

**COMMUNITIES**  
**UNITED FOR**  
**POLICE**  
**REFORM**

June 17, 2019

Dear Charter Revision Commissioners & staff:

**The organizations signed onto this letter, along with family members of Eric Garner, Sean Bell, Anthony Baez, Delrawn Small, Akai Gurley, Shantel Davis, Mohamed Bah, and Amadou Diallo, are writing to express our deep disappointment related to last week's vote on potential Charter Revision ballot items to be presented to NYC voters at the November 2019 general election.**

The need for greater police accountability has been a consistent theme in all of the Charter Revision hearings over the past year, yet **none of the proposals adopted at last week's meeting reflect meaningful police accountability or transparency priorities**, as [outlined by over 40 organizations](#) early last week – and as testified to during multiple hearings since last year. It is particularly disturbing that all appointees of Mayor de Blasio voted against allowing the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) to investigate and recommend discipline against police officers who provide false statements and engage in related misconduct. False statements by officers and other misconduct are regularly present in cases where police brutalize, sexually assault or kill New Yorkers, and this misconduct impedes and obstructs investigations into police violence.

We are writing to respectfully request that you ensure that meaningful police accountability and transparency priorities are considered and adopted for the November 2019 ballot during your June 18<sup>th</sup> meeting – the final Charter Revision Commission meeting determining the topics for the Charter-related ballot items. In particular, **we ask that at your June 18<sup>th</sup> meeting**, you:

1) **Reconsider and adopt a proposal to allow CCRB to investigate, prosecute and recommend discipline** against police officers who are the subject of a CCRB complaint, **if that officer is found to make a false statement or engages in other misconduct related to the initial complaint**, within the course of CCRBs investigation or prosecution of such complaint. This is especially important related to misconduct that can impede or obstruct investigations and /or contribute to cover-ups of misconduct. While false statements are one example of such actions, it is only one part of the type of misconduct that routinely surrounds cases when police brutalize, sexually assault, or unjustly kill a person. Excluding such misconduct when CCRB investigates and prosecutes cases incentivizes further corrupt actions by police, creates a structural incentive for officers to engage in cover-up activities, and almost always guarantees that officers who engage in such misconduct will not be disciplined in a timely or meaningful way – as we saw with the slap on the wrist that James Frascatore received after assaulting James Blake, the five years it has taken for disciplinary proceedings to begin related to Daniel Pantaleo, who killed Eric Garner, and countless other examples.

**2) Clarify, and if necessary, amend ballot proposal #5** (*CCRB: Deviation from Disciplinary Recommendations*) that was discussed and passed by Commissioners last week **so that the outcome is increased public transparency**. While it's important for the Police Commissioner to provide CCRB with an explanation in cases where the Commissioner deviates from CCRB's disciplinary recommendations, the Commissioner is already required to provide reasons to the CCRB for such deviations. This is not a meaningful change for police accountability and does not address the exceptional police secrecy that surrounds NYPD discipline matters, including when the Commissioner makes decisions that are different from CCRB recommendations.

**3) Consider adopting other police accountability priorities** for the November 2019 ballot, supported by dozens of NYC organizations, as outlined in the attachment to this letter, and as described in the letter sent to the Commission early last week.

To advance democracy, transparency and safety for all communities, we urge you to adopt the charter revisions we outline above in this letter.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Communities United for Police Reform (CPR)

Valerie Bell, mother of Sean Bell, killed by NYPD in 2006

Gwen Carr, mother of Eric Garner, killed by NYPD in 2014

Iris Baez, mother of Anthony Baez, killed by NYPD in 1994

Kadiatou Diallo, mother of Amadou Diallo, killed by NYPD in 1999

Victoria Davis, sister of Delrawn Small, killed by NYPD in 2016

Hertencia Petersen, aunt of Akai Gurley, killed by NYPD in 2014

Angie Hicks, aunt of Shantel Davis, killed by NYPD in 2012

Hawa Bah, mother of Mohamed Bah, killed by NYPD in 2012

Oniaja Shepard, aunt of Sean Bell, killed by NYPD in 2006

1199 SEIU-UHWE

5 Boro Defenders

Alliance for Quality Education

Arab American Association of NY

Arc of Justice

Audre Lorde Project

The Black Institute

Bronx Defenders

Brooklyn Anti-Gentrification Network

Brooklyn Movement Center

Brotherhood/SisterSol

Center for Constitutional Rights

Center for Law and Social Justice at Medgar Evers College

Center for Popular Democracy  
Citizen Action of New York  
Color of Change  
Creating Law Enforcement Accountability and Responsibility (CLEAR) Project at CUNY School of Law  
Defending Rights & Dissent  
Dignity in Schools Campaign-NY  
DRUM- Desis Rising Up & Moving  
Equality for Flatbush  
Faith In New York  
Families for Freedom  
The Gathering for Justice/Justice League NYC  
Girls for Gender Equity  
Global Action Project  
Immigrant Defense Project  
Jews for Racial & Economic Justice  
Jewish Voice for Peace  
Justice Committee  
Kairos: The Center for Religions, Rights, and Social Justice at Union Theological Seminary  
Katal Center for Health, Equity & Justice  
Legal Aid Society  
Make the Road New York  
Malcolm X Grassroots Movement  
MomsRising  
The National Panhellenic Council of NYC  
New Kings Democrats  
New York City Anti-Violence Project  
New York Civil Liberties Union  
New York Communities for Change  
Picture The Homeless  
Public Science Project  
Rockaway Youth Task Force  
Showing Up for Racial Justice-NYC  
Transgender Law Center  
Youth Represent

Cc: Mayor de Blasio  
Speaker Johnson  
Public Advocate Williams/former Public Advocate Letitia James  
Comptroller Stringer  
Borough Presidents Adams, Brewer, Katz, Diaz, Jr and Oddo