



Civil Complaint Review Board

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Girls for Gender Equity

My name is Amber Santiago and I am a 20 year old Puerto Rican and Black woman of Trans experience. Thank you to the Civilian Complaint Review Board for their time which is greatly appreciated. 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 lives. Thank you for your time to listen to why the Civilian Complaint Review Board must address police sexual misconduct in New York City.

As a member of GGE's Young Women's Advisory Council, I one hundred percent agree that the CCRB should have oversight over NYPD sexual misconduct. The New York Police Department is a strong force and ultimately holds a lot of power. With power comes control and it's fair to say that there are too many incidents around the world that portray a cop's misuse of control as an innocent situation in which one side has extremely higher credibility than the other. This issue directly affects myself and my community, as a young transgender woman of color, I worry about the safety of just getting from point A to B. So imagine how I and my trans sisters feel after hearing and seeing all these stories where police misuse their control.

Sexual misconduct by the police is both gendered and racialized. In the 2011 National Transgender Discrimination Survey, trans women and men experience sexual assault and harassment by the police. The Survey found that 38% of black trans and gender nonconforming people who interact with police report harassment, 15 percent declared physical assault, and 7 percent claimed sexual assault — roughly two to four times the rates of all trans and gender nonconforming people who interacted with police. Police sexual misconduct and violence is prevalent in our culture in society, these actions have become normalized in how people and police officers interact.

It is important that police officers are held accountable for sexual misconduct because there is a victim in the story and the victim deserves closure and justice as well. Could you imagine being a victim of police sexual misconduct and being punished, while the police officer walks away, without any charge or accountability?

I completely agree that the CCRB needs to pass this proposal to better hold police accountable when they harm community members. Thank you for your time, and I encourage the CCRB to take action to address police sexual misconduct to hold police officers accountable for their actions,