



Update on the Citizens' Review Board (CRB) on Police Practices

Presentation to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services (PS&NS) Committee

Report No. 11-102

July 27, 2011

AGENDA

- Purpose of the CRB
- Duties, Membership and Training
- Complaint Process
- Case Review
- CRB Workload Statistics
- Accomplishments
- Questions



Purpose of the CRB

The purpose of the CRB is to:

- Empower an independent citizen group to assure the public that complaints against officers of the San Diego Police Department (SDPD) are investigated **thoroughly**, **completely**, and **fairly**
- Review and evaluate citizen complaints against police officers and discipline arising from such complaints
- Recommend and advocate policies which promote fair and humane policing of the City



CRB Duties

- The Board reviews and evaluates:
 - Complaints brought by the public against the SDPD which include all Category I allegations involving:
 - Force
 - Arrest
 - Criminal Conduct
 - Discrimination
 - Slur
 - Officer-involved shootings
 - All in-custody deaths
 - Category II allegations when combined with a Category I allegation (Category II allegations include: Service, Courtesy, Procedure, Conduct, Other)
 - The administration of discipline arising from sustained findings
- The Board makes policy and procedure recommendations



CRB Membership

The Board strives to have members who represent a diverse cross-section of San Diegans. Members are recruited and appointed after thorough recruitment and selection process.

- Number of Board members: 23
- Length of term: One year terms (Limit: 8 years)
- 23 members constitute seven (7) three-member teams assigned to review complaint cases; Chair and 1st Vice Chair do not participate in review teams
- Up to 23 prospective members may also be appointed
- Committees (Standing: Executive, Recruitment and Retention, Outreach, Training, and Policy)
- Executive Director appointed by the Mayor; Executive Director serves on a part-time basis (0.5 FTE)
- A Complaint Coordinator provides support for CRB

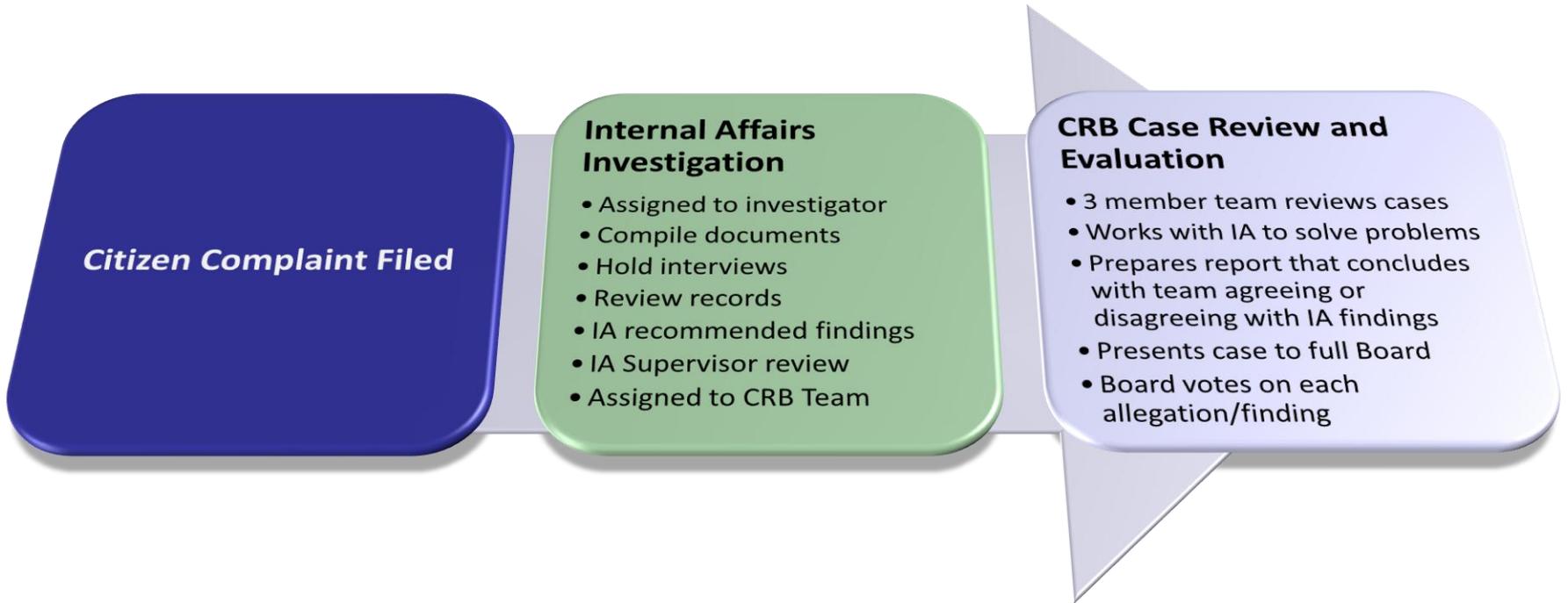


CRB Training

- Training begins upon appointment and NEVER STOPS
- Ride-alongs with patrol officers, sergeants, field lieutenants, special units (ABLE, K-9, etc.)
- Complete access to Police Academy courses:
 - Regional Academy Classes
 - Regional Officer Training
 - Menu Training
- Monthly training in Open Board meetings have included:
 - Psychiatric Emergency Response Team
 - Homeless Outreach Team
 - Communications taught at Police Academy
 - American Civil Liberties Union
- Annual Academy Day/Annual Board Retreat



Complaint Process



CRB Case Review

- Complete and unfettered access to information from investigation
- Cooperation and collaboration with Internal Affairs
- Advocacy
 - NOT an advocate for citizen or complainant; NOT an advocate for SDPD
 - CRB designed to be an advocate for a complete, thorough, and fair process
- Decisions based on policy and procedure
- Strong commitment to ethical behavior (NACOLE Code of Ethics)
- Relationship remains one of open and honest communication with respect for the functions of each organization

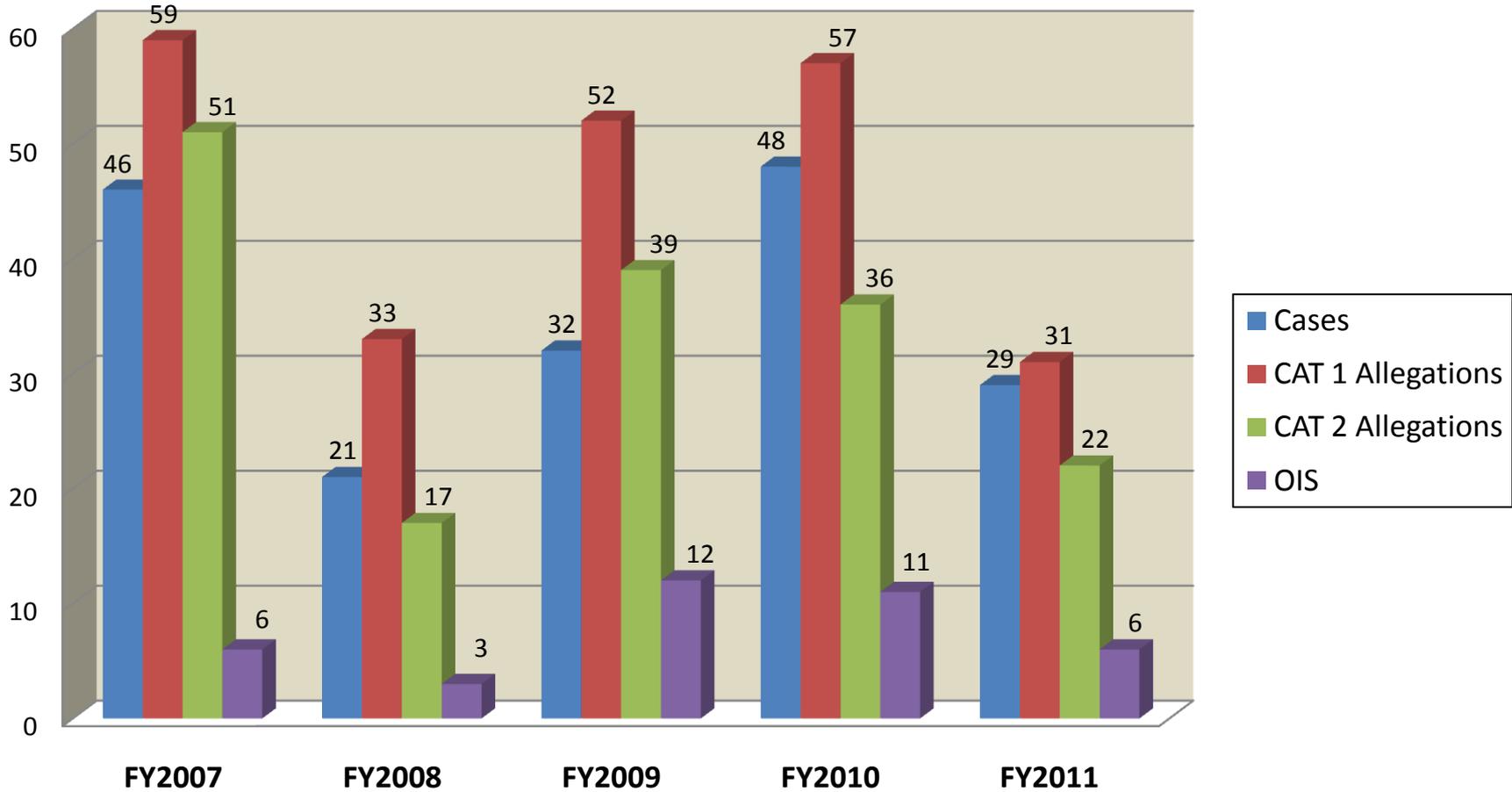


CRB Case Review

- If Internal Affairs and the CRB disagree:
 - Disagreement discussed; further clarification may be requested; most disagreements resolved at this level
 - If no agreement can be reached, CRB Chair, Executive Director, and Police Chief meet with Mayor-Designee
 - CRB has authority to refer cases to the District Attorney, Grand Jury, California Attorney General, and the U.S. Justice Department



Cases Reviewed

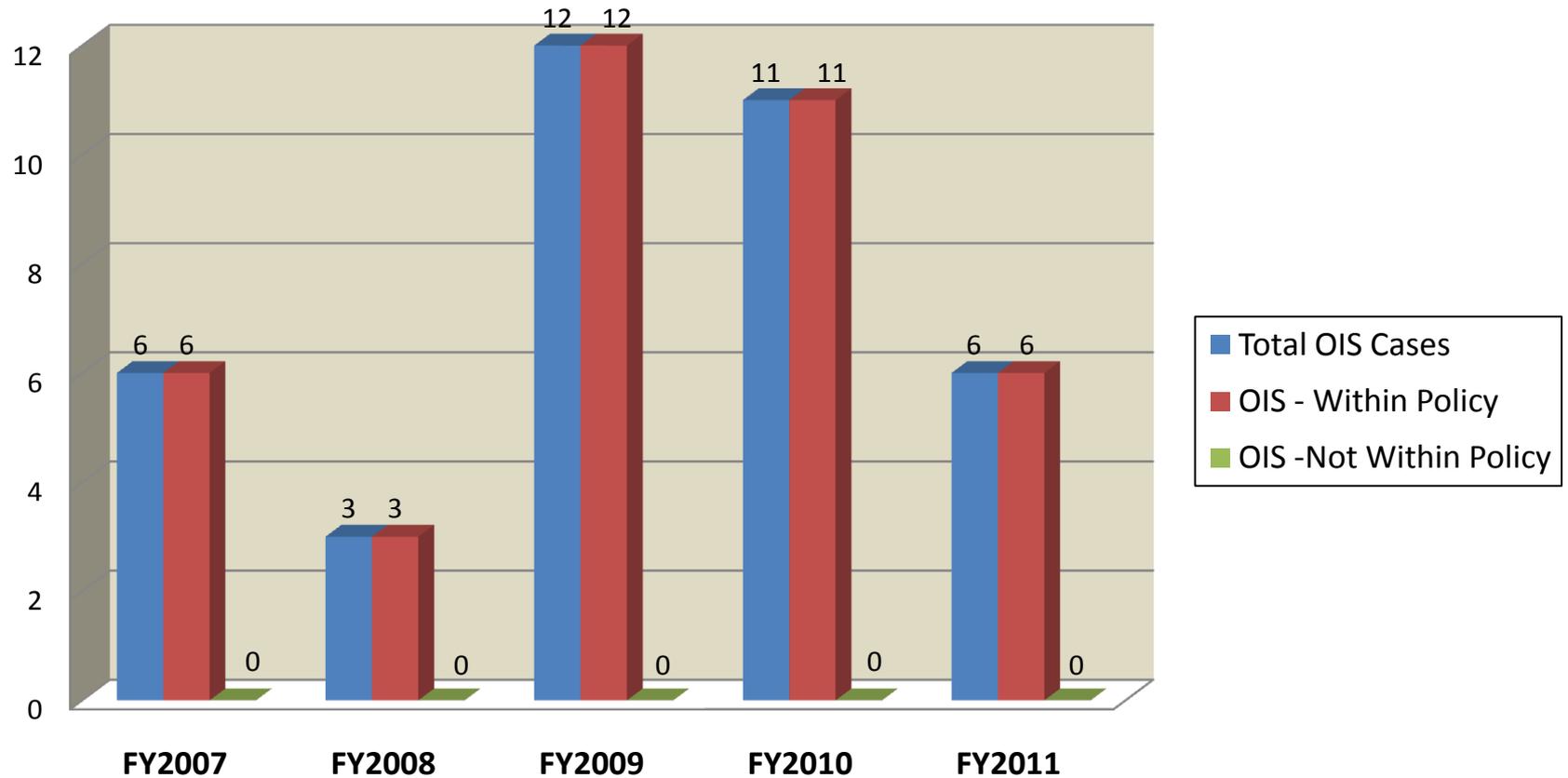


Category I Allegations

FY2011 Category I Internal Affairs/CRB Findings								
Allegation	Sustained	Not Sustained	Exonerated	Unfounded	Complainant Not Cooperative	Withdrawn	TOTAL	Allegation %
Force	1	-	11	3	-	-	15	48%
Arrest	-	-	10	-	-	-	10	32%
Discrimination	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	6%
Slur	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	3%
Criminal Conduct	-	-	-	3	-	1	3	10%
Total Category I	1	1	21	8	-	1	31	
Finding %	3%	3%	68%	26%	0%	3%		100%



Officer-Involved Shootings Reviewed



Accomplishments

Since the inception of the CRB, numerous positive changes have been implemented by the SDPD as a result of the input and recommendations by the CRB. A few of the most current changes include:

- CRB influenced policy change on vehicle tows and impounds
- CRB influenced the assignment of PERT-trained Sergeants at large special events
- CRB influenced policy change on detainee escort to restrooms at PETCO Park
- SDPD accepted CRB recommendation to ensure that motorists and others are informed in a timely manner of the reason for their contact and detention
- SDPD modified Internal Affairs procedures manual regarding citizen complaints, officer-involved shootings, and in-custody deaths at the request of CRB
- Chief of Police and/or Executive Assistant Chief now attend all CRB closed and open session meetings
- SDPD informs review teams of discipline imposed and relevant background information prior to Board meetings; Team/Board offered opportunity to receive and comment on discipline imposed
- CRB has impacted over 50 additional policy and procedures relative to internal investigations, pursuits, use of force, money-handling, and shooting at moving vehicles



Questions

