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Department of Investigation

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**OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR THE NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT  
RELEASES INAUGURAL ANNUAL REPORT**

The Department of Investigation's (DOI) Office of the Inspector General for the New York City Police Department (OIG-NYPD) today released its first annual report discussing the office's efforts and accomplishments from its inception in May 2014 through March 2015. The Report, submitted to the Mayor, the City Council, and the Commissioner of the NYPD, contains an introduction to OIG-NYPD's central mission, an overview of staffing development, and a summary of the office's systemic investigations, reviews, studies and audits to date. In addition, the Report breaks down OIG-NYPD's process for receiving and investigating complaints filed by the public. A copy of the Report is attached to this release and can be found at the following link: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/oignypd/pages/news/news-reports.shtml>

OIG-NYPD was created following the passage of Local Law 70 in 2013 and started work in May 2014, at a time when questions involving police-community relations and accountability were quickly becoming a part of the City's daily discourse. The external oversight work OIG-NYPD brings to the City has the ability to both improve law enforcement and strengthen public trust in the police department – by conducting balanced, independent and unbiased investigations.

DOI Commissioner Mark G. Peters said, "The OIG-NYPD is building a strong foundation for the work ahead. The work accomplished during these early months has established a solid framework for independent police oversight in this City."

"In less than 12 months, OIG-NYPD has grown from an idea into an integral part of the larger discussion on police accountability in New York City," said Inspector General Philip K. Eure. "As the office expands in its second year, we will build on this foundation of reform and continue the important work of transparency and increasing public confidence in the police."

In its first year, OIG-NYPD released its inaugural report, *Observations on Accountability and Transparency in Ten NYPD Chokehold Cases*. The report was a study of the facts, investigations, and disciplinary outcomes in a subset of substantiated chokehold cases and included recommendations for reform. The NYPD has already begun taking steps to address some of the issues raised. OIG-NYPD has also initiated other focused studies of policies, practices and procedures at the NYPD to be released through the end of this year and beyond, including ongoing reviews of quality of life arrests, use of force, surveillance of political and religious groups, and police encounters involving people with mental illness.

Much of OIG-NYPD's inaugural year was dedicated towards building a fully-functional oversight office from the ground up, which required the recruitment and hiring of a talented and diverse staff as well as the development of a public dialogue through community outreach. Some highlights of this work include:

- As of March 31, 2015, OIG-NYPD hired 23 professionals reflecting a range of experiences, including investigators, police oversight specialists, former police detectives, attorneys, prosecutors, researchers, community advocates, and municipal and inter-governmental professionals.
- Staff come from a variety of respected institutions, including the United States Department of Justice, New York City Police and Law Departments, the Civilian Complaint Review Board, the New York Civil Liberties Union, District Attorney Offices of Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Philadelphia, and the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, among many others.
- Established an Investigations Unit and a Policy Analysis and Evaluations Unit to identify issues and topics for review, investigate policing practices, assess data and design approaches to draft reports with qualitative and quantitative information regarding NYPD.
- Over 30 outreach meetings with a variety of community groups, advocates, and local organizations focused on criminal justice reform. OIG-NYPD has also presented before community boards, precinct community councils and civil rights organizations throughout the five boroughs.
- Multiple meetings and briefings with the Police Commissioner and other high-ranking NYPD officials, outreach to NYPD officers, and conversations with police union representatives.
- Introduced an online presence through a website and Twitter account and an online complaint form for the public to contact OIG-NYPD with concerns.

OIG-NYPD also allows for members of the public to make anonymous and non-anonymous complaints regarding problems and deficiencies related to NYPD. Though OIG-NYPD's core mandate is to investigate systemic matters, the office reviews and tracks all individual complaints filed with the office in order to identify and assess any systemic issues.

In calendar year 2014, OIG-NYPD received 150 complaints covering a range of topics including the following allegations:

- Wrongful arrests and convictions
- Police officers not taking complaint reports
- Issues related to policing in minority communities
- Surveillance of political and religious groups
- Improper use of force
- Free speech violations
- Parking issues, including NYPD parking near police facilities
- Complaints unrelated to NYPD or law enforcement

Approximately two-thirds of the complaints received by OIG-NYPD were referred to other agencies because they did not concern systemic issues, and were more appropriately suited for other entities. The office, however, keeps records of these complaints on file for future reference. Other noteworthy statistics from OIG-NYPD's complaint bureau include:

- Out of 150 complaints filed in 2014, six were referred to the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB), 85 were referred to the NYPD Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB), and two were referred to other City agencies.
- OIG-NYPD closed a total of 50 complaints, with another 7 complaints still open or under review as of December 31, 2014. Many of the closed complaints did not fall within OIG-NYPD's jurisdiction or present actionable information.
- Nine complaints received were filed by individuals identified as current or retired NYPD employees.

Complaints are kept confidential.

The Office of the Inspector General for the NYPD is part of the New York City Department of Investigation. Inspector General Eure reports to DOI Commissioner Peters.

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