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NEWS

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CCRB RELEASES 2010 YEAR-END 12 MONTH COMPLAINT AND PRODUCTIVITY NUMBERS

The CCRB today released 12-month, year end numbers on complaint levels and agency productivity, which showed a 15% drop in police misconduct complaints from 2009 to 2010. Civilians filed 6,476 complaints in 2010, compared to 7,660 in 2009. This is the smallest annual number of complaints filed since 2004 when there were 6,196 complaints filed.

The CCRB also receives civilian complaints about police integrity and performance that fall outside its jurisdiction and are generally referred to the NYPD's Internal Affairs Bureau or the Office of the Chief of Department. In 2010 the CCRB received 10,548 such complaints, compared to 11,431 in 2009, an 8% decline.

The Board closed 7,041 cases in 2010, a 13% drop from the 8,089 cases it closed in 2009. At year's end 2010, thirty-seven percent of the agency's open docket was pending Board review, while in 2009 it was thirty-four percent. The declines stem in part from three vacancies on the 13 member Board.

Of the 7,041 complaints closed in 2010, 2,242 were full investigations. Of these, 260 cases had one or more allegations "substantiated" by the Board, a substantiation rate of 10.7%.

Complaints substantiated by the CCRB are referred to the Police Department for discipline. In 2010, the Department closed a total of 275 misconduct cases previously referred. The Department declined to prosecute 48 cases, which is a declination rate of 17.5% for the year. The declination rate in the prior three years was an average of 30%.

In 2010, the average time to complete an investigation in which allegations were substantiated dropped from 373 days in 2009 to 357 days, a 14% decrease. This was an important change that led to a drop in the age of substantiated cases that were referred to the Police Department for discipline. In 2010, the CCRB referred 45 substantiated cases that were 15 months or older or 17% of the total. In 2009, 71 substantiated cases or 36% of the total, were 15 months or older when they were sent to the Department. Under New York State Civil Service Law, the Police Department has an eighteen month statute of limitations in which to initiate discipline for misconduct substantiated by the CCRB. In 2010 only 3 cases 18 months or older were sent to the Department. In 2009 there were 11 such cases.

The number of mediated misconduct complaints rose 33%, from 118 in 2009 to 157. Civilians accepted mediation of their complaints at a growing rate – 50% in 2008, 53% in 2009 and 56% in 2010. The rate at which police officers agreed to mediation continued to rise, from 68% in 2008, to 74% in 2009, to 82 % in 2010.

In December 2009, the CCRB had 123 investigators (including supervisory and managerial staff), compared to 109 at the end of December 2010. Despite that, investigators reduced their docket by 520 cases or 26 percent and closed cases 18% faster. As a result, the number of cases pending investigation, thirteen months or older, measured from date of report, was just one percent of the investigative docket. ###