

In Re October Public Meeting NYC - Civilian Complaint Review Board  
October 9, 2024

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CIVILIAN COMPLAINT REVIEW BOARD  
PUBLIC MEETING  
October 9, 2024  
4:13 p.m.

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HELD VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE/  
100 Church Street, 10th Floor  
New York, New York 10007

B E F O R E:  
JOSEPH A. PUMA - Board Member  
JONATHAN DARCHE, ESQ. - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

COURT REPORTER:  
Sabrina Brown Stewart

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PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA

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1. Call to Order
2. Remarks from the Executive Director
3. Presentation from Outreach on the CCRB
4. Public Comment
5. Old Business
6. New Business
7. Adjourn to Executive Session

In Re October Public Meeting NYC - Civilian Complaint Review Board  
October 9, 2024

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CCRB BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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- 1. Joseph A. Puma - Board Member
- 2. Charlane Brown-Wyands, Esq. - Board Member
- 3. Herman Merritt - Board Member
- 4. Esmeralda Simmons, Esq. - Board Member
- 5. Patrick Smith - Board Member
- 6. Joseph Fox - Board Member
- 7. Frank Dwyer - Board Member
- 8. John Siegal - Board Member

PRESENTERS:

JAH I ROSE - Director of Outreach  
New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board

In Re October Public Meeting NYC - Civilian Complaint Review  
Board  
October 9, 2024

1 S P E A K E R S:

2 Eric Dym - Co-host - New York's Finest: Retired  
3 8 & Unfiltered Podcast.

4 Eric Urmansky - Editor-at-Large - ProPublica

5 Jamill Saxton - Civilian

6 Michael Meyers - President and Executive Director -  
7 New York Civil Right Coalition

8 Mari Moss - Task force Member, Mayors Task force to  
9 End Gender and Domestic Violence

10 Vera - Civilian

11 Adweko - Civilian

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In Re October Public Meeting NYC - Civilian Complaint Review Board

October 9, 2024

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1 MS. ALVAREZ: Thank you, everyone, for  
2 joining us. For those utilizing ASL  
3 Services, we have Beth Zuriff and Cheryl  
4 Lepple-Huber joining us. Instructions on how  
5 to pin their video can be found in the chat.  
6 For those utilizing closed captioning and  
7 CART services, a link will also be provided  
8 in the chat.

9 Thank you.

10 MR. PUMA: My name is Joseph Puma. I  
11 use he/him pronouns. And as the most senior  
12 CCRB board member, I will be leading today's  
13 meeting. I would like to call the October  
14 Meeting of the Civilian Complaint Review  
15 Board to order. Thank you for joining us.

16 Will the Board please introduce  
17 themselves now, starting on my left.

18 MR. SIEGEL: I'm a mayoral appointee.

19 MR. SMITH: Good afternoon. Pat Smith.  
20 Mayoral appointee.

21 MS. BROWN-WYANDS: Good afternoon.  
22 Charlane Brown-Wyands, Police Commissioner  
23 designee.

24 MR. DARCHE: Good afternoon. My name  
25 is Jon Darche. I use he/him pronouns. And

In Re October Public Meeting NYC - Civilian Complaint Review  
Board

October 9, 2024

6

1 I'm the executive director of the Agency.

2 MR. DWYER: Good afternoon. Frank  
3 Dwyer. I'm a Police Commissioner designee.

4 MR. FOX: Good afternoon. Joe Fox.  
5 I'm a Police Commissioner designee.

6 MR. PUMA: Turning now to board members  
7 joining us online.

8 MR. DARCHE: Mr. Merritt wasn't able to  
9 log on yet.

10 MR. PUMA: Okay.

11 MR. DARCHE: They'll give us the "Hi"  
12 sign, and we'll ask him to introduce himself  
13 later.

14 MR. PUMA: Sounds good.

15 Thank you all. Seeing as we don't have  
16 a quorum today, we'll push the approval of  
17 the September minutes to next month. We'll  
18 now hear from Executive Director Jonathan  
19 Darche.

20 Jon.

21 MR. DARCHE: Thank you, Mr. Puma.

22 I'd like to start off by wishing  
23 everyone a happy Hispanic Heritage Month, and  
24 thanking the CCRB Latinx Affinity Group for  
25 their efforts to commemorate this month by

In Re October Public Meeting NYC - Civilian Complaint Review Board

October 9, 2024

7

1 hosting an event tomorrow in the office.  
2 Staff continue to analyze the data on  
3 civilian criminal histories, NYPD case  
4 retention, and cases that are closed by the  
5 NYPD due to their proximity to the statute of  
6 limitations. I will have an update on those  
7 inquiries soon.

8 Our office is open for walk-in  
9 complaints, but it is also possible to file  
10 complaints online at [nyc.gov/ccrb](https://nyc.gov/ccrb)  
11 C-O-M-P-L-A-I-N-T, by telephone at  
12 1(800)341-2272, by just dialing 3-1-1, or by  
13 tagging the Agency on Twitter, Facebook, and  
14 Instagram.

15 For those wishing to speak during the  
16 public comment section of today's meeting, we  
17 ask you to keep your questions and comments  
18 to four minutes. If anyone wishes to file a  
19 complaint right now, we have two  
20 investigators on hand ready to take new  
21 complaints, Emma Stydahr and Rob Bryan, as  
22 well as Ruth Villafane from our Civilian  
23 Assistance Unit.

24 Mr. Merritt, if you could introduce  
25 yourself.

In Re October Public Meeting NYC - Civilian Complaint Review Board

October 9, 2024

8

1 MR. MERRITT: Herman Merritt, City  
2 Council designee from Brooklyn.

3 MR. DARCHE: Thank you, Mr. Merritt.

4 I'm now going to ask Jahi Rose to give  
5 a brief Outreach presentation.

6 MR. ROSE: Good evening. As mentioned,  
7 my name is Jahi Rose. I'm the director of  
8 outreach for the New York City Civilian  
9 Complaint Review Board, and will be providing  
10 some brief details about the Agency.

11 The New York City Civilian Complaint  
12 Review Board is the largest independent  
13 oversight entity over the largest police  
14 force in the nation. The CCRB investigates,  
15 mediates, and prosecutes complaints of  
16 misconduct against members of the New York  
17 City Police Department. The Agency is  
18 governed by a 15-member board; five seats are  
19 appointed by the New York City Mayor, five  
20 are appointed by the New York City Council,  
21 three designated by the New York City Police  
22 Commissioner, and one is appointed by the  
23 Public Advocate, the Chair is jointly  
24 appointed by the Mayor and the City Council.  
25 The Agency accepts and investigates



October 9, 2024

1 complaints about force, abuse of authority,  
2 discourtesy, and offensive language.

3 There are various ways to file  
4 complaints about police misconduct. The  
5 easiest way would be to go to our agency's  
6 website at [nyc.gov/ccrbcomplaint](http://nyc.gov/ccrbcomplaint), as  
7 previously mentioned. You could also feel  
8 free to call the CCRB's hotline at  
9 1(800)341-CCRB or 1(800)341-2272. Remember,  
10 if you see footage of police misconduct on  
11 social media or in news media, feel free to  
12 file a complaint, even if you were not there  
13 in person. The typical handle for the CCRB  
14 is @CCRB\_NYC.

15 Other ways to file CCRB complaints  
16 include calling 3-1-1. You could also visit  
17 the CCRB at our headquarters at 100 Church  
18 Street in Lower Manhattan on the 10th Floor.  
19 You can also file a complaint going onto our  
20 social media. We have Twitter, Facebook, and  
21 Instagram. You could also send a letter to  
22 the CCRB at 100 Church Street, New York,  
23 New York 10007 on the 10th Floor. You could  
24 also file complaints at a local police  
25 precinct. It does not have to be the

October 9, 2024

1 precinct where the encounter may have taken  
2 place. Officers are required to accept CCRB  
3 complaints at any precinct. You could also  
4 request a complaint form and a self-address  
5 postage free envelope.

6 If you would like to make a request for  
7 a CCRB Outreach presentation, feel free to  
8 contact us via e-mail at outreach@CCRB.  
9 NYC.gov. You could also follow the CCRB on  
10 our social media platforms, and that is  
11 Instagram, Twitter or X, and Facebook.

12 Thank you.

13 MR. PUMA: Thank you, Jahi.

14 Do members of the Board have any  
15 questions for Executive Director Darche or  
16 Mr. Rose?

17 MR. SMITH: Mr. Darche, has there been  
18 any progress on the issue we discussed last  
19 month, the lack of appointments by the Mayor  
20 and the City Council?

21 MR. DARCHE: I believe this afternoon  
22 the City Council had a hearing for a Staten  
23 Island appointee. I don't know if they're  
24 going to vote on it tomorrow, but I'm hopeful  
25 that Dr. Khalid will be rejoining the Agency,

In Re October Public Meeting NYC - Civilian Complaint Review  
Board

October 9, 2024

11

1           because he was actually a board member. He  
2           was a mayoral appointee. I forget for how  
3           long, but certainly when I first joined the  
4           Agency, he was on the Board. And then, I  
5           believe he left in 2013. So, I know there is  
6           progress being made on that front, and I'm  
7           hopeful it will move quicker 'cause we need,  
8           as you mentioned last month, we need more  
9           board members.

10                   MR. PUMA: Are there any other  
11                   questions from members of the Board?

12                   MR. SMITH: Thank you, Jon.

13                   MR. PUMA: I'll turn it over to  
14                   Executive Director Darche.

15                   MR. DARCHE: We're now going to enter  
16                   the public comment portion of the meeting.  
17                   We will begin with those joining us virtually  
18                   who would like to make a comment, followed by  
19                   those who are here in person. For those  
20                   joining virtually, please use the  
21                   raise-your-hand feature, and please keep your  
22                   comments to four minutes.

23                   Yojaira, would you please call on the  
24                   first person.

25                   MS. ALVAREZ: Thank you, Jon.

In Re October Public Meeting NYC - Civilian Complaint Review Board

October 9, 2024

12

1 We'll first be hearing from Eric Dym,  
2 followed by Eric Urmansky.

3 MR. DYM: Hello, everyone. Can you  
4 hear me?

5 MR. DARCHE: We hear you, Lieutenant.

6 MR. DYM: Sure. I just want to make  
7 sure I'm coming through.

8 How are you doing, sir?

9 I'm Eric Dym. I was coined as the  
10 most-complained cop at the NYPD in 2022. I'm  
11 now retired two years. I retired  
12 September 30th of 2022. In retirement, it's  
13 been my crusade to have changes to the  
14 Civilian Complaint Review Board, of course,  
15 being coined as the most-complained cop. I  
16 was a special operations lieutenant in  
17 South Bronx doing intrusive police work,  
18 which led to the demise and the deterioration  
19 of my career. It's my opinion that based on  
20 the preponderance of evidence, that the  
21 Civilian Complaint Review Board was  
22 overzealous in the attack on my career and  
23 also weaponized the Disciplinary Matrix.

24 At this point, I'm the cohost of  
25 New York's Finest: Retired & Unfiltered

October 9, 2024

1 Podcast, where we give our opinion and  
2 criticism about police perspective and how  
3 politics has infected policing. At this  
4 point, it's definitely my opinion that there  
5 are going to be other police officers or  
6 other members of the Police Department,  
7 despite rank, to supercede my record as the  
8 most-complained cop. Now, I am not against  
9 having a Civilian Complaint Review Board. I  
10 think it's necessary. There are times where  
11 police officers need to be corrected, and we  
12 need corrective discipline.

13 However, I do hold an issue, and I find  
14 it extremely problematic, that the Civilian  
15 Complaint Review Board allows investigations  
16 to proceed without an actual complainant or  
17 by third-party. Now, Arva Rice, the former  
18 acting chair, had testified to the City  
19 Council that they do not take the totality of  
20 circumstances in both parties when they're  
21 doing their investigation, and it's based on  
22 the information provided by the civilian  
23 complainant. I do find that problematic. I  
24 think that it's polarizing to the actual  
25 justice system that we do have in place when

October 9, 2024

1 it comes to criminal and civilian in nature.

2 So, I'm curious how is the Civilian  
3 Complaint Review Board going to proceed  
4 forward without any bias or prejudice towards  
5 an investigation based on a self-initiated  
6 complaint or a self-initiated investigation  
7 without an actual complainant? So, at this  
8 time, I would just kindly ask if you could  
9 please indicate how it would be a fair  
10 investigation, and will that investigation  
11 play it out and look at both sides of the  
12 coin, and not just the perspective of the  
13 civilian complainant in that particular case.

14 I also feel that it would be necessary  
15 for due process, and fair to an actual case,  
16 that the actual complainant testifies if  
17 there is an administrative trial, especially  
18 in light of the Disciplinary Matrix where  
19 there are captions and caveats where a police  
20 officer or any rank can be terminated for  
21 their actions, considering there is now a  
22 three-component to the Disciplinary Matrix,  
23 which is your presumptive, your assumption --  
24 assumed (sic) penalties, also your  
25 aggravating factors and mitigating.

October 9, 2024

1                   And, unfortunately, what I see from the  
2                   Police Department is the only people that are  
3                   caveat to actual mitigating factors is those  
4                   that are in that circle of nepotism, which I  
5                   think does equate to potential corruption. I  
6                   see the Civilian Complaint Review Board did  
7                   have a case with Maddrey. And,  
8                   unfortunately, we see that rank does sway the  
9                   system, and nepotism, when it comes to  
10                  civilian complaints.

11                  But ultimately, I would like to see  
12                  that the process is fair and that due process  
13                  is played out, and that an investigation  
14                  takes its course no matter where it leads,  
15                  not just based on the information of the  
16                  actual complainant. So, I'm curious, how  
17                  will the Civilian Complaint Review Board move  
18                  forward to ensure that a self-initiated  
19                  complaint, based on body camera or other  
20                  surveillance footage, would be accurate,  
21                  especially in light of the recent shooting in  
22                  Brooklyn involving two police officers. I  
23                  assume there will be an actual civilian  
24                  complaint.

25                  Now, I do support those police

October 9, 2024

1 officers. It's an ugly and unfortunate  
2 scene, but these police officers were put in  
3 a very precarious situation faced with an  
4 armed adversary with a knife.

5 So, I thank you for your time. I  
6 appreciate it. Again, Eric Dym, retired  
7 lieutenant, New York's Finest: Retired  
8 & Unfiltered Podcast. Thank you, everyone.

9 MR. PUMA: Thank you.

10 MR. DARCHE: So, just to briefly  
11 respond, the CCRB looks at all the facts and  
12 evidence that we can determine when making  
13 recommendations to the Board. And then, the  
14 Board looks at all the evidence that's  
15 presented to it, whether it's witness  
16 testimony or video evidence, when making  
17 determinations. And the things that we use  
18 as an agency to make those determinations are  
19 the law and the NYPD Patrol Guide. If the  
20 Board does find misconduct occurred, it uses  
21 the NYPD's own Disciplinary Matrix to  
22 determine what is the level of appropriate  
23 discipline to give to -- to recommend that  
24 the Department impose on a member of service.

25 And I think when you look at the



October 9, 2024

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1 statistics where only a third of the fully  
2 investigated complaints in which the CCRB  
3 makes a determination that it is recommending  
4 discipline for officers. So, if you look at  
5 the vast numbers of complaints that come in,  
6 very few result in discipline. And if the  
7 system were truly biased against members of  
8 the NYPD, those numbers would be different.

9 Yojaira, who is the next speaker?

10 MS. ALVAREZ: We'll next be hearing  
11 from Eric Urmansky.

12 MR. DARCHE: Before we go to  
13 Mr. Urmansky, Ms. Simmons, would you care to  
14 introduce yourself?

15 MS. SIMMONS: Sure. Esmeralda Simmons.  
16 I'm the appointee of the Public Advocate. I  
17 live in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn.

18 MR. DARCHE: Thank you, Ms. Simmons.  
19 Now, we can, Yojaira, the next.

20 MS. ALVAREZ: Next, we'll be hearing  
21 from Eric Urmansky.

22 MR. URMANSKY: Hey.

23 MR. DARCHE: Mr. Urmansky, we heard you  
24 there for a second.

25 MR. URMANSKY: Hi. What's that? Okay.

1 Thanks for allowing me to ask a question.

2 So, I noticed in your latest data that  
3 the NYPD closed without review 118 out of 129  
4 cases that the CCRB had sent the Department  
5 to handle; that's 91 percent of cases. And  
6 this is because of this issue, which actually  
7 I wrote about recently, involving the  
8 Department refusing to handle cases that, in  
9 their estimation, fall too close to a statute  
10 of limitations.

11 How many -- and I'm just wondering if  
12 you have this figure, what number or  
13 percentage of these cases were actually  
14 60 days or more from the statute of  
15 limitations? That is a generous amount of  
16 time, relatively speaking, from the statute  
17 of limitations.

18 Thanks very much.

19 MR. DARCHE: Thank you, Mr. Urmansky.  
20 Let me just -- I know that I have that  
21 statistic. Let me just dig through my papers  
22 a little bit.

23 So, so far in 2024, the Department has  
24 closed 549 disciplinary matters without even  
25 looking at whether or not the member of

1 service actually committed misconduct, after  
2 the Board determined they had committed  
3 misconduct. In those -- out of those 549,  
4 336 of them were more than 60 days from the  
5 18-month statute of limitations. In August,  
6 which you were referring to, the Department  
7 only reviewed nine non-charges disciplinary  
8 cases that they closed. One of those they  
9 duped. The others, they disciplined the  
10 officers. But in 118 of other cases, they  
11 determined they were too close to the statute  
12 of limitations.

13 You know, that is -- this is an issue  
14 that our data analysts are looking at, that  
15 we're not fully ready to make a report on  
16 conclusions, but just the raw data is  
17 available. And it would seem that the  
18 Department Advocate's Office of the NYPD might  
19 be able to review more than eight disciplinary  
20 matters in the month of August. Whether or not  
21 they would have reached the determination that  
22 they were going to discipline officers is a  
23 different story, but they certainly were all  
24 the attorneys at the Department Advocate's  
25 Office might have been

1           able to review more than eight.

2                   MR. PUMA:   Jon, could you please  
3           explain what "duped" means.

4                   MR. DARCHE:   Thank you, Mr. Puma.

5                   It means the Department is unable to  
6           prosecute a disciplinary matter.  That is the  
7           Department's language, and that is what they  
8           inform us when they tell us that they are not  
9           disciplining a member of service for  
10          discipline that the Board has recommended.

11                  MR. SIEGEL:   I have a question, Jon.

12                  In this practice of not reviewing cases  
13          within -- that they get within 90 days of  
14          statute of limitations, in other words,  
15          unilaterally shortening the limitations  
16          period by three months, have they given any  
17          explanation or justification as to what's the  
18          basis for the 90-day period?

19                  MR. DARCHE:   Under a previous  
20          administration, there were conversations  
21          about what was the appropriate cutoff point.  
22          We never came to an agreement.  This was a  
23          unilateral decision by the NYPD, and we've  
24          endeavored to close as many of our cases as  
25          early as possible, but it is just not

October 9, 2024

1 feasible with the number of complaints that  
2 we're getting, where we're now back at 2012  
3 levels of complaints for our investigations  
4 to close, especially when the Board is  
5 recommending substantiation, to think that  
6 they're going to close routinely 12 months,  
7 three months before the statute of  
8 limitations.

9 MR. SIEGEL: But just to follow up on  
10 Mr. Urmansky's question, the difference  
11 between 60 days, 90 days, or 120 days,  
12 there's been no -- has there been any  
13 description of their process or their  
14 situation that leads to those being the  
15 threshold time distinctions?

16 MR. DARCHE: So, there's been  
17 descriptions of the process they go through,  
18 but there's never been an effort for them to  
19 offer to change their process, right? Like,  
20 their process is that the Department  
21 Advocate's Office reviews the matter, then it  
22 goes to the First Deputy Commissioner's  
23 Office, and then it goes to the Police  
24 Commissioner's Office. That is not how  
25 discipline works for other command

October 9, 2024

1 disciplines in lesser points of training at  
2 the Department. That is just for  
3 disciplinary matters that are referred by the  
4 CCRB. And so, that process, just when you  
5 hear me describe it, that is a comp -- like,  
6 that's three sets of lawyers looking at the  
7 disciplinary matter. That's a lot of people,  
8 but there's been no offer on their end to  
9 change their process, just a demand that we  
10 get things done faster.

11 MR. SIEGEL: Just for the record, how  
12 many case are members of this board reviewing  
13 and voting on, on a monthly basis? Or I can  
14 answer that, if you want, 'cause I'm going  
15 it. I think it's 60 at this point, right, 60  
16 a month? We're all --

17 MR. DARCHE: It's at least 60. And  
18 some people, it's even more.

19 MR. SIEGEL: Thanks.

20 MR. PUMA: Any other questions?

21 MR. DARCHE: Yojaira, I think we're  
22 ready for the next person.

23 MS. ALVAREZ: That concludes the  
24 virtual public session portion.

25 MR. DARCHE: Thank you, Yojaira.

In Re October Public Meeting NYC - Civilian Complaint Review Board

October 9, 2024

23

1 For those joining us in person and  
2 interested in making a public comment, please  
3 line up behind the podium, and please keep  
4 your comments to four minutes.

5 The podium is right here, sir.

6 MR. SAXTON: Good afternoon. I'm  
7 listening to, I guess, what you're speaking  
8 and stuff --

9 MS. SIMMONS: Your name, please.

10 MR. SAXTON: Oh. My name is Jamil  
11 Saxton. I'm from Harlem, New York City, a  
12 Clark Atlanta University graduate, got my own  
13 business and whatnot. And I had a little  
14 situation with police brutality, a little bit  
15 of issue that would need to be addressed to  
16 through the Civilian Complaint Review Board.  
17 And after speaking to one of your colleagues,  
18 I guess, I would say colleague or whatever, it  
19 seems to me -- and I'm sorry to say this, I'm  
20 trying to understand what the purpose of your  
21 company is. It seems that y'all do things  
22 because of, I guess, position. There's no  
23 fire in your way you speak about things.

24 You know, as a black man coming from  
25 the inner cities, growing up, I seen a lot of

October 9, 2024

1           injustice happen, and that has happened to  
2           me. And I am actually a valid person, I  
3           feel. I did everything I was supposed to do  
4           to get -- do right. But to you, it seems  
5           like -- I spoke to one of your colleagues,  
6           they said, "Well, we gotta sent a review up  
7           to the Commissioner and whatnot," and that's  
8           it? You are lawyers. I mean, I don't know.  
9           Maybe it might be a Mandela effect or  
10          something. Because back in the day, we used  
11          to fight for justice, and it's not happening  
12          here. There's no fire in you. I'm sorry. I  
13          have no faith in this. I have more faith in  
14          me going out there and doing it myself, doing  
15          my own justice, than depend on you because  
16          the police are not fair.

17                   And for that man to sit there and talk  
18                   about -- that's -- up. And if you can't see  
19                   it, then I don't even know why y'all even  
20                   have this building here. You're downtown in  
21                   the Wall Street -- next to the World Trade  
22                   Center, and you have not done nothing. I  
23                   don't know what to even say about this, you  
24                   know. And I don't believe there's racism  
25                   anymore. I think it's more like prejudice



October 9, 2024

25

1 because some of your own people could be  
2 racist against their own people. Some cops  
3 who are my skin color wishing me wrong. I  
4 can't sit there and say it's a white/black  
5 thing. You'd be a fool if you are, but  
6 that's what they want to tell you to keep you  
7 stupid, to keep you sidelined.

8 So, my question to you is this: What  
9 is your purpose? What are you going to do  
10 going forward? And do we have faith in you  
11 to do what you have -- do something about it?  
12 You're a lawyer for God's sakes. You're the  
13 legal system. I'm done.

14 MR. PUMA: Ms. Simmons.

15 MS. SIMMONS: Saxton, right? You can  
16 go back up there. First of all, thank you  
17 for speaking.

18 MR. SAXTON: Thank you.

19 MS. SIMMONS: Secondly, if you had to  
20 do the work that we do, which is minimum of  
21 50 cases a month --

22 MR. SAXTON: I understand.

23 MS. SIMMONS: No. No. Just listen.  
24 You're outraged, you make your decision, you  
25 send it back to the Organization, you're not

October 9, 2024

1           paid, you're -- what is it, five cents to the  
2           dollars? Yeah, I think we get five cents to  
3           the dollar. We send it. We do it right.  
4           The investigators are working on these cases.  
5           Can you imagine all the staff, everybody is  
6           churning, churning, churning, but so far, the  
7           City and the State has not seen fit to give us  
8           the power to make the final decision. We do  
9           all this work, and then it gets sent over to  
10          NYPD, and you just heard the stats.

11                   MR. SAXTON: I know, and that's sad.  
12           I'm sorry.

13                   MS. SIMMONS: I understand.

14                   And they keep giving us more power to  
15          investigate, you know, expanding our  
16          investigative powers, but it goes to One  
17          Police Plaza and one drop here, one drop  
18          there out of a vast gallon of cases. We're  
19          frustrated. We want to have the adjudicatory  
20          power to make the final decision. It hasn't  
21          been given to us. This is as far as the  
22          society will let it go, for all of this work  
23          to be done, to show that people have a  
24          problem with some of the acts of some of the  
25          officers. I mean, this is the largest police

October 9, 2024

27

1 force in the country.

2 MR. SAXTON: That's right.

3 MS. SIMMONS: So, we're frustrated,  
4 too. What we're not supposed to do is put on  
5 an angry face, you know, scream out against  
6 NYPD, let every person that thinks that  
7 they've been violated think that they're  
8 going to, you know, a win. Because you'd be  
9 very surprised at the powers that the police  
10 have, and particularly in making an arrest.  
11 You'd be very surprised of what they can do  
12 legally.

13 So, all I can say is, we may not show  
14 it because we're supposed to be up here calm  
15 and impartial. We wouldn't be doing all of  
16 this if we didn't care.

17 MR. SAXTON: Can I say something,  
18 please?

19 MS. SIMMONS: Please.

20 MR. SAXTON: I understand that. I  
21 believe that you're severely overworked. But  
22 the question is this: There's always a part  
23 where it says, you do something over and over  
24 again -- the definition of insanity is doing  
25 something over and over the same way over a

October 9, 2024

1 time. But clearly, you've been doing it over  
2 and over the same time. And the fact of the  
3 matter is, as me, like you gotta start using  
4 something called networking, I think y'all  
5 are familiar with, where you reach out to  
6 people like myself who's young in the  
7 community who has an influence. If you sit  
8 down and talk to the people that's in the  
9 community and do an olive branch, and say,  
10 "Here. We're here for you." You could do  
11 things with numbers. You could do it with --  
12 one finger doesn't break a wall. If you put  
13 a fist, you might have a chance.

14 So, understand that and take that  
15 forward and use that as a premise to go out  
16 there and get at these police officers and  
17 let them make a change. Because right now,  
18 if you look at the situation right now, you  
19 got Mayor Adams' whole legal situation or  
20 whatever, he's looking for help, so use it.  
21 It's called politics. You're a part of it.  
22 I'm not -- listen, I don't even do politics.  
23 I know how to get around. So, I suggest you,  
24 you know -- I mean, shoot, take him for a  
25 drink or something, have a conversation. I

October 9, 2024

29

1 mean, you know what I'm saying? I'm saying  
2 dinner or something. There got to be  
3 something that could be -- like send him a  
4 bottle of champagne or whatever, you know  
5 what I mean? Like, just do something. Shake  
6 it up, because it's become stagnant and it's  
7 becoming repetitive. And you're sitting  
8 there like -- we ain't got time for that, you  
9 know?

10 I mean, I love New York. I'm about to  
11 go back to Atlanta, though, because hey, that  
12 ain't no better, but this is nonsense, man.  
13 There is not fire. Actually, y'all should  
14 look at yourself about that. I look at  
15 myself every day. I'm very self-reflective.  
16 But thank you for hearing me. I mean, I came  
17 here today because I had a little issue. It  
18 ain't got resolved. I came here. Sorry.

19 MR. DARCHE: But do you have an issue  
20 that we could help with? Like, have you  
21 spoken to an investigator?

22 MR. SAXTON: Yeah, but it's like -- all  
23 right. I could tell you my situation. This  
24 is what happened to me.

25 MR. DARCHE: But just a second. Like,

October 9, 2024

1 telling me now does no good. You have to --

2 MR. SAXTON: I talk to them. It's  
3 pointless, though. That's what I'm trying to  
4 tell you.

5 MR. DARCHE: So, if you will wait, I'll  
6 talk to you after.

7 MR. SAXTON: All right. Thank you.

8 MR. PUMA: Mr. Meyers.

9 MR. MEYERS: I'm Michael Meyers,  
10 president New York Civil Rights Coalition.

11 I concur with your anger, your  
12 frustration, and your dissing the processes  
13 here. The processes here stink. I don't  
14 care how many people you've had on this  
15 board. I've seen this board when it's full.  
16 When it's full, they can't get anything done  
17 that's decent and respectable and effective  
18 and responsible and believable. So, now,  
19 you're going down every -- so many people are  
20 missing here, and I look on the website to  
21 see if the Mayor has made any appointments  
22 yet for your vacancies, to see if your City  
23 Council speaker has made her appointments for  
24 vacancy. I don't see any appointments to the  
25 vacancies.

In Re October Public Meeting NYC - Civilian Complaint Review  
Board  
October 9, 2024

31

1                   So, somebody like the Mayor and City  
2                   Council speaker for several months now knew  
3                   that there were going to be vacancies on the  
4                   Board, but they don't care. There's no sense  
5                   of urgency to fill this board with  
6                   responsible, responsible people who will  
7                   investigate and seek punishment for  
8                   misconduct, police misconduct. So, I'm not  
9                   pleased, and I don't believe anything anymore  
10                  about the people here say about "We do the  
11                  best we can. We work so hard. We're  
12                  overworked. We don't get much money."  
13                  You're not supposed to get any money. It's  
14                  public service. You're not supposed to get  
15                  paid for your work. If you can't take the  
16                  job without pay, close the Board. I'm sick  
17                  of this.

18                  Now, look, I can't tell you how long --  
19                  I thought I was coming here to praise you  
20                  guys because I asked -- I took a different  
21                  train this time, subway train to get here,  
22                  and I got lost. I asked no fewer than four  
23                  or five police officers how to get here.  
24                  Everybody gave me different directions.  
25                  Either that's praise for you guys or it's a

October 9, 2024

1 rebuke of you guys. Any police officer in  
2 this city should know where you're at, where  
3 this office is, and how to direct citizens to  
4 you when we have a complaint, or if we don't  
5 even have a complaint. The police officers  
6 should have in their hand, in their hand,  
7 direction to this place. They should have  
8 your name on -- and memorize your telephone  
9 number. But that's not happening. You know  
10 why? Because they don't care. And  
11 apparently, this board has become not only  
12 ineffective, but dysfunctional.

13 So, finally -- I know my time is  
14 running out, if it hasn't run out already. I  
15 know you're not going to give me more time.  
16 I have to say one more time -- what is going  
17 on with this mayor? What in the hell is  
18 going on with the City -- I give up on the  
19 mayor. He doesn't believe in police review.  
20 The City Council speaker, what's going on  
21 here? I looked up to see if she acted on  
22 your proposals for filling vacancies, she had  
23 a lot to say about land use, but not police  
24 abuse. What the hell is going on? This is  
25 the City Council speaker who's independent of



October 9, 2024

1 the Mayor, independent of you. But she can't  
2 even make appointments to this board on  
3 behalf of the public, on behalf of the  
4 People.

5 I understand why the Mayor, 'cause  
6 that's what he is. I know why he hasn't  
7 appointed anybody, because he doesn't care.  
8 He doesn't believe in the police review. He  
9 likes the police commissioners. He pats them  
10 on the back. He has dinner and lunches with  
11 people who agree with him, even if it's all  
12 the way across the ocean, on our dime. And  
13 nobody complains, nobody said -- maybe  
14 there's an article -- one article in the  
15 newspaper. This is scandalous. This is  
16 scandalous, but nobody is saying it. The guy  
17 has got to get the hell out.

18 He's not going to resign. You know  
19 why? Because he has no place to go.  
20 Nobody's going to give him a job. He has his  
21 money. He has his cars. He has police  
22 protection. He can go anywhere in the City  
23 with his head up, despite the criminal  
24 indictments. This is so disgusting. So, I  
25 call upon you. And I second your emotion.

October 9, 2024

1           Somebody has got to get angry. I'm tired of  
2           coming here yelling and screaming and  
3           hollering at you. Because I know you're part  
4           of the problem, but you're not the problem.  
5           The problem is the City Council. The problem  
6           is the Mayor. The problem is the people who  
7           appoint you to come here, and the Police  
8           Commissioner and all his deputies who are now  
9           gone, and the ones who replaced them, slowing  
10          down the process and ignoring your  
11          recommendations, or taking issue with your  
12          recommendation, and doing nothing about  
13          police misconduct; that's what's happening in  
14          the City.

15                 It is so shocking. It is so  
16                 irresponsible. I call upon the Mayor  
17                 again -- get the hell out. And the City  
18                 Council speaker, if you can't make your  
19                 appointments, get the hell out.

20                 MS. MOSS: Hello to the CCRB Board, to  
21                 the distinguished staff and guests and  
22                 community. My name is Mari Moss. I just  
23                 came up here to say thank you to the CCRB,  
24                 and especially the Outreach team, Tim, for  
25                 being at the Chase Bank Domestic Violence

In Re October Public Meeting NYC - Civilian Complaint Review  
Board  
October 9, 2024

35

1 Forum, hosted by We Love Harlem Initiative in  
2 Harlem this past Saturday. Esteemed guests,  
3 such as the NYPD First Deputy Commissioner,  
4 Tania Kinsella was there; along with the  
5 State Senator, Cordell Cleare; Manhattan  
6 Deputy Borough President, Keisha  
7 Sutton-James; District Leader William Smith,  
8 Billy Council, Stephanie McGraw from WARM  
9 community was there, UFT was there, SPS was  
10 there, and thanks to Rocky Chowerdy  
11 (phonetic).

12 Tomorrow, I wanted to invite all of the  
13 community to come out to a Supreme Court tour  
14 with the Honorable Franc Perry, set for  
15 10/10, which is tomorrow, at 10:00, so 10,  
16 10, 10, 10:00 a.m. And it's going to be at  
17 60 Centre Street, and we would love for you  
18 to be there.

19 Thank you.

20 MR. DARCHE: So, can you tell us your  
21 name.

22 MS. VERA: My first name, Vera.

23 MR. DARCHE: You said it was Vera?

24 MS. VERA: Yeah.

25 MR. DARCHE: Okay. Thank you, Vera.

October 9, 2024

1 MS. VERA: I very much agree with the  
2 two gentlemen; this gentleman and the  
3 gentleman over there. My heart goes out to  
4 them. Even though I'm a white woman, but I  
5 found myself in a situation where I was  
6 mistreated by police. And for anyone who is  
7 taking notes, I want to dispel the myth that  
8 you have to be, you know -- you have to be  
9 black or you have to be of a certain color to  
10 be faced with bias mistreatment and all kind  
11 of other things.

12 To this lady over here, to sound back  
13 to what you were saying to one of the  
14 gentlemen here. You were saying that you're  
15 very frustrated, too, but I don't think you  
16 can put yourself on our level. Because your  
17 frustration is not the same as ours. We're  
18 both frustrated, but you have not dealt with  
19 the traumatic that is very long-lasting,  
20 very -- well, have you been arrested for  
21 something you didn't do? Have you been  
22 treated like a criminal by a police officer  
23 who is not supposed to be a member of the  
24 judicial branch, the government? It's okay.  
25 You don't have to answer, but --

October 9, 2024

1 MS. SIMMONS: I'm going to answer.

2 MS. VERA: No, it's okay. I just think  
3 that our frustration is double that, but it's  
4 okay.

5 Well, I was treated by an NYPD officer  
6 as a criminal without any evidence. And, B,  
7 I was treated like I was not a human. Not  
8 only that, not only her -- it did not end  
9 with her personal treatment of me, but she  
10 proceeded to impose her very weighty opinion,  
11 because other members of the public in  
12 different professions very much listen to  
13 police. She proceeded to impose her opinions  
14 on other professionals that were involved,  
15 other people.

16 When I tried to bring up this  
17 particular point with CCRB and IAB, I was  
18 pretty much told that there isn't a category  
19 for that, you know? Treating a person like a  
20 criminal, acting like a judge, calling you  
21 various names because they were not swear  
22 words. So, you know, so I wonder why isn't  
23 there a special category for things like  
24 that, because I was sort of left hanging. I  
25 was abused. I was abused verbally by her,

October 9, 2024

1 and there's nothing that can be done because  
2 this is not considered an offense.

3 MR. DARCHE: Vera, first, I am sorry  
4 you had that experience. Second, have you  
5 actually filed a complaint with the --

6 MS. VERA: Yes, I have. Of course.

7 MR. DARCHE: So, if you could wait  
8 until the end, and could talk to you and get  
9 the complaint number from you, and then we  
10 can -- I'll explain to you the process, if  
11 you would like the complaint reopened.

12 MS. VERA: My complaint was closed due  
13 to Mayor's budget cuts.

14 MR. DARCHE: Okay.

15 MS. VERA: So, hi, Mayor. Thank you  
16 for your cuts.

17 MR. DARCHE: So, if what you were  
18 saying is that you were treated  
19 discourteously; that is what I am hearing,  
20 and that was something that should not be  
21 closed because of the budget cuts. So, if  
22 you and I talk at the end of the meeting,  
23 I'll get the necessary information and we can  
24 reopen your complaint.

25 MS. VERA: Also, one more thing that I

October 9, 2024

1 found out after I was dealing with the  
2 aftermath is that the lawyers, for the most  
3 part, do not take cases against police. The  
4 free City lawyers, they are very careful.  
5 They discourage people from going against  
6 police, and they pretty much wash their hands  
7 off of anyone who says even something  
8 slightly, you know, negative about police;  
9 that free City lawyers. But when it comes to  
10 private lawyers, most of them do not like to  
11 take cases against police, unless there is --

12 MR. DARCHE: So, ma'am, we -- our  
13 agency does not -- we won't represent you in  
14 a lawsuit --

15 MS. VERA: I understand.

16 MR. DARCHE: -- but we will investigate  
17 the incident.

18 MS. VERA: I understand. I'm just  
19 mentioning that as part of my frustration  
20 because the police officer that treated me  
21 that way, she's still employed. She will  
22 still be employed, even if my CCRB complaint  
23 is found substantiated, she will continue to  
24 advance her professional ladder, nothing will  
25 happen to her. And, yeah, so these are my

October 9, 2024

1 frustrations.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. ADWEKO: My name is Adweko,  
4 A-D-W-E-K-O. I made a complaint in the month  
5 of July regarding harassment from an  
6 individual, and I called the police. I  
7 called 9-1-1. They didn't come. They spoke  
8 with me and said they're coming, and I didn't  
9 see them for two hours. So, after the  
10 complaint, the Department of Building, they  
11 evacuated me from the apartment. The  
12 apartment is perilous to life, so -- and I go  
13 back to same precinct to get a police report.  
14 Unfortunately, an officer said, "You don't  
15 need a police report. I can't give you  
16 police report." I said "Why? I need a  
17 police report, at least. I mean, for a  
18 record purpose one and to pursue my case."  
19 He said, "No. Even though if I give you the  
20 report, you cannot win the case."

21 I was there for a couple of two hours.  
22 Nothing was achieved. I don't hate the  
23 police. I offer to join auxiliary police,  
24 but, unfortunately, I had a cardiology -- I  
25 had a cardiac condition, so I could not go



October 9, 2024

1 for the training. But the disappointment you  
2 get -- I mean, you give to a vulnerable  
3 person is uncalled for. Supposing that day,  
4 I mean, something else happened, let's say  
5 worst thing happen, then I mean, who would  
6 now come and to testify?

7 My point is, I pledged to protect.  
8 It's not -- I mean, I don't see it work.  
9 Police out there should support the  
10 community. Without the community, they can't  
11 get a good job done. You have to respect --  
12 give respect to the community, your  
13 community. I got there, sometimes their  
14 character alone will discourage you. Why am  
15 I here? And there are people out there  
16 suffering. They are in fear to come out to  
17 say, "Hey, help me." They can't because I  
18 mean, they know they can't get anything done.

19 MR. DARCHE: Thank you, Adweko, for  
20 sharing that with us. I think it is a -- it  
21 highlights a hole in our jurisdiction, in  
22 that failure to act is sometimes just as  
23 onerous to a civilian as an action taken by  
24 an officer, and it's not something that our  
25 agency is effectively -- we don't look at

In Re October Public Meeting NYC - Civilian Complaint Review  
Board  
October 9, 2024

42

1 those types of cases.

2 If you would be willing to sit and  
3 speak to one of our investigators, just so we  
4 could get the information. And even if we  
5 can't help you, we'll refer it to the people  
6 who should be able to help you. If you could  
7 so that, I would appreciate it.

8 MR. ADWEKO: Okay.

9 MR. DARCHE: Thank you, sir.

10 Mr. Puma.

11 MR. PUMA: -- now that we break into  
12 Executive Session. The agenda for Executive  
13 Session is, the Board will consider one full  
14 board case, the executive director will  
15 discuss pending personnel actions, and the  
16 general counsel will provide updates  
17 regarding pending litigation.

18 Is there a motion to adjourn to  
19 Executive Session?

20 MS. BROWN-WYANDS: So moved.

21 MR. SMITH: Second.

22 MR. PUMA: Do I have a second?

23 MS. BROWN-WYANDS: There's a second.

24 MR. PUMA: So move. This meeting is  
25 now adjourned to Executive Session.

(TIME NOTED: 5:03 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF NEW YORK)

:SS

COUNTY OF QUEENS)

I, Sabrina Brown Stewart, a Notary Public within and for the State of New York, do hereby certify:

That the witness whose examination is hereinbefore set forth was duly sworn and that such an examination is a true record of the testimony given by such a witness.

I further certify that I am not related to any of these parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am not in any way interested in the outcome of this matter.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand on this 20th day of October, 2024.

*Sabrina Brown Stewart*  
Sabrina Brown Stewart