

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB)

**From:** Policy

**Date:** July 6, 2022

**Re:** Changing CCRB's Rules to Include Clearer Language for Case Dispositions

---

The New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board (“CCRB” or “the Board”) investigates complaints of excessive force, abuse of authority, discourtesy, and offensive language (“FADO”) against civilians, as well as the truthfulness of statements made by members of the New York City Police Department (“NYPD”) to CCRB during CCRB’s investigation of complaints.<sup>1</sup>

The Board reaches a conclusion in all cases, known as case dispositions. The CCRB’s Proposed Rules include new terms to describe certain case dispositions that will be easier for the public to understand.

### *Proposed Changes to CCRB’s Case Dispositions*

The categories of case dispositions for CCRB cases are found in Rule 1-33(e). The proposed changes to certain of those case dispositions categories are as follows:

**Unable to Determine** is the new term for unsubstantiated cases where there was insufficient evidence to establish whether or not there was an act of misconduct.

**Within NYPD Guidelines** is the new term for exonerated cases where there was a preponderance of the evidence that the acts alleged occurred but did not constitute misconduct.

**Unable to Investigate** is the new term for cases that fall into the following categories:

- **Complainant Unavailable:** the Complainant could not be reached or located, or
- **Alleged Victim Unavailable:** the Alleged Victim could not be reached or located,
- **Complainant Uncooperative:** the participation of the Complainant was insufficient to enable the Board to conduct a full investigation,
- **Alleged Victim Uncooperative:** the participation of the Alleged Victim was insufficient to enable the Board to conduct a full investigation,
- **Alleged Victim Unidentified:** the Board could not identify the Alleged Victim and therefore was unable to conduct a full investigation.

If approved, these proposed case disposition terms would be used in all reports, communications, and data issued by the CCRB. The CCRB has already implemented these changes in communications with civilians and the public and has received positive feedback that the new terms provide better understanding of the outcomes of CCRB cases. The proposed changes will allow the CCRB to use plain language in all its external facing communications, which will improve transparency and better serve New Yorkers.

---

<sup>1</sup> NYC Charter §§ 440(c)(1); 441(b)(1).