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NYC CIVILIAN COMPLAINT REVIEW BOARD ANNOUNCES HIGHEST SUBSTANTIATION RATE IN AGENCY HISTORY FOR MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, WITH VIDEO EVIDENCE DRIVING THE NUMBERS. BOARD WILL VOTE ON TWO RESOLUTIONS TO MAKE MORE NYPD VIDEO AVAILABLE FOR ITS INVESTIGATIONS

The NYC Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) announced today the highest substantiation rate in the history of the Agency – 29% of cases that were fully investigated in September. A substantiation means the Board found that an officer committed misconduct by a preponderance of the evidence.

The finding is part of the CCRB’s monthly statistical report, posted online in advance of Wednesday evening’s public Board meeting. September was the sixth month in a row that the CCRB substantiated more than 20% of cases it fully investigated. The rate was 22% in April, 23% in May, 26% in June, 27% in July and 23% in August. In 2014, the substantiation rate was 17%, up from 14% in 2013, 15% in 2012 and 8% in 2011.

Figure 1: Substantiation Rate (January 2015 - September 2015) %

According to Executive Director Mina Malik, “We live in an age where video evidence is obtained through various surveillance sources and bystanders who record police-civilian encounters. The availability of video evidence is key in some cases and is driving the current
increase in substantiations. This evidence has proven to be extremely useful in resolving cases for both officers and civilians alike.”

The data for September show that the Board substantiated 51% of cases where there was video evidence, compared to 22% of cases where there was none.

**Figure 2: Percentage of Substantiated Cases With and Without Video (January 2015 - September 2015) %**

![Figure 2: Percentage of Substantiated Cases With and Without Video (January 2015 - September 2015) %](chart.png)

Board Chair Richard Emery has proposed two resolutions that call for changes in NYPD practices to increase the video evidence that could be utilized in CCRB investigations. The resolutions will be voted on by the full Board at tonight’s monthly public Board meeting.

One resolution calls for a body-worn camera on every officer involved in a home entry, whether pursuant to a search warrant or not. In 2014, in fully investigated cases, 23% of allegations (113) of an improper premise entry and/or search were unsubstantiated. This means there wasn’t enough corroborated or independent evidence to determine if an officer’s actions were improper. Fifteen percent (15%) of allegations were substantiated and in 54%, the officer was exonerated. From January through July 2015, 23% of such complaints (84) were unsubstantiated. Video would assist the Board in making findings on the merits, whether it is to substantiate misconduct or exonerate the officers.

“Home entries are probably the most invasive police action short of a strip search. Complaints are inevitable. It serves both the police and civilians to have them documented so accusations can be fairly resolved,” said Richard Emery, Board Chair.

The second resolution proposed by the Chair, calls for the NYPD to install surveillance cameras in police station houses, public housing PSAs and Transit Districts and other NYPD locations where people may go to file crime or misconduct complaints or where arrestees are taken. Year-to-date 2015, there were 279 complaints stemming from incidents that occurred on police premises, or 8% of complaints received by the CCRB.
The full monthly statistical report and the Board resolutions, which the Board will consider at tonight’s monthly public meeting, are available on the CCRB’s website: http://www.nyc.gov/html/ccrb/html/news/news_landing.shtml

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