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Executive Director's Report to the Board
Monthly Public Board Meeting

Today I will report on statistics from October through December as well as available year-end statistics.

The CCRB received 1,272 complaints from October 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012. This is 103 fewer complaint filings than in the same period 2011, when the CCRB received 1,375 complaints, a 7% decrease.

We received 619 complaints in October, a 30% increase as compared to October 2011. We received 297 complaints in November, a 33% decrease as compared to November 2011. We received 356 complaints in December, a 22% decrease as compared to December 2011.

Complaints filed by phone decreased substantially because of Hurricane Sandy, when our 1-800 phone number became inoperative. For example, in October, before Sandy, 82% of complaints filed directly with the CCRB were filed by phone. After Sandy, about one-third of all complaints filed with the CCRB directly were filed by phone. Of the complaints filed with the CCRB directly, about two-thirds were filed over the internet or via email. In absolute numbers, we received 286 complaints by phone in October and 43 complaints by phone in December.

Under normal circumstances, we receive about 45% of our complaints from the police department. However, after Sandy and the loss of our 800#, approximately two-thirds of the complaints received by the CCRB were filed with the police department.

Since November 7th, we have had a new 212 telephone number to receive complaints, to temporarily replace the 800 #. This new number has been posted on our web site's home page. The City's 311 service also provides this new number to callers. However, before Hurricane Sandy, callers to 311 would be transferred directly to the CCRB. Our new number is 212-392-4170. Complaint filing continues to be available online or by mail. And instructions for utilizing these filing methods have not changed and are on our web site.

This past year, despite the disruption of the last two months, complaint activity decreased by 2%. In 2012, we received 5,820 complaints, which is 144 fewer than in 2011 when we received 5,964 complaints.

The Board closed 4,344 cases in 2012. By comparison, in 2011, the board closed 6,107 cases, a 29% decrease. The substantiation rate was 15% of full investigations, which is 7 percentage points higher than in 2011 when the substantiation rate was 8%. In 2012, the board substantiated 187 cases. The truncation rate was 65%, which was a 3 point increase from the 2011 rate, when the year-end truncation rate was 62%.

In 2012, the CCRB resolved 285 cases through the mediation program. This is 18% of the total number of cases resolved by the CCRB, (fully investigated or resolved through the mediation unit). In 2012, 7% of all closed cases, including truncated ones, were mediation closures.

The agency's docket at the end of December stood at 4,109 cases, which is a 25% increase over the open docket at the end of September when it stood at 3,278. Ninety-two percent of our open investigations were filed within the last year, and 56% were filed in the last four months. Of the open cases, 935 are awaiting panel review, or 23% of the docket, 2,908 are being investigated, and 267 cases are in the mediation program.

By date of incident, 41 cases in the CCRB's open docket are 18 months and older as opposed to 16 such cases in September of 2012. This is 1% of the open docket. Two cases are or were on DA hold; 13 cases were filed months after the date of incident. In four cases the delay has no apparent justification, in one case there is a complex set of circumstances that delayed the interview process and in one case the officer is on military leave. Twenty cases are pending board review.

From September through November, the Police Department closed 93 substantiated cases. From January to November, the Department has closed 273 cases, and has imposed discipline against 195 officers. The Department did not impose discipline against 75 officers (54 DUPs, 17 SOL cases and 4 not guilty after trial). The disciplinary action rate is 72%, and the department-decline-to-prosecute rate is 20%. The guilty after trial rate is 72%. In cases in which the Department pursued charges and specifications, the conviction rate – where officers were found guilty or pled guilty is 85%.