 123, and the 121.

We have regular meetings with them, with our chair, and the president's within Staten Island, which is nine presidents. And we come together collectively to assure quality of life, like the NCO program. I think it's a tremendous program. I have a rapport with the two officer's, Siceliano and Terratto. I am on the 122 police task force with Chief Delatory.

Touching back on what this young man said about the education and knowing the police and understanding police. Y'all have a good program called The Police Citizens Academy, which all nine presidents became police citizens; you know, we did the training and we got to understand how they train the police officers,
and all aspects from undercover to the FBI; we understood how their way of thinking and how they interact with the community as a whole. And it's free. And I think that everyone should take it, to understand the relationship and what the police have to deal with on a day-to-day basis, whether they're good cops or they're bad cops.

My two NCO officer's, I have their number, I have their -- I call them constantly, they're on my speed dial. They come, they interact with the community, they let me know that they're there, they go to the community center, they interact with the children, they're at every meeting that I have, every event that I have. And it's just like from years ago when it was cops and kids.

We appreciate them, they handle our quality of life. The crime rate, which we don't really have a high crime rate in the South Beach Houses, but they're there. They make their presence known and we appreciate that. So, you know, on the South Beach side -- because I have a fellow president here from the Barry Houses as well -- we just, you know, we interact with the
police in a good level. You know, we call them constantly, you know, we speak and we try to come to resolutions on all aspects of Staten Island. I'm on the -- what's being considered the East side, the East Shore, as opposed to the North Shore. I've heard stories of the 120 and the constant complaints that they get from the CCRB. And I'm not really here to deliberate about that, because I don't live on that side. I know that the officer's that I deal with on a day-to-day basis, Captain Larsen and all the other team of the 120. As a president I'm well respected, and you know, they're always there for us. So, that's all I really have to say.

MS. ARCHER: Thank you.

Does anyone have questions for Ms. Lewis?

(No response.)

MS. ARCHER: Thank you for speaking with us.

Next I have Vincent Gregnoni from Council member Debbie Rose's office.

MR. GREGNONI: Just briefly, I know the
Proceedings

Councilwoman wants to thank you for coming to Staten Island.

Under your leadership, the CCRB has recognized the need to make this board more available to all New Yorker's, regardless of location, and your presence here is a reflection of that.

Another reflection of that commitment, is your presence every month in our district office. As Keith mentioned earlier, I believe it's the third Thursday of every month, you're present in our office from 4 to 7 p.m. So, I encourage everybody here in attendance, to pick up a flier, share with your friends. Just be sure to call our office before, if you intend to come and take advantage of that.

I would briefly add, that the Councilwoman is also a big fan of the NCO program. We see the NCO's, we work with them regularly. And Ms. Lewis's comments were an excellent illustration of that.

Finally, the Councilwoman believes that our common goal should be reaching a point where both residents of the City and NYPD see the
Proceedings

CCRB as an institution that benefits all. And when we reach that point, we've reached our goal.

Thank you.

MS. ARCHER: Thank you, and thank you for partnering with us to make it easier to engage with the community. We appreciate that.

MR. GREGNONI: We're very happy to make that resource available.

Thank you.

MS. ARCHER: Thank you.

And then I have Pat Russo from Cops and Kids.

MR. RUSSO: Madame Chair.

MS. ARCHER: Hello.

MR. RUSSO: I am a retired NYPD Sergeant. I also currently own a business in Flatbush, Brooklyn, called Geoff Toy's, and we deliver to all the schools in Staten Island, all the food. And I'll take credit for delivering it, but I don't cook it.

And probably my most important job and why I'm here, is I'm the Director of the Atlas Cops and Kid's Boxing Program. We have a program at 140 Park Hill Avenue, right here in the Park
Hill Houses. And we have a program in the Barry Houses.

Both programs are free for kids 12 to 21 years-old. They are run by coaches that we pay, and it's sponsored by the Atlas Foundation and the NYPD Boxing Program. Whenever you see cops boxing each other, all that money is going to the kids. So, that's cops fighting for kids.

And another reason why I agreed to come here and speak, is my son is an NYPD Cadet. And I'm nervous about him coming on the job in the current atmosphere. And I was an original CPOP cop in the 72 precinct. I think it's a wonderful program. And I think the redeployment of the NCO program, I think, is a fantastic idea.

And like Michael said, I think that if they're going to be effective, they need to have knowledge because knowledge is power, especially in a police officer's hand. A police officer needs to be able to go after the right people.

And I'll just go back to my experience as a CPOP officer. We were told go out, meet with the community, find out what the problems
Proceedings

were in that were facing that community. I was in Sunset Park, Brooklyn. The problems that were faced in that community were drugs, gangs. And what the parents told me when we met with them, because we were told, go to the community, meet with the them, find out what the problems were, work together, collaborate, solve their problems.

The problems in that community were there was no programs for the kids to get the kids off the street, a program that's going to attract the kids. And you know what, at the time I joined the NYPD boxing team, and I said "boxing is going to get to a kid that wanted to be a Latin King, that wanted to be a Blood, that wanted to be a Crip." And I said, "I fell in love with the sport and I think it would work."

We opened the gym in the precinct, and that was 30 years ago and we're still going strong today. We had a couple of kids from this school here, one was 2012, Olympian Marcus Brown. One kid just got a full ride to Dickerson College, $200,000, and he was also a Golden Glove champion. I have a letter that he wrote, that I left in the back. And everybody, please, pick it
Proceedings
up if you want some great reading, something
that's going to make you feel good and it's going
to bring a tear to your eye.

It's about a kid that came from this
school, came from nothing. His parents were
addicts, his brother was incarcerated numerous
times. He said that's not going to be me. He
made the choice in his life to go in the right
direction.

And that came from cops, cops putting
money together to open those programs. And I
think the community needs to know that, that the
cops are there for them. And there were bad
people in the community, but it's probably one
percent, like there are one percent bad cops in
the police department; which is why the CCRB is
necessary, which is why narcotics is necessary,
which is why internal affairs is necessary.

We need to go after the bad people and
we need -- we can't demonize cops because they're
effective. When cops are effective, bad guys
know how to get to those effective cops. They
know how to put civilian complaints in, because I
was victim of civilian complaints because in the
Proceedings

72 we were effective, we went after the right people, we worked our way up the chain ladders, we shutdown drug locations.

But they use that -- they use you as a tool sometimes, to try to get a cop off a beat and get a cop out of the system or have a cop transferred, and you need to be aware of that.

You need to also go after these people that put false civilian complaints, they need to be held accountable. If somebody puts a false civilian complaint in and it can be proven, there needs to be some kind of repercussions.

Thank you.

MS. ARCHER: Thank you.

And thank you, specifically, for the work that you're doing with the children in our community. We greatly appreciate --

MR. RUSSO: I also have applications, if you have kids that want to join the program, and the key word, it's is free. There's nothing free in this City.

MS. ARCHER: Thank you.

Does anyone else have any comments?

(No response.)
Proceedings

MS. ARCHER: Thank you very much for coming and for participating.

MR. RUSSO: Thank you.

MS. ARCHER: I want to acknowledge that we've joined by Adrian Kelton from the office of Public Advocate Leticia James. And we've also been joined by Jason Cohen, Assistant District Attorney from Richmond County DA's office.

In addition, we've had two board members join us.

If they could quickly introduce themselves.

MR. DAVIE: Hi, I'm Fred Davies.

MR. PUMA: Joseph Puma.

MS. ARCHER: Thank you.

So, now we're going to turn to public comments, for those of you who have signed up and want to say something to the board. If you haven't signed up, please feel free to talk, but I'm going to call from the list first.

MR. DARCHE: Madame Chair, can I --

MS. ARCHER: Yes.

MR. DARCHE: I just want to tell people that, we have two investigators here. If there
Proceedings

is anyone who has an issue, that they want to
file a complaint, they're in the back. Their
hands are up right there, Mack and Greg.

So, if anyone has a complaint that
they would just wish to file, they're in the
back.

Thank you.

MS. ARCHER: So, we have quite a few
people who have signed up to speak. And to make
sure that we get to as many people as possible,
I'm going to ask you to try to limit your remarks
to two minutes, if you can.

And first we have, Wayne McDoogal.

Good evening.

MR. MCDOOGAL: Good evening.

My name is Wayne McDoogal. I am
representing the Mount Sinai United Christian
Church. Our Senior Pastor is
Dr. Richard A. Brown couldn't be here today.

But I, you know, wear a lot of hats.
I'm the -- first of all I'm a Community Leader, a
Community Activist, a Community Organizer, and
I'm the Program Director for the Jersey City
Merchant's Association, which is a newly started
Proceedings

association in the Jersey City area for the merchants.

And I'm also a Community Partner and a Police Department Liaison. I was there in the beginning when the Community Partnership Program started in the 120 precinct. Prior to that, we really didn't have a relationship in our community with the police department. So, now we have that relationship.

So, one of the things I always try to be proactive. So, the things I'm out in the community all the time. I walk the streets, you know, my reputation in the community is, you know, is very well and impeccable in terms of having a relationship with the people on the streets, with the police department, the merchants and so on.

But the thing is I try to be proactive to try to prevent incidents. So, if there's officers who -- we have a lot of officers sometimes who'll come in different squads from different boroughs, that are not from Staten Island. They may come up into a barbershop or a business, and they may run up in there looking
Proceedings

for -- have you seen this guy, but they're going through, they're going in bathroom, they're opening up doors, they're not supposed to be doing that.

So, that's the kind of thing I don't want. I want community policing, but I don't want harassment. I don't want people -- you know, officers come in the community and, you know, just harassing people in the community. Everybody in the community is not a criminal, they're not there to commit crimes and so on or whatever.

So, I try to do community policing without some of the other stuff. So far we've been pretty successful. Our crime rate has came down in the New Brighton area, and our relationship with the police is very open. So, we can go -- I can go there if I have an issues in the community with the police, and prevent certain things for them, and they're very responsive to the things I have to say.

so, That's one of the things I really have to say. We don't really have an incident, so I'm really glad of that, and that's directly
Proceedings

responsible for the relationship that we now have with our precinct. So, that's all I want to say. Thank you so much.

MS. ARCHER: Thank you very much.

I have Louis Clinton, Sherise?

MS. LEWIS: I went.

MS. ARCHER: Oh, that was you, okay, great.

Pat Risso?

MR. EASON: He spoke.

MR. RUSSO: That was me.

MS. ARCHER: That was you, okay.

We had him.

Michael Howell?

(No response.)

MS. ARCHER: No.

Tristan Sharpe?

MR. SHARPE: Good evening.

THE BOARD: Good evening.

MS. ARCHER: Hello.

MR. SHARPE: As you're aware, my name is Tristan Sharpe. I'm actually a business owner that resides in Staten Island. The business is KTR Management., along with my fiancee, she has a
Proceedings

business as well, LaShon Cake Designs.

We are residents of this beautiful borough. We've been here for a long time. However, I seen one of the questions and it was regarding the body cameras for the officers. And I think that's something that is very important, in fact, maybe even imperative for them to actually have.

The only thing that I'm actually questioning, is the fact that they're able to turn it off and turn it on whenever they feel, they have that leisure. And I think that right there is something that's questionable, because if we were able to see what transpires, what happens from the second something happens to the actual ending, there would be no controversy. There would be anything -- no accusation of that nature. And I also think it would be good if the public had some type of access to it, to where they can actually see it and view it as well.

You know, I was actually talking to the president of my company where I work, I work on Wall Street. And we was conversing about this matter. I think a lot of times, the problem is
people stereotype too much. There's no -- not
every cop is a bad cop, understand. Not every
black guy is a thug or a gangster. Not every
Spanish guy or Mexican is illegal. You know, we
tend to look at people and automatically become
judgmental, which within us we have to fix first.

You know, these officers are coming
out here, they're putting their life on the line,
and they're doing what they have to do to protect
the community, which is something we do as well.

For instance, my business KTR and also
LaShon Cake Designs, we just had a school supply
giveaway for the community on Saturday. It
turned out beautiful, you know, the kids that
were in need they loved it, they needed it, cool.
However, when the officers showed up, it was a
problem. You know, they felt that seeing a bunch
of people together automatically it was a bad
thing, not realizing the 20 plus kids that were
there having fun, you know. So, sometimes we
have to change within ourselves in order to
change everything else.

But as far as the body cameras, I do
think it's important because then we can
visualize and actually see what's happening. From the time of a traffic stop to a point of arrest, whatever the case maybe. That way you can weed out all the racist comments, or all the bad cop comments, or you know, things of that nature.

You know, us as Staten Islander's, that's what I like to call them, we just want to protect the community. Also protect the ones that actually care about the community. A lot of things have happened, a lot of things shouldn't have happened, but at the end of the day we have to come together in order to prosper.

You know, KTR Management, we have an actual slogan that we say, if you win, I win, and then we'll win together. We can't win together if we're not working together. I think that's all I really have to say.

MS. ARCHER: Thank you.

MR. SHARPE: Thank you.

MS. ARCHER: You raised issues about body worn cameras, and we had another speaker raise issues about body worn cameras.

So, I think our Executive Director can
Procedures

speak a little bit about the NYPD's policy.

MR. DARCHE: So, one of the things about
the body worn camera program is, it is cause the
department is trying to balance people's privacy
concerns with the need of the community to have a
record of police/civilian interactions. So, the
department's policies is trying to balance those
two competing interests.

There are strict rules about when an
officer can and must turn on and must turn off
their camera. We've -- it's just the beginning
of the program. We've seen instances where we'll
get video from a situation and there might be
eight or nine officer's in a situation. And
you'll have one officer leave their camera on
during the whole time, and another officer is
turning their camera on and off, and one
officer's camera isn't working.

So, these are things that we're going
do monitor and we're going to watch as this
progresses and as it develops. And just to, you
know, now with memo books, officer's are -- we
know when officer's isn't using -- following the
proper procedure for keeping their memo book or
Proceedings

filing a stop and frisk form, we'll know if
someone isn't using their body worn camera
properly.

MR. SHARPE: Awesome, I mean, you raise a
good point. I mean privacy is very important,
you know.

But being a person from Staten Island
and actually seeing what has happened with NYPD.
There's plenty of time where, there'll be an
excuse for certain things and it really turns out
to be nothing and it's borderline harassment.

So, if like for instance the cops say
it's a stop sign the guy blew. Okay, cool, if
you go to pull him over, the camera's on, right.
That way, whatever's happening in transition
between the two, there's no foul play, the
cameras on. The officer can do whatever he has
to do, everybody's safe. But if there's a point
where he can just turn it off or her turn it off
or turn it on, then we'll never actually know
what truly happened or what was going on between
the officer and the civilian.

So, I think it's something that's good
for both sides. It's safety for them and safety
Procedures

for the community, for the civilians, because now we actually can see it, it's recorded, it's there, it's not hearsay, you know.

Plenty of times, like I said, there's plenty of times the officer's they'll pull up on the scene or whatever the case maybe. They see what's going on, but through past situations or just personal feelings, things happen. So, to be able to monitor and record the actual things that the officers is able to do would be great. It's just, I don't know if they should have the control of off and on, you know but.

Thank you.

MS. ARCHER: Thank you.

Does anyone else on the board have a question or a comment?

MR. SHARPE: I mean, be aware, this avoids police brutality, this avoids "oh, he had gun but it's really a phone," this avoids so much, you know. So, to be able to monitor and record would be great.

Thank you.

MS. ARCHER: Thank you.

Michelle Howell?
Proceedings

(No response.)

MS. ARCHER: Shanell Matthews?

MS. MATTHEWS: Hello, how are you doing?

My name is Shanell Matthews and I'm here because June the 30th my son passed away. He was shot and he was killed.

And the reason why I came here is because I wanted to speak out and I wanted to seek for help. Because I feel like, I've been living here for ten years and this is the first borough that I ever lived in that I feel that there is no help with the community, not only the community but with the police.

And I've been going to them asking them for help numerous times, and I have not gotten any support at all. So, that's why I'm here, to get the support that I need and the justice that I need, the real justice that I need for my son. Because I feel like I'm not.

MS. ARCHER: Thank you.

We're very sorry to hear about your loss. If we can help you, we certainly want to be able to help you. We have some investigators in the back -- just raise your hand -- so if you
Proceedings

can stop over there and speak with them, and they
can be the first stop to see if there's something
that we can do to help you.

    MS. MATTHEWS: Okay, thank you.
    MS. ARCHER: Okay, thank you.

Lenora Matthews?

    MS. MATTHEWS: She's with me.
    MS. ARCHER: Okay.

Imam Abdul Shareef?

    MR. SHAREEF: Good evening.
    THE BOARD: Good evening.
    MR. SHAREEF: First and foremost, I'd
like to express appreciation for being able to be
here.

    MR. DARCHE: Imam, sir, can you pick up
the -- thank you.

    MR. SHAREEF: Express appreciation for
being able to be here.

    I'll try to keep it brief. I'm not a
Staten Islander, and most people that I know that
roll up their sleeves and put in the work on
Staten Island, come from the other five boroughs
or New Jersey.

    I believe that there is a disconnect,
Proceedings

that was stated earlier. When I first came and I looked at the audience, and I saw that there is a disproportionate cultural representation. Now the board, you can't bring everybody in, I guess that's partially my job, our jobs, organizations. But these same youth and people that are targeted are not here to listen to it. I think that's very important.

We have a saying in my organization, which is Betajumi House of Community, if the people can't come to you, you go to the people. In my opinion, this is the same song. We get new representations, we hold them accountable, let's hold them accountable, political, et cetera. But it's the same thing over again.

I too lost a son, shot in the back, 2000. But hey, it's the nature of the beast. The people that should be here, I'm praying that maybe one day, one day this council can engage them as well, will be here.

It's very -- I mean, the police department, we work well with the 120, the 122, the 123, the 345 and 567, we work good with them. But that's not the issue, that's not the problem.
Proceedings

In my opinion, the problem is the officers or the police that are racist. Now, sometimes it might not be race, it might just be one person don't like another person. But they just happen to be from two different tribes, because it's only one race, the human race.

But there is a prejudice that permeates throughout our community. And the officer's some of them that are not trained, it's a occupation so the trust is not there with the common folk. My son, my grandson, there's a trust that must be developed. It's a good thing to have the community officers -- I mean, if somebody is coming through your window, who are you going to call, you're going to call the police. And we look to be protected by our law enforcement.

I believe that this board has the greatest of intentions, the best of intentions, and I commend you for it. I also believe that everyone here is interested into bettering our community. As in South Beach Community Center, our organization went there and had a -- Sherise is very commendable.
Proceedings

But we need to come together, I think that's one of the things, God consciousness -- I'm going to tell you about God, right. Because we have to have something that's greater than ourselves. With everything that's going on the Florida and the hurricanes and all the things. People having loved ones in the south and Puerto Rico, there's a lot of things. God is talking, are we listening?

We need to have representation, we need to have a communication between not just the police force and the community people, but the organizations. We need to address the racism, we need to address that, because until we do, we'll have Eric Garner's murderers saying "oh well, you did not substantiate it." We'll have people, police doing things, where other officers who are not like that hands are tied. Because if they report it, then they'll know, they'll get on the blacklist.

So, the police have to police each other. See something, say something, yes. If my partner's doing something that I know it's not within his job description or her job
description, it's my duty to say something, if not do something, because everyone has a command. And I pray everyday that our officer's that are serving our community have safe tours, go home safely, because they're human beings and they want to get back to their families and do their job just like anybody else. But I also pray that my child doesn't get shot in the back because he's misinterpreted, or his movements are misinterpreted. And I pray that he doesn't do anything in order warrant a confrontation.

I do believe that the police cameras, I think that was a good idea to it's developmental. And I believe that it's good that if the officer have a little less control of the rules and regulations, are a little less stringent to where the officer's can cut it off at random or if it fits a certain criteria.

I want to just leave with this part, because I don't want to be too loquacious. I was asked one day, what is greatest room that you can think of? It was raining that day and I was going to the store for something or another. And it took me a minute, and he says I'm not going to
Proceedings
tax you. The greatest room that you can think
of, is the room for improvement.

Thank you.

MS. ARCHER: Thank you very much for your
comments.

Next, I apologize if I mispronounce
this last name, Jennifer Gray Brumskein?

MS. BRUMSKEIN: Good evening, everyone.

THE BOARD: Good evening.

MS. BRUMSKEIN: My name is
Jennifer Gray Brumskein. I'm an African,
originally from Liberia.

We are the largest African community
on Staten Island, and the second to the largest
African community in New York City next to the
Bronx. We are the new emerging community in
New York City, the second largest immigrant
population in the City, and the most educated
immigrant in the United States today, African
immigrants.

We bring with us our culture and our
way of life. And we look forward to intertwine
our culture with the culture on Staten Island,
Brooklyn, Bronx, Manhattan, and Long Island.
Proceedings

In order for us to do that, we all need to adapt, including the Civilian Complaint Review Board, the police, the DA's office and the justice system. So, if we can do that, then we will make progress.

My concern as an immigrant looking from outside, based on my past experiences on Staten Island and New York City. Since I arrived, I have spent most of my adult life in the City. And I have observed sometimes from an emotional perspective, and sometimes from a critical perspective. So, what I will be speaking on today will be both emotional and both critical. So -- and also, I will be speaking on based on my past experiences as an African immigrant.

I was contacted by the Civilian Complaint Review Board, and I say I was going to be here. So, I kept my word, I'm here, and I said I was going to talk.

We cannot continue to do things the same old way and we expect change. As human being, we go through different stages of our lives. After every ten, 20 years as human
beings, we change and we adapt. There's no reason why New York City cannot change and adapt, in terms of the racial disparity.

In order for us to do that, we have to approach it, not by town hall meeting, we have to approach it through dialogues. We have to listen to one another, listen to what we agree on, what we disagree on, and cross out. Look at the complex brain that make all the analysis. The complex brain has been pushing things forward to us in our community. Now, it's time for us to be more inclusive, take the simple brain, take the complex brain, and we engage this problem.

We have a problem with racial disparity. I'm not going to say racism, because you're so used to hearing it, that people get emotional, and it's so sensitive, that no one wants to take about it. The issue we have in this City is the racial disparity on so many different levels. Don't just look at the police, it comes from the different agencies, from all the way Washington, DC.

So, if we're going to approach policing in our community, we also need to look
Proceedings

at the Justice Department, look at the Board of Education, look at all the different agencies, so that we can tackle this problem. And we need to have a dialogue, not complaints.

I told the people from the Complaint Review Board, I don't want to approach this as a complaint. Let's look at it from a holistic perspective. What has worked in the past, why it's not working?

In order for us to look forward, we as people, leaders, policymakers, youth, our kids, the parents, we need to change our behavior as human beings. We have to be more human to one another. The police need to change their behavior towards the community of color.

You can put all the ideas together, you can bring all the data in front of me today. From my experience on Park Hill, it has more to do with policing my community, engaging me, and being more sensitive to my culture, my way of life. That's the only way we're going to solve the problem, okay.

There's an issue that's going on, we have all the complaints. Secondly, you're going
Proceedings

to take all this complaints, you don't have the power to prosecute, you're going to give it to the commissioner, who's going to make a decision.

So, it's just a waste of our time.

Let's look at how you're engaging us, how you're going to do outreach, and how we can find a solution. It's not going to happen overnight. If you have to engage it, it has to be a process from today, to three months, this is what we're going to do. And as we move along, we look at what is working and what is not working.

So, I'm here today to talk about policing in my community. We're going to work with the 120. Secondly, don't send the bad cops that have ethical problems, that have disciplinary problems to the 120. I was looking at the statistics from 2014, you took all the bad cops from all the different boroughs and send them here.

Just like you have a job, you have what they call a formal review. The Civilian Complaint Review Board should have a preliminary review system for those police are policing the different communities. Make comparative
Proceedings

analysis. How the police that's policing the people in Titonville compared to the police policing the police -- the community on Park Hill. You will see.

Yesterday there was a incident that happened. I was shocked to see the white kids sitting all on the police car from the 121 and all of them were smoking, having nice conversation. I'm like I sit there for three hours watching the police. I said, "oh, wow, they have a human side." I would love to see this human side on Park Hill, and it will happen.

But if you're willing to be truthful to yourself and truthful to the issue that is at hand. Stop putting cosmetic solutions to the issue. I'm a woman, if I want to look good, I put my makeup on, it look so nice. I didn't wear no makeup today. But if I were to wear my makeup and you see me I look so different. Stop putting cosmetic solutions to the racial disparity in this City. Let's confront it, let's be truthful to ourselves, let's be honest and we all, we all -- if the child in Titonville has an issue with drugs, there's no reason why that child
issue with drugs become a social and psychological problem compared to the child on Park Hill having an issue with opium. What's the difference in opium and pills, that's the same drugs.

When you start classifying the different kinds of criminal's activities based on racial division, we will never have the solution to the problem. The Civilian Complaint Review Board would not be effective to the cops, they would not be effective to the community of color, and they would not be effective to the City.

Before I sit down, I will give you an example. We had a crisis in the City, it could have locked this whole City down. But the Commissioner of Health, you know what she did, she said "look, I'm going to approach it from a practical perspective," when we met with her. She knew Ebola crisis, I don't know if you all heard the Ebola crisis. You know what the Commissioner of Health did, she came and sat with the African community. She didn't come and force things down our throat. We told her "no, you deal with the most educated immigrant population
Proceedings

in the United States of America. The highest rate of high school graduate, the highest level of ivy graduates from Ivy Leagues. So, when you coming to us, come with your research. Don't approach us like we can't read, we have complex brains among us. We can make complex analysis. We can look at the data.

You think I didn't look at the data when I was coming here today? I looked at the data from the 120 and it's a mess. Take all the bad cops and throw it to us, you don't discipline them, nothing. Then you say "oh, I'm going to give them a two day or take a few days from their leave," no.

Let us look at what the Health Department did, and they did an excellent job when we were in a state of crisis in the City. The Health Department reached out to the African community in the Bronx, in Staten Island. She sent her people, we sat down, we had a dialogue. CDC, CDC sat with the Africans. We had a dialogue and we put a road map together on how to deal with the crisis in New York City.

Today, New York City road map that
they put together is being used by other agencies, Homeland Security is using it. It was just this single lady, because she was so inclusive in tackling the Ebola crisis in New York City. We were able to calm the situation down.

The issue is with the police and race. The only way we're going tackle it, we must first of all identify the solution; not from a racial perspective, but from the actual issue. What is the issue, one of the main issue is the police must change their behavior. The command comes from the Commissioner, to the Borough Commander, to the Inspector of the precinct, and down to the patrol man on the street, they're in uniform.

The sole purpose of the police is to protect and serve the community. We got to come up with a guideline. What is a priority to us, one, two, three, four, five, six. That would be a recommendation to the police department. But you're not going to do it by yourself. You're going to have the commissioner sitting there, say these are the problems. Let's prioritize it, how can we address this racial issue and be more
Proceedings inclusive. And I think if you do that, or sit with the -- involve the commissioner of the Health Department in it. She has a solution, grassroots.

Don't send it out. Grassroots means, take the drug dealer from the street, take the -- open -- the weed smoker, the teenager that smoke the weed, take the child from Titonville that is on drugs, opium overdose. Bring every fiber of your community to the table to have a solution.

Trust me, if you do that within the next six months, New York City, what you put together to address the racial disparity in New York City. It won't only be used in New York City, in the State of New York. It will be used as a pilot project in every other society, big metropolitan City, we have the solution to the problems that are happening in the inner City with the police. Don't do it, another 50 years, we'll still be talking about racial disparity.

Before I take my seat, as always, even though we have all the racial issues here, but Staten Island is a place. If you look at the
Proceedings

2010 census, we have more increase in different immigrant communities than any other City, any other borough in the City. The demographic, we have the largest increase in population as of 2010. So, you have people from all walks of life.

I don't know if anyone of you, I'm inviting everyone of you on the Civilian Complaint Review Board to take the Staten Island Ferry. You want to see the melting pot in New York City, ride the ferry. I don't know how many of you rode the ferry to come here, but please ride the ferry before the holiday. You will see, Staten Island is a place where any pilot project you put in place addressing racial issue, it will come to focus.

We had a meeting, I must also give the 120 credit. Because we had a meeting last week. They're going to meet with us, but when they meet with us we're going to give them a demand. And when I leave, a copy of that demand from the African community to have, we start with the Department of Health. But that demand will be inclusive of the community of color, not just the
Proceedings

African. But the racial issue is not just an African, we just coming. It's been here 100 of years.

But we have to find a solution, because we continue to address this racial issue the same way we addressing the issue in the 60's and the 70's. We in 2017, the way we do things has changed. We as policymakers of New York City, we need to change the way we solve problems.

MS. ARCHER: Thank you very much, we appreciate your comments.

MS. RUMSTEIN: I have more time or I have to take my seat?

MS. ARCHER: Well, we're asking people to try to limit it two minutes.

MS. RUMSTEIN: Okay, I will limit it now to two minutes.

MS. ARCHER: No, I would think you've already used your two minutes.

MS. BRUMSKEIN: Okay.

MS. ARCHER: Thank you though.

Next we have Laura Cavaliere.

MS. CAVALIERE: Good evening, I'm
Proceedings

Laura Cavaliere. This place brings back memories as PTA president, 2014.

Okay, I am Laura Cavaliere. I am dyslexic. I share dyslexia awareness. I know the great hardship of dyslexics dropping out, GED, all right. Most dyslexics, do drop out of school. So, what is the situation that happens to us after school, is probably a life of crime.

Chuck Close, international dyslexic artist and film said, "that if it wasn't for art, I would have never made it to Yale, but I would have went to jail." And many of the dyslexics say that.

Joanne Simon, senator -- assemblywoman Joanne Simon was just quoted in the Daily News, I believe, September 6th or the 7th. We have now a bill or a law up in New York State saying to make all schools dyslexic friendly, so that dyslexic's aren't dropping out and becoming a crime statistic.

If I have anybody helping dyslexics from the criminal source, know that there's many of them on Rikers and in prisons. We have that statistic. We built prisons based on third grade
Proceedings

reading levels.

So, just be aware that this bill is out there. It's great news. Tell the dyslexics, "don't drop out," we don't need them to be in other services that the City has to provide, like criminal systems and homeless shelters, and you can name it.

So, again, keep the dyslexics in school. Just happening now, the bill has just been signed, and the schools should be on board. Communities should get together and start helping making things dyslexic friendly.

Thank you.

MS. ARCHER: Thank you for sharing that. So, I don't have anyone else who has signed up to speak, is that correct?

One more?

Please, just a friendly reminder that we're asking everyone to keep it to two minutes, if possible.

MR. JOHNSON: Yes, I'll try.

Simeon Johnson.

Jennifer, whom you just heard is a public relations officer in the African community
Proceedings of Staten Island here. And it is not all bad news, I've been living in Staten Island for a long time. But most of the Staten Islanders know this neighborhood.

Since '91, you know, some of the challenges we're facing here had to deal with drugs, prostitution, and gangs. But we want to thank -- and the African community, as you know, has been working with the 120 precinct for quite a while with different groups, okay.

And the NYPD did step up, okay, and help with the issue of prostitution. You know how this neighborhood used to be, there's a few who live here, how it used to be. They did help. But the issue for all of us here had to deal with and still has to deal with trust, which I believe Imams and others have emphasized and brought alone.

And that is a common theme in our community and in the African community. The issue of trust, the issue of prejudice, and there is a loud cry -- we love the NYPD, we need them, they have helped us, we want to walk in partnership with them, you know, with all the
Proceedings

issues and concerns in the neighborhood.

And a particular incident, Jennifer and myself, we're attending a meeting at the YMCA at one point a couple of months ago. And then a young cop, a rookie cop just pulled us over.

I am an episcopal priest, I am in the diocese of New York, for those of you who might have wondered why I wear this, I'm an episcopal priest, I should have said that earlier on. I've sat in on the ten churches here on Staten Island, and I'm familiar to some of you or not.

But Jennifer and I, we attend the meeting a couple of months ago. And then that area is noted for drugs and what not. So, as soon as I park my car, this young gentleman came over and said, "out of your car." I said, "what is it, did we do anything, officer?" I was very courteous to him.

He said, "well, you beat the red light -- Jennifer, do you remember that incident? He said, "well, you beat the red light." And it wasn't true. But I had to let him know that I'm a priest, I'm an episcopal priest. He said, "oh, Father, I'm sorry."
Proceedings

You see, what that does is betray the trust and responsibility that we have in our community. And people are afraid to reach out. The relationship has improved to the past 25 years or more. It's improved greatly, but we want some more of that to take place. So, at some point we'll elaborate more on that.

I didn't want to talk, I wanted to let Jennifer go. You know Jennifer, by now. But I'm going to stop here.

The issue of trust, the issue of prejudice, and cultural. Somebody mentioned about the cultural understanding in the community. That goes a long way to help understand each other.

Thank you for this meeting to understand ourselves better.

MS. ARCHER: Thank you so much.

We have no further public comments.

We do need to conduct a little piece of business before we adjourn to Executive Session, and that is to adopt our minutes from our last minute.

Do I have a motion to adopt the
Proceedings

minutes?

MR. EASON: So moved.

MS. ARCHER: Second?

MR. CARCATERRA: Second.

MS. ARCHER: All in favor?

(Chorus of ayes.)

MS. ARCHER: Any opposed?

(No response.)

MS. ARCHER: With that, can I have a motion to adjourn to Executive Session?

MR. CARCATERRA: So moved.

MS. ARCHER: Second?

MR. DWYER: Second.

MS. ARCHER: All in favor?

(Chorus of ayes.)

MS. ARCHER: Before we leave, I just want to again thank you all for coming out, and letting your voice be heard, and contributing to this meeting.

We really appreciate you taking your time to let us know what's going on in the community.

(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter concluded at 8 p.m.)
CERTIFICATE

STATE OF NEW YORK )
     ) ss.:
COUNTY OF RICHMOND )

     I, BONITA RICHARDS, a Notary Public within and for the State of New York, do hereby certify:

     I reported the proceedings in the within-entitled matter, and that within transcript is a true and record of such proceedings to the best of my ability.

     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 3rd of October 2017.

Bonita Richards
BONITA RICHARDS
Thursday (2) 11:19 33:12
tied (1) 54:19
time (13) 29:4 30:2 36:12 41:13
44:4 46:3 47:17 48:10 58:12 60:5
67:14 70:4 73:22
times (5) 37:8 44:25 49:5 6 50:16
Tiftonville (3) 61:3,24 65:9
today (10) 36:20 40:20 56:20 57:14
59:18 60:10,13 61:19 63:10,25
told (5) 35:24 36:5,6 59:6 62:24
tool (1) 38:6
top (4) 12:18 15:3 16:10 30:7
total (1) 12:14
touch (6) 16:8 22:7,7,11 25:21
26:14
Touching (1) 30:19
tours (1) 55:5
town (1) 58:6
Toy's (1) 34:18
track (1) 23:5
traffic (2) 18:14 46:3
train (1) 30:25
trained (1) 53:10
training (4) 26:7,8,8 30:24
transcript (2) 1:9 74:10
transferred (1) 38:8
transition (1) 48:16
translation (1) 5:12
transpires (1) 44:15
travel (1) 15:21
tremendous (3) 24:19 30:5,15
trends (2) 29:10,11
tribes (1) 53:6
tried (1) 23:21
Tristan (2) 43:18,23
trouble (1) 15:15
true (5) 12:25 14:9 19:11 71:23
74:11
truly (2) 23:2 48:22
truncation (8) 15:11,12,17,18,22
16:10,13,14
truncations (3) 15:14 16:2,5
trust (9) 24:10,14 53:11,13 65:12
70:17,22 72:3,12
truthful (3) 61:14,15,22
try (11) 20:16 32:3 38:6 40:12
41:11,19,20 42:14 51:20 67:17
69:22
trying (3) 24:2 47:5,8
Tubbs (2) 8:22,22
turn (10) 8:4 17:9 39:17 44:12,12
47:11,11 48:20,20,21
turned (1) 45:15
turning (1) 47:18
turns (1) 48:11
two (18) 24:4 25:8 26:9 27:17
67:21 69:20
type (8) 9:17 18:18 19:15,18,20,23
20:13 44:20
types (1) 9:18
U
undercover (1) 31:2
understand (7) 6:15 19:4 30:25
31:6 45:3 72:16,18
understanding (4) 6:3,4 30:21
72:14
understood (1) 31:3
undocumented (1) 17:24
unfounded (1) 18:10
uniform (1) 64:16
unique (2) 6:2 21:18
unit (7) 9:10 14:21 11:2,21,12 12:8
26:8
United (4) 7:8 40:18 56:20 63:2
unproven (1) 23:18
unsubstantiated (3) 23:16,17 24:8
use (9) 9:19,25 10:2,10,11,17 23:5
38:5,5
usually (1) 19:2
utilize (2) 5:13 28:8
V
Vargas (5) 7:12 17:14,16,18 21:10
vehicles (2) 10:6,7
venue (1) 20:18
verify (1) 14:17
victim (2) 9:14 37:25
victims (4) 14:15,19,22 15:6
video (1) 47:14
view (2) 27:5 44:21
Vincent (2) 6:24 32:23
violation (1) 20:20
visualize (1) 46:2
Viverito's (1) 17:6
voice (1) 73:19
volume (1) 28:24
V
walk (2) 41:13 70:24
walks (1) 66:6
Wall (1) 44:24
want (34) 4:9 5:13 6:18 12:11
42:7,8,8 43:3 46:9 50:23 55:7,20
72:7,9 73:17
wanted (7) 8:11 36:14,15,16 50:9,9
72:9
wants (3) 16:4 33:2 58:19
warrant (1) 55:12
Warren (1) 1:7
Washington (1) 58:23
wasn't (2) 68:11 71:23
waste (1) 60:5
watch (1) 47:21
watching (1) 61:11
way (18) 13:11 19:13 29:10 31:3
38:3 46:4 48:16 56:23 57:23
58:23 59:21,22 64:9 67:7,8,10
72:15 74:15
Wayne (2) 40:14,17
we'll (11) 4:11 8:2,10 46:17 47:13
48:2,21 54:15,17 65:21 72:8
we're (28) 5:18,21,22,25 7:23,25
8:20 12:7 17:9,13 19:12 34:8
36:19 39:17 46:18 47:20,21
50:22 58:24 59:22 60:10,14 64:9
we've (10) 6:10 19:16 34:3 39:6,7
39:10 42:15 44:4 47:12,13
weapons (1) 9:25
wear (5) 26:20 40:21 61:18,19 71:9
wearing (1) 26:16
website (2) 10:24 11:13
weed (3) 46:5 65:8,9
week (1) 66:19
went (5) 24:5 38:2 43:7 53:24
68:13
whatever's (1) 48:16
whatnot (1) 29:13
wheel (1) 24:21
WHEREOF (1) 74:17
white (1) 61:7
who've (1) 17:11
wide (1) 20:3
willing (1) 61:14
win (4) 46:16,16,17,17
winded (1) 27:15
window (1) 53:15
wish (1) 40:6
within-entitled (1) 74:10
WITNESS (1) 74:17
woman (1) 61:17
wondered (1) 71:9
wonderful (1) 35:16
word (3) 19:6 38:21 57:20
work (14) 6:17 17:20 20:24 21:6
33:20 36:8,17 38:17 44:23,23
51:22 52:23,24 60:14
worked (2) 38:3 59:9
worker (2) 19:10,14
working (7) 19:13 46:18 47:19
59:10 60:12,12 70:10
works (1) 20:25
worn (4) 46:23,24 47:4 48:3
wow (1) 61:11
wrote (1) 36:24