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**THE CIVILIAN COMPLAINT REVIEW BOARD RELEASES ITS 2015 ANNUAL REPORT**

***Findings Include an Increase in the Number of Substantiated Cases, a Reduction in the Number of Complaints, and More Effective and Efficient Investigations***

Today, the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) released its Annual Report for 2015. The report shows several key trends: (1) a continuing decline in complaints of police misconduct; (2) an increase in video evidence; (3) a rise in the number of substantiated cases; (4) an increase in the number of trials; (5) improved cooperation with the Police Department; and (6) positive results in overall Agency productivity due to reforms over the past year.

The report describes the impact that the major improvements in the Agency's Investigations Division, Policy Unit, Administrative Prosecution Unit, and Outreach Unit have had in 2015.

"Improving trust between the New York Police Department and the communities it serves is critical both to improving public safety and building a more just and equitable City," said Acting Chair, Deborah Archer. "This Annual Report of the CCRB highlights the significant progress we have made over the past year, including many of the changes we have made to make the CCRB more efficient and effective. In its 23rd year of existence, I can say with confidence and pride that the Agency has gone a long way toward strengthening its oversight process to ensure that it is fair both to civilian complainants and the officers of the New York City Police Department."

In 2015, civilians filed 4,460 complaints, the lowest number since 2001. This is a 7% decrease from complaints received in 2014, and a 31% decrease from those received in 2010. Last year marked the highest substantiation rate in the CCRB's 23-year history. The complaint substantiation rate has steadily increased from 14% in 2012, 15% in 2013, and 17% in 2014 to 24% in 2015. In 2015, the Board substantiated 528 complaints against 790 police officers, as compared to 313 complaints against 467 officers in 2014.

The rise in the number of substantiations is mainly due to faster investigations and the impact of increasing video evidence. In 2015, the CCRB closed 635 complaints containing video evidence, compared to 279 in 2014, and 259 in 2013. Video evidence has resulted in a higher rate of substantiations as well as exonerations. In 2015, 24% of allegations with video were exonerated, versus 22% of allegations without video evidence. In 2015, 23% of allegations with video were substantiated, versus 11% of allegations without video evidence.

“The CCRB continues to make major strides to ensure that police misconduct complaints are handled with the utmost professionalism and integrity,” said Executive Director Mina Malik. “Our 2015 Annual Report provides a snapshot of the Agency’s transformative work in the areas of investigations, prosecution, data analysis, and outreach. This past year marked the highest substantiation rate in the CCRB’s 23-year history, which is largely due to faster, improved investigations and the increased use of video evidence. The Agency’s vast improvements across the board are in line with our commitment to transparency, quality, and an effective process for the benefit of civilians and police officers alike.”

In 2015, the Police Department reported its final disciplinary decisions for 440 subject officers, comprising both cases that were prosecuted by the Administrative Prosecution Unit (APU) and cases that were handled by the Department Advocate’s Office (DAO). The Police Department imposed some form of discipline in 350 cases, resulting in an 80% disciplinary action rate (for both DAO and APU cases). The DAO disciplinary action rate was 92% in 2015, compared to 70% in 2014.

The Administrative Prosecution Unit (APU) conducted more trials and closed more cases than in any other year of its existence. The APU closed 186 cases in 2015, compared to 112 in 2014 (a 66% increase), and completed trials against 130 officers in 2015, compared to trials against 82 officers in 2014 (a 59% increase). The APU’s discipline rate for 2015 was 61%.

The Annual Report also continues the discussion on the following three trends:

#### **False Official Statements by Police Officers:**

The number of noted false official statement allegations following either video evidence, documentary evidence, or statements from other witnesses or officers has increased from 1 in 2010, 3 in 2011, 8 in 2012, 13 in 2013, and 25 in 2014 to 60 in 2015.

#### **Stop, Question, Frisk, and Search of a Person:**

In 2015, the total number of stop, question, frisk and search allegations (1,930) were down 12% from 2014 (2,198), and down 47% from 2010 (2,616), at the height of “stop and frisk.”

#### **Chokeholds:**

The number of chokehold allegations fell from 2014 to 2015, yet the number of substantiated chokehold allegations increased due to better investigative practices and access to evidence. In 2015, the CCRB substantiated 19 chokehold allegations, an increase from 7 in 2014.

The entire report is available on the Agency's website: [www.nyc.gov/ccrb](http://www.nyc.gov/ccrb)

*The CCRB is the largest police oversight agency in the nation and is empowered to investigate, prosecute, mediate, make findings and recommend action upon complaints alleging misconduct by NYPD officers. See NYC Charter § 440(c)(1). The Agency's jurisdiction includes: excessive and unnecessary force, abuse of authority, discourtesy and use of offensive language. To further this mission, CCRB issues monthly, biannual, and special statistical and qualitative reports analyzing trends and recurring issues arising from the many thousands of civilian complaints it receives. These reports act as a barometer of police-civilian encounters in a number of ways, including the police practices that civilians find most troubling. In its role as an independent investigator of misconduct allegations, CCRB is uniquely positioned to identify the circumstances that generate civilian complaints, to assess whether officer conduct is improper, and to offer recommendations to redress misconduct.*

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