



Civil Complaint Review Board

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Megan Jean Louis

Young Women's Advisory Council Member

Girls for Gender Equity

Good evening, My name is Megan Jean Louis, and I am a sophomore at the Macaulay Honors College at Brooklyn College, studying Biomedical Ethics and Cross-Cultural Psychology. I am a member of Girls for Gender Equity (GGE)'s Young Women's Advisory Council. GGE is an intergenerational organization committed to the physical, psychological, social, and economic development of girls and women. Through education, organizing and physical fitness, GGE encourages communities to remove barriers and create opportunities for girls and women to live self-determined live. Thank you for your time to listen to why I believe we must address police sexual misconduct in New York City.

The Civil Complaint Review Board (CCRB) plays one of the most instrumental roles in ensuring the public's trust in the New York Police Department (NYPD). As such, the CCRB should hold oversight on the NYPD for sexual misconduct. The public should be aware of ways to report crimes committed by a police officer. Research on police sexual misconduct concludes that it is a systemic issue. It is also well known that marginalized youth are more likely to have interactions with the police. In 2000, a survey of nearly 1,000 New York City youth found that 2 in 5 young women — almost half of whom were black, Latina or Asian — reported sexual harassment by officers¹. Police also target women they don't think would be believed if they came forward, including women of color, transgender women, women who use drugs or alcohol, and women involved in the sex trade.

No survivor of sexual violence should be ignored simply because her/his/their perpetrator was a police officer. Even if such cases make the news, it is not enough to stop sexual misconduct. We need to hold our police officers accountable. Police officers wield significant power and discretion, and are protected by a blue wall of silence when they abuse civilians. The Civil Complaint Review Board need to have the ability to break through this wall and allow victims to be heard.

Please vote to allow the Civil Complaints Review Board to hold oversight on NYPD for sexual misconduct. Thank you for your time and I am hopeful the CCRB will take steps to ensure accountability and transparency of the NYPD.

¹ How Some Cops Use the Badge to Commit Sex Crimes

https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/how-some-cops-use-the-badge-to-commit-sex-crimes/2018/01/11/5606fb26-eff3-11e7-b390-a36dc3fa2842_story.html?utm_term=.ae237d2f1674