EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT TO THE BOARD
March 12, 2014

The CCRB received 440 complaints in February 2014. This was 170 more complaints than in the same period of 2013, when the CCRB received 270 complaints.

From January to February 2014, the CCRB received 903 complaints. This was 447 more complaints than in the same period of 2014, when the CCRB received 456 complaints. While this is a 98% increase for this month, it is important to once again note that the agency’s toll-free line was not operational from January to February 2013 due to the effect of Hurricane Sandy.

The board closed 410 cases in February and 561 cases year-to-date. In the first two months of this year, the Board closed 195 full investigations, including 34 substantiated complaints and mediated 16 cases. Year-to-date, our substantiation rate is 17%.

The report includes two forms of reporting on the disposition of CCRB cases: we are still reporting the truncation rate and the case resolution rate. From January to February, the updated truncation rate, which excludes cases closed as complaint withdrawn, was 52%. In the same period of 2013, this rate was 65%. From January to February 2014, the case resolution rate was 38%. In the same period of last year, this rate was 23%.

Of cases closed as complaint withdrawn, the year-to-date breakdown for the cases closed is as follows: 43% of complainants had no desire to follow through, 21% did not want to take time for an interview, 10% withdrew upon advice of counsel, 5% just wanted to report a complaint, 2% provided no reason, 2% feared retaliation and 17% withdrew their complaint for other reasons.

The agency’s docket at the end of February 28, 2014 stood at 2,599 cases, which is a 4% decrease over the open docket in January when it stood at 2,706. By date of report, 96% of our open investigations stem from complaints filed within the last year, and 64% were filed in the last four months. Of the open cases, 462 were awaiting panel review, or 18% of the docket; 1,889 were being investigated, or 73% of the docket; and 248 cases were in the mediation program, which is 9% of the docket.
By date of incident, 21 cases in the CCRB’s open docket were 18 months and older. This was .5% of our open docket. There were 24 cases in January 2014. The breakdown is as follows: 3 cases are on DA hold, 5 cases were filed months after the date of incident, 1 case was re-opened by the board, 2 cases are late because of the board returned them for further work, there is an investigator delay in 2 cases and 8 cases are pending board review.

In January 2014, the Police Department closed 6 substantiated cases involving 7 officers. The Police Department declined to prosecute 3 officers, 2 officers received command discipline and 2 officers received instructions. The disciplinary action rate was 57% and the department declined to prosecute rate was 43%.

In February 2014, 20 cases were substantiated with the board recommending charges and specifications and they were added to the APU docket. By the end of February, the open docket of the APU was 153 cases. Of these cases, 7 cases have guilty pleas entered and awaiting approval by the Police Commissioner, in 1 case the trial verdict was rendered but is awaiting approval by Police Commissioner, 3 trials are completed and are awaiting verdict, 5 trials commenced but were not completed, 40 trials are scheduled, 14 cases are calendared for court appearance, 60 cases are awaiting their initial court appearance after charges have been filed, in 6 cases charges have been filed, and 17 cases are awaiting the filing of charges.