



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



FREDERICK DAVIE
CHAIR

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MEDIA CONTACT

Clio Calvo-Platero
press@ccrb.nyc.gov
(c) 917-224-0422

CCRB Granted Power to Self-Initiate Complaints by City Council

The NYC City Council passed Int. 2440, a local law that amends the City Charter and Administrative Code to allow the CCRB to open an investigation without a complainant.

New York, NY – Today, the New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) was granted the power to self-initiate complaints when the New York City Council passed Int. 2440. This momentous legislation will fundamentally change the way the CCRB can approach investigations as the Agency no longer needs a formal complainant to open a case.

Council Member, and Chair of The Public Safety Committee, Adrienne Adams introduced the bill on 11/10/21 and CCRB Chair, Frederick Davie, [testified](#) before the Public Safety Committee in support of the bill on 11/22/21.

Historically, the CCRB could only open an investigation if a witness or victim of misconduct filed a complaint. This placed the burden of responsibility on the most vulnerable party and allowed misconduct to go unaddressed.

Statement from CCRB Chair Fred Davie:

“After years of work, the CCRB has finally been granted the power to self-initiate complaints. This is a monumental victory for the Agency and the people of New York. Thank you to Council Member Adams and the Public Safety Committee for adopting this bill and to the New York City Council for passing it. Police misconduct should not go ignored because a victim does not have the capacity to file a complaint. This much needed reform is a crucial step in improving police accountability.”

Statement from Council Member Adrienne Adams

"Granting the CCRB the authority to initiate complaints and investigations into alleged police misconduct is a long overdue but necessary reform. Our City cannot continue to put the burden on victims of wrongdoing to file a complaint. This legislation will result in greater accountability and will improve public safety for all New Yorkers."

Int. 2440 will amend the New York City Charter and the Administrative Code of the City of New York, in relation to authorizing the CCRB to investigate, hear, make findings and recommend action upon complaints initiated by the CCRB alleging police officer misconduct falling within CCRB's jurisdiction.

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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 each year.