



## **DE BLASIO'S 8 POINT CCRB REFORM PROPOSAL**

### **I. Grant the CCRB Prosecutorial Authority**

The CCRB should be granted the authority to prosecute the cases it substantiates within the NYPD's internal system. Currently, the CCRB must turn over its substantiated cases to the NYPD, which frequently chooses not to take any action on these cases.

### **II. Allow the CCRB to Initiate Complaints**

The CCRB should be able to independently initiate an investigation without waiting for a civilian to make a complaint in incidents where there is an allegation of excessive force. This authority should be granted to the CCRB, together with clear guidelines regarding how and under what circumstances the CCRB can initiate such investigations. There is currently no independent civilian body with similar powers. In many cases, it is appropriate to have an independent civilian review of NYPD conduct—even in the absence of a complainant.

### **III. Ensure Adequate Funding**

The annual budget for the CCRB should be set as a fixed percentage of the NYPD's annual budget, ensuring adequate funding for civilian review. Currently, the CCRB budget is set through the normal City budgeting process, which involves a proposed budget issued by the Mayor that is subsequently approved by the City Council. The CCRB should never be subject to politically charged budget negotiations.

### **IV. Increase CCRB Independence**

We must increase the independence of the CCRB by considering a combination of structural reforms while maintaining the NYPD Commissioner's decision-making role in disciplining officers: establishing a rigorous, independent screening panel process to review candidates for appointment to the Board; altering the board composition by removing all NYPD appointees and replacing them with Mayoral appointees; or creating a third independent civilian body to hear appeals in cases where the CCRB does not agree with the NYPD Commissioner's disciplinary determination.

### **V. Improve Community Outreach**

CCRB should be present and accessible in the outer boroughs so that residents can interact with the agency, learn about the process of making complaints, and become familiar with the investigative process. The CCRB's Community Outreach Unit should better utilize citywide and local advertising outlets to educate City residents on their right to make a complaint—such advertisements should be placed so as to reach the broadest possible range of communities. Additionally, local CCRB intake offices should be established around the five boroughs, and interpreters provided where appropriate.



## **VI. Establish Minimum Qualifications for Investigators**

CCRB investigators should be required to have minimum investigative experience as a condition of employment. There is currently no such requirement, resulting in an investigative staff that may not have the requisite experience to perform effective professional investigations.

## **VII. Maintain Confidentiality in Investigations**

Some complainants cite a fear of retribution as reason for not making a complaint to the CCRB. Such fears keep the agency from performing its duties and undermine public confidence in the CCRB. The CCRB should use unique identifiers rather than names to better guard the confidentiality of complainants.

## **VIII. Standardize the Investigative Timeline**

Investigations should be completed within six months, with extra time permitted in extenuating circumstances. Currently, investigations can take over 300 days to be completed—such lengths undermine public trust and confidence in the civilian review process.