



BILL DE BLASIO
MAYOR

CIVILIAN COMPLAINT REVIEW BOARD
100 CHURCH STREET 10th FLOOR
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10007 ♦ TELEPHONE (212) 912-7235
www.nyc.gov/ccrb



MAYA D. WILEY, ESQ.
CHAIR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 1, 2017

MEDIA CONTACT

Vincent Paolo Villano

press@ccrb.nyc.gov

(o) 212-912-7210

(c) 646-943-4910

CCRB Chair Maya D. Wiley, Esq. to U.S. Attorney General Sessions: Walk the Talk on Police Accountability

New York, NY – In a speech to the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives in Atlanta, GA today, U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions importantly called for unity to address crime and violence across the country. Mr. Sessions pointed to a Gallup poll that shows a gap in public confidence in policing among African Americans—30 percent compared to 57 percent of all who responded.

Attorney General Sessions’ speech comes on the heels of President Trump’s dangerous remarks to Long Island officers encouraging them to disregard the law and their training on the use of force during an arrest. Indeed, this Administration has systematically undermined the U.S. Department of Justice’s ability to investigate policing practices in departments across the country through consent decrees.

CCRB Chair Maya D. Wiley, Esq. issued the following statement:

“As one of his first acts as Attorney General, Mr. Sessions directed his staff to scrutinize consent decrees that help law enforcement and civilians understand how police practices are more likely to affect communities of color. This decision came after the Justice Department issued scathing reports on the unconstitutional use of force by the Chicago and Baltimore police departments. Consent decrees are an important tool for civilian oversight of law enforcement. Effective civilian oversight is the key to increasing public confidence in policing. Improved police-civilian relations are the key to continuing to keep crime at record lows. If Mr. Sessions wants to restore public confidence in policing, he should walk the talk and reinstate the use of consent decrees at the U.S. Department of Justice.”

###

The New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) is the largest police oversight entity in the nation and is empowered to investigate, mediate, prosecute, and recommend disciplinary action for 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.