The Atlanta Citizen Review Board extends a special thanks to Mayor Kasim Reed and the Atlanta City Council for their continued support of the ACRB. Their support has allowed the agency to increase its community awareness and education outreach to the citizens of Atlanta.

Executive Summary

The Atlanta Citizen Review Board (ACRB) is proud to present the 2014 ACRB Annual Report. This report provides information and data related to the ACRB’s work during 2014. The ACRB conducted its most proactive work to serve the citizens of Atlanta over the past year. From its community engagement activities, the ACRB learned the extent of the misinformation and misconceptions that the public has about the agency. This feedback from the community was valuable in helping the agency shape its message.

In light of the news stories about police-involved shootings of black males across the nation, a national conversation on body-worn cameras began in earnest. The ACRB conducted a study and focus group on body-worn cameras. This proactive activity helped promote the conversation of the potential benefits and challenges of body-worn cameras among citizens of Atlanta as the Atlanta Police Department considers acquiring and using cameras.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quick Look</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Complaints</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dismissals</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Number of Investigative Days</td>
<td>138 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief’s Discipline on Sustained ACRB Complaints</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cases Closed</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board Sustained Rate</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top Three Allegations</td>
<td>Excessive Force, False Arrest, False Imprisonment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Engagement Activities</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Board

2014 Board Members

William L. Harrison, Chair
Ruth Price, Vice Chair
Paul Bartels, Secretary
Bill Bozarth
Alan H. Morris
Gerald Souder
Maceo C. Williams, Sr.
Sherry Williams

Staff

Samuel L. Reid II                          Executive Director
Robin Lolar                               Investigator
Sheena Robertson                          Investigations Manager
Myola Smith                               Project Manager

Extra Help and Office Contractors

Inari Batini                               Administration
Crystal Byrd                               Outreach Specialist
Charles Curry                             Outreach Specialist

Why do we do what we do?

In 2006, 92-year old Kathryn Johnston was killed when three undercover Atlanta police officers illegally raided her home in the Northwest Community of English Avenue/Vine City. Ms. Johnston’s death and the details surrounding the police officers’ misconduct brought home the community’s concerns about police officers’ relationships with the community and officer accountability. As a result of many committed and dedicated citizens’ actions and demands, elected officials answered the call and created the Atlanta Citizen Review Board.
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Mission
Our mission is to provide the citizens of Atlanta credible, fair, and independent investigations and recommendations on Atlanta police and corrections officer misconduct complaints. Our work provides opportunities for both departments to consider policy change recommendations and correct officer behavior in order to promote the highest standards of conduct. Our aim is to lessen the possibility of urban unrest and promote public confidence in the Atlanta police and corrections departments.

Vision
- To be known for integrity, competence, and results.
- To be recognized as national experts in improving community/police relationships.
- To provide the best citizen oversight of a local enforcement agency in the nation and be recognized as the experts in civilian oversight.

Values

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Integrity</th>
<th>Credibility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accountability</td>
<td>Fairness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Results Driven</td>
<td>Commitment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teamwork</td>
<td>Excellence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service</td>
<td>Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objectivity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"I'm glad there is a venue for us to go to because it gives the people a voice that someone is going to listen to us." – Regina Watts, resident of Atlanta
The Role of the Atlanta Citizen Review Board

The Atlanta Citizen Review Board (ACRB) has an essential role in promoting trust and confidence in the City of Atlanta’s law enforcement officer accountability systems. The ACRB is responsible for independently investigating citizen complaints against Atlanta law enforcement officers and making recommendations for corrective action on officers who receive sustained complaints. The agency also has the authority to conduct studies on policing issues and make recommendations with regard to the Atlanta Police Department (APD) and Atlanta Corrections Department (ACD) policies.

The agency’s primary areas of operations include: (1) Investigations, (2) Community Engagement, and (3) Studies and Policy Recommendations.

The ACRB is comprised of a citizen board and city employees. The board is authorized for 11 residents of the City of Atlanta. Board members are appointed by elected officials (3), Atlanta Planning Advisory Board (Neighborhood Planning Units) (NPUs) (4), local bar associations (2), a business (1) and a civic group (1). The Atlanta City Council confirms the appointments.

Service on the ACRB is nonpaid. The board activities and duties require approximately 10 hours per month to be an effective board member. In 2014, the board operated with approximately 65% of the full board.

The ACRB 2014 staff consists of four staff members, one extra help person and two contractors who conduct the day-to-day operational duties – investigations, outreach, training, and administration.

The ACRB is committed to protecting the ACRB process as established by the City Ordinance. The commitment to maintaining a fair and objective forum for receipt and investigation of citizen complaints is paramount to maintaining the trust of citizens and officers.

Investigations

The agency conducts independent investigations of citizen complaints and renders decisions on the complaints. The ACRB accepts the following allegations:

- **Abusive Language** – cursing, foul language, disrespectful names
- **False Arrest** – illegally arrested
- **False Imprisonment** – illegally stopped and detained
- **Harassment** – continuous contact with police officer for no legal reason
- **Excessive Force** – officer using more force than needed during an encounter: hitting, kicking, baton strikes, pepper spray, kneeing, slapping, takedown, death, etc.

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1 For this report, law enforcement officers include Atlanta police and corrections officers.
2 Several appointing entities did not appoint a replacement to the board for many months.
The ACRB process is citizen friendly. Citizens may make complaints by phone, walk-in, online, and email. In most situations, the citizen would only need to participate in the investigative interview. At the conclusion of the ACRB process, citizens receive notification of the agency’s actions on their complaints. The ACRB process is depicted below.

**ACRB Process**

![ACRB Process Diagram](image)

Studies and Policy Recommendations

Studies and policy recommendations are a growing area for the ACRB. Studies and policy recommendations are time intensive activities that require research, analysis, and writing. The ACRB views these activities, when completed timely, as valuable input that can be used to assist the law enforcement departments and educate the public. The increase in the ACRB budget has allowed the ACRB to conduct studies.

In 2014, the ACRB conducted a study on body-worn cameras and a subsequent focus group discussion on body-worn cameras.

Community Engagement

The ACRB approaches community engagement through building citizen awareness of the agency and providing community education related to citizen interactions with law enforcement officers.

**AWARENESS** – The purpose of the awareness goal is to increase the agency’s visibility and the public and officers’ understanding of the ACRB. Awareness of the agency and its function is critical to building trust and confidence in the agency’s work. Through this goal, the agency demonstrates its commitment to assertively seek and create opportunities to discuss the ACRB as well as citizen/officer encounters.

**EDUCATION** – The purpose of the education goal is to proactively engage citizens about their concerns related to officer conduct and provide information about citizens’ rights and responsibilities. Through this goal, the ACRB intends to increase mutual understanding of needs and expectations between citizens and officers and provide opportunities for citizen empowerment as it relates to interactions with officers and seeking redress when issues arise.

Through the ACRB’s community engagement work, the agency has become keenly aware of the
amount of misinformation and misconceptions about the ACRB.

**Misinformation/Misconceptions**

The value of community engagement is immediately recognized when learning of misinformation and misconceptions during community engagement activities. Through conversations in various settings, citizens, elected officials, and community groups, have expressed misunderstandings about the agency that must be cleared up so that the agency may maximize its ability to serve citizens and law enforcement departments. The common misconceptions are below.

**No Subpoena Power** – **The ACRB has had subpoena power since 2010.** Subpoena power is extremely important for evidence outside of the City’s control. APD policies require officers to participate in ACRB investigations. The ACRB is authorized by legislation to obtain access to officers, documents, and evidence within the City’s control.

**Not Independent** – The ACRB complaint investigation process is independent of the Atlanta Police and Corrections Departments. No law enforcement officers are involved in the ACRB process. While the agency receives its funding from the City’s general fund, like the courts and the public defender’s office, **the agency process and investigations are free of interference from elected officials, APD, and ACD.** Civilians manage the operation, investigate the complaints and render the decisions on citizens’ complaints.

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**Proof of Independence**

**Independent Investigations**

The ACRB investigations are conducted entirely by citizen workers of the ACRB. The entire staff is highly trained non-law enforcement. ACRB investigations are free from bias and are concerned with fair resolutions of complaints based solely on the facts discovered during the investigation. The independence to investigate complaints is critical to ensuring that citizen complaints receive full attention and fair and objective analysis of the facts.

**Citizen Board makes Decisions on Complaints**

The eleven unpaid residents that comprise the board provide an excellent check and balance system that promotes integrity, credibility, and agency accountability. The board members’ decisions are made independent of the investigators recommendations. The board members are solely responsible for deliberations and decisions on citizen complaints.
Minor Complaints vs. Serious Complaints

The ACRB has the authority to investigate serious allegations such as false arrest and excessive force that involves death or serious bodily injury. However, it should be noted that in order for the ACRB to investigate an officer’s actions a victim or a witness of the officer’s action must file a complaint. The agency does not make a classification of minor vs. serious complaints; the agency takes all complaints seriously. History has shown that ignored complaints lead to an increase in questionable officer behavior and prevent the opportunity for corrective action.

Toothless Tiger

The ACRB has received criticism that the agency lacks teeth because it cannot force the chiefs to discipline officers. The separation of the authority to investigate and discipline officers causes some mistrust of the ACRB when law enforcement departments do not discipline on sustained ACRB complaints. While corrective action is one of the most important goals of the agency, the agency’s “teeth” also comes from its ability to thoroughly report the actions of local law enforcement. This allows citizens to monitor, discuss, and participate in officer accountability. It provides citizens accurate and specific information needed to address their elected representatives and press for change when the leaders of law enforcement fail to responsibly act on misconduct. Citizen involvement in the development of this oversight agency must always be continued to keep its “teeth” sharpened. Citizen involvement in ACRB’s work increases the agency’s ability to serve citizens of Atlanta and strengthen the agency. Citizens, committed and engaged in the work of the ACRB, will ensure constant improvement, despite any future change of elected officials, Chiefs of the APD/ACD and/or ACRB Executive Directors.

Retaliation

Officer retaliation against a citizen for filing a complaint is often expressed as a reason for not filing a complaint with the ACRB. The reality is that retaliation associated with the filing of a complaint against an officer is very unlikely to occur because, in most cases, an officer would risk far more serious discipline for retaliation than for the underlying complaint allegation. The ACRB and law enforcement departments take reports of retaliation very seriously.
Major Initiatives and Successes

Body-Worn Camera Report

During 2014, the discussion of body-worn cameras (BWCs) occupied the conversations of police departments and citizens alike. The cameras have been touted as a tool that would finally provide truth to the level of officer misconduct and citizen behaviors during interactions with police officers. In light of the conversation and the APD’s consideration of the use of BWCs, the ACRB conducted the first-ever study of BWCs by a City of Atlanta agency. The Atlanta Citizen Review Board Study on Body-Worn Cameras (BWCs) & Discussion of Concerns and Recommendations on BWCs for Atlanta Police Officers 2014 Report researched scores of reports, articles and government documents and discussed BWCs with jurisdictions already using the cameras.

The purpose of the study on BWCs was to advance the examination of the issues involved in the use of BWCs by Atlanta police officers. ACRB asserted that an early robust discussion of all issues associated with BWCs would ensure the successful implementation of a BWC program.

The study concluded that BWC recordings, if properly implemented, managed and made fully and quickly available to the ACRB, should make it easier for the ACRB to make decisions about alleged police misconduct with stronger evidence and increase the police departments’ level of agreement on sustained ACRB complaints. An increase in the level of agreement with ACRB sustained complaints would help improve the level of trust between police and citizens. The study noted that training, enforcement, right to privacy issues, access to and the management of recordings was among a host of policy considerations that must be thoroughly examined and resolved before BWCs are approved by the Council and used by APD.

The ACRB conducted a subsequent focus group as part of the ACRB’s continued effort to ensure that the public was informed of the BWC issues and had the opportunity to provide input about their concerns and hopes as they learned more about BWCs.

Building Community Awareness of the Agency

In 2014, the ACRB made its most aggressive effort to build the community’s awareness of the agency. The agency had been criticized for years for not attempting to connect with the communities in a way that would instill trust of the agency. One of the biggest initial challenges for the ACRB during 2014 was making the connections with the community grassroots organizations. Because of the fluid nature of community gatherings and meetings, the ACRB quickly realized that social media would provide a greater opportunity to act more quickly in its outreach efforts. The agency began utilizing social media to build awareness with the redevelopment of its Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/AtlantaCitizenReviewBoard).

To measure the effectiveness of the ACRB community outreach efforts, the ACRB attempts to track every citizen contact with the office. According to the contacts that provided their information about how they heard about the ACRB, radio public safety announcements were
stated most frequently as the source of learning about the agency, followed by information from a former ACRB complainant and a friend.

**Educating Citizens about Interactions with Police**

The ACRB is a strong advocate for community education as it relates to citizen interactions with police officers. The agency has a unique perspective of citizen/police interactions because of the daily examples of proper and improper interaction that are examined in the office. During the examination and investigation of many complaints, staff is able to pinpoint many instances where the interaction between citizen and officer became a problem. To consistently provide citizens with the benefit of the ACRB’s experience, the ACRB developed a “Know Your Rights” training program. The ACRB created materials to support the “Know Your Rights” trainings and created interactive activities to increase understanding of the information provided. The intent behind the training program is to provide citizens with a neutral and reality-based perspective of how to interact with police officers. With the public outcry related to the deaths of black males by law enforcement officers, “Know Your Rights” trainings have become a very important community discussion. In order to differentiate the ACRB offering from the training of civil lawyers and community-based groups, the ACRB uses actual cases received in the office and from around the country to explain and demonstrate proper interactions with law enforcement officers.

Another part of the ACRB training is discussing how citizens can be better witnesses to police interaction. Many citizens witness the actions of officers, but prefer not to get involved to report the incidents or become too involved in the incident while on the scene. Being a witness to police action and reporting questionable police action is an exercise of civic duty and responsibility.

In 2014, the ACRB conducted three “Know Your Rights” trainings. This was the first year that the agency conducted full trainings on citizen rights and interactions with the police. Increases in the agency’s budget allowed the agency to provide these trainings to citizens. In 2015, the agency has committed to providing more training.
2014 Performance Measures

The ACRB performance measures and agency outcomes were developed from feedback received from conversations with citizens, elected officials, and APD personnel. The performance measures are divided among the agency’s three performance goals that support the ACRB mission.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACRB Mission</th>
<th>Agency Goal</th>
<th>Agency Outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goal 1: Provide a trusted neutral forum for the receipt of, investigation of, and decisions on citizen complaints against Atlanta police and corrections officers.</td>
<td>Number of Complaints</td>
<td>Types of Allegations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dismissals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 2: Encourage citizen trust and confidence in the City’s law enforcement accountability systems.</td>
<td>Investigation Timeline</td>
<td>Cases Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Board Decisions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Chief Discipline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 3: Educate the public concerning the agency and police interactions.</td>
<td>Community Engagement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Goal 1: Provide a trusted neutral forum for the receipt of, investigation of, and decisions on citizen complaints against Atlanta police and corrections officers

The data associated with this goal provides an indicator of what interactions with law enforcement are affecting citizens’ perceptions of law enforcement and their satisfaction with law enforcement officers’ behaviors and actions. The data also provides an indicator of how well the ACRB is communicating its mission and message to the public. The ACRB tracks complaints filed, distribution percentage of filed complaints, dismissals, and assigned allegations to measure how well the agency is meeting its goal.

3 Data that quantifies the agency’s work to enable the public to measure the agency’s progress towards its performance goals.
Complaints remained steady from 2013 through 2014. In 2013, the ACRB received 124 complaints.

*Includes 32 complaints that were dismissed because the allegations fell outside of the ACRB jurisdiction.

Twenty-six (26%) of the complaints received were dismissed because the reported allegations fell outside of the ACRB jurisdiction.

**Top 3 Assigned Allegations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Allegation</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EXCESSIVE FORCE</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FALSE ARREST</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FALSE IMPRISONMENT</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dismissals

In 2014, the ACRB dismissed 26% of the complaints received because the allegations fell outside of the ACRB jurisdiction. As mentioned in previous years, the high percentage of dismissed complaints involving allegations not covered by the ACRB ordinance is an indication that the agency is underserving the needs of the community. As the only civilian oversight agency in the metro Atlanta area, the agency also receives a number of contacts from individuals wishing to file complaints against officers from other jurisdictions. Those individuals are provided information to contact the respective law enforcement departments. The agency also dismisses approximately 10% of the complaints each year because the reported incident is beyond the 180 days filing period.

Challenges Associated with Goal #1

- Educate public on current allegation jurisdiction
- Expand allegation jurisdiction
- Educate public on complaint filing time limit
- Continue to build citizen awareness of the agency

Agency Action

- Propose new legislation to expand the ACRB jurisdiction to include rude behavior, inappropriate conduct, and unsatisfied service.
- Continue community outreach efforts to explain the ACRB jurisdiction and filing time limitation.

Goal 2: Encourage citizen trust of the City’s police accountability system

Civilian oversight agencies are typically created because the citizens of an area determined that the local police department could not be trusted to conduct investigations and provide corrective action on their departmental personnel. The lack of confidence in local police departments gave rise to civilian oversight in hopes that the oversight agency would increase the level of trust that citizens have in their police departments and the police officer accountability systems.

The critical data related to measuring the success of the ACRB’s efforts to meet the needs of the community are captured with the investigative timeline, case closures, board decisions, and chief decisions data. These measures address many of the concerns that citizens and elected officials express during conversations related to the effectiveness of the agency and the cooperation of the law enforcement departments.
In 2014, the average investigative timeline increased by 11 days. While this increase still places the ACRB investigations well below the 180-APD requirement for investigations of citizen complaints, the ACRB recognizes the importance of completing investigations as quickly and thoroughly as possible. Despite the increase in the average number of days to complete an investigation, at the end of the year, the agency had completed more complaint investigations than the number completed in 2013.

Closed Investigations
The ACRB continued to increase the number of complaint investigations closed each year for the past three years. Closed complaints allow citizens and stakeholders the transparency to evaluate the types of complaints investigated and the ACRB’s handling of those complaints. The ACRB discusses the complaint investigations during open meetings and provides the discussions of the complaints in the monthly minutes.

Most importantly, timely closed complaint investigations allow citizens opportunities for quicker closure on experiences that many would prefer to forget.

**Board Decisions**

Board complaint reviews are one of the most important aspects of the ACRB operation. The reviews and decisions provide the opportunity for the citizens to weigh in on officer action. The board members represent a cross-section of Atlanta residents and have the opportunity and obligation to provide an expectation of what is acceptable policing in Atlanta. This critical feedback can be used by the APD and ACD to get a general sense of citizens’ perspective on police interactions.

### Distribution of Board Decisions

- **Sustained**: 22%
- **Exonerated**: 12%
- **Unfounded**: 17%
- **Not Sustained**: 49%

The board uses the APD complaint disposition designations for ACRB complaints. This allows the ACRB and the APD to operate from common meanings with regard to the complaint decisions.

**Exonerated**: The incident occurred but the employee's actions were justified, lawful, and proper.
Not-Sustained: There is insufficient evidence to sustain a finding that the employee committed the violation.

Sustained: The investigative file provides sufficient evidence to support the finding that the employee committed the violation.

Unfounded: Complainant admits to false allegation, the charge is false or not factual, or the accused employee was not involved in the incident.

In 2014, the ACRB sustained 22% of the complaints that came before the board. The sustained percentage reduced from 45% in 2013. Depending on the types of complaints received, investigated, and heard, the percentages may fluctuate which reflects the characteristics of the complaints. Abusive language allegations involving one-on-one situations are challenging due to a lack of witnesses or other corroborating information or evidence. However, with the implementation of body-worn cameras, recordings of these types of incidents will aid in the decision making process. False arrest allegations turn on the question of whether the probable cause existed for the arrest. 4 Rarely does the Fulton County District Attorney’s Office provide information related to its reasoning for declining to prosecute.

APD Chief’s Decisions

At the end of 2014, the chief had agreed on 50% of the ACRB sustained recommendations. No other measure determines the public’s perception of police accountability than the police department’s response to citizen allegations of police misconduct. The disciplinary percentage of agreement on sustained complaints for many citizens is the most critical factor of how well the law enforcement departments are attempting to hold their officers accountable. This percentage is also the citizens’ measuring stick about the effectiveness of the oversight agency and the police department’s respect for the agency’s work.

Disciplinary percentages are constantly fluctuating during the year because of the number of complaints under investigation or complaints pending the chief’s decision. APD’s pending rate to ACRB’s complaint decisions greatly improved from 2013 to 2014. In 2013, the APD had 40% of ACRB complaints pending an APD response. At the end of 2014, the ACRB had received final decisions on all but one sustained complaint that was reviewed and sent to the APD in 2014. 5

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4 The acceptance of a guilty plea, being found guilty, or having a case dead-docketed will generally create an inference that probable cause existed for the arrest.
5 The one remaining sustained complaint was rejected pending the completion of the APD Office of Professional Standards investigation.
The chief’s decisions during the above years include all sustained complaints (current year received complaints and previous year received complaints) that were sent to the chief and received a response from the chief at the end of the year.

At the end of 2013, 40% of the complaints that were sent to the APD were pending a decision.

One 2014 board sustained complaint is pending.

*The chief’s decisions during the above years include all sustained complaints (current year received complaints and previous year received complaints) that were sent to the chief and received a response from the chief at the end of the year.
Challenges associated with Goal #2

- Increase the rate of agreement between the ACRB and APD on sustained ACRB complaints
- Continue to reduce the investigative timeline

Agency Action

- Propose new legislation to expand the ACRB jurisdiction to include rude behavior, inappropriate conduct, and abuse of authority and failure to provide service.
- Continue community outreach efforts to explain the ACRB jurisdiction and filing time limitation
- Advocate for body-worn cameras (BWC), citizen participation in BWC policy development, and strict enforcement of policies

Goal 3: Educate the public concerning the agency and police interactions

Consistent community engagement is essential to the ability of the agency to address the concerns that citizens may have about officer accountability. The ACRB ordinance requires the ACRB to engage in a program of community education. In 2012, the ACRB developed two parts to the community education program – (1) awareness building and (2) interaction with law enforcement officers.

In 2014, the ACRB conducted and participated in more community engagement activities than it had ever done in the past. During engagement events, citizens often express that they wish they had known about the agency when they had issues involving the actions or behaviors of an Atlanta police or corrections officer. Because of the 180-day filing period, it is critical that the ACRB continue to address this lack of awareness with concentrated effort. The ACRB understands the time to establish awareness and trust of the agency and the accountability systems is before a critical incident. That is the motivating force behind the ACRB’s outreach campaign.

The ACRB increased its community outreach efforts by increasing the frequency of its communication to the public, which included opinion-editorial pieces, social media posts, canvassing, radio public service announcements and collaborating with community partners for participation in events throughout the City of Atlanta. In 2014, the agency received media exposure through television and radio interviews. In October 2014, CBS 46 attended the board meeting held at the Adamsville Recreation Center. The Executive Director participated in interviews with Jocelyn Dorsey, Director of Editorials and Public Affairs, WSB TV; Erica Walker, Director of Public Affairs, WAOK/WVEE; and Raphael Lester, Host of Potpourri, CAU TV. From 2013 to 2014, the ACRB increased its outreach by 76%.
Challenges associated with Goal #3

- Lack of awareness of the agency and services
- Increase citizen understanding of proper interactions between citizen and officers
- Increase flow of information to the community and from the community

Agency Action

- Continue with awareness and education outreach
- Conduct more focus groups and roundtables to increase feedback
- Continue with board meetings in the community

Officer-Involved Shootings

In September 2013, the ACRB started collecting data on officer-involved shootings where a citizen was injured. The purpose of this data collection was to monitor the length of investigations and the outcome of the investigations. Citizens expect the agency to be aware of critical incidents even when a complaint is not filed with the agency, especially if the incident is reported in the news.

The ACRB received notification of 11 officer-involved shootings in 2014. These critical incidents involved officer shootings where a citizen was injured or killed by an officer.

Currently, all 11 incidents are under investigation. The ACRB will continue to track these critical incidents through their resolutions.
The ACRB currently has one officer-involved shooting under investigation. The family of the victim filed a complaint with the ACRB.

### 2014 Officer Involved Shootings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of Incident</th>
<th>Location of Incident</th>
<th>Disposition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/23/2014</td>
<td>965 Welch Street, SW</td>
<td>UNDER INVESTIGATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/3/2014</td>
<td>1302 Ralph D Abernathy</td>
<td>UNDER INVESTIGATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/16/2014</td>
<td>183 Mt. Zion Rd</td>
<td>UNDER INVESTIGATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/20/2014</td>
<td>463 Boulevard</td>
<td>UNDER INVESTIGATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/3/2014</td>
<td>78 Claire Drive</td>
<td>UNDER INVESTIGATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/10/2014</td>
<td>1935 Alison Court</td>
<td>UNDER INVESTIGATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/7/2014</td>
<td>Atlanta Hwy in Cobb</td>
<td>UNDER INVESTIGATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/27/2014</td>
<td>2 Park Pl. Atlanta</td>
<td>UNDER INVESTIGATION</td>
</tr>
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<td>9/2/2014</td>
<td>342 Clifford Avenue, NE.</td>
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<td>10/24/2014</td>
<td>70 Clair Dr., Atlanta</td>
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Looking Forward

The coming year will find the ACRB working harder than ever to increase citizen awareness and understanding of the ACRB. The ACRB will continue to provide timely and thoroughly investigated complaints and reduce the investigative timeline. One of the most important actions for the ACRB will be expanding the ACRB jurisdiction to reduce the percentage of complaints dismissed because the allegations fell outside of the agency’s jurisdiction. Another important action will be increasing the understanding of why the APD made certain decisions on sustained complaints. This will enable the ACRB and the APD to address any concerns that are preventing the departments from achieving a sustainable high rate of agreement on sustained ACRB complaints.

After many months of negotiating with the Atlanta Law Department and Atlanta Police Department, the ACRB is looking forward to implementing a mediation program for certain complaints. In 2015, the ACRB will present an ordinance change to the City Council for the addition of a mediation program.
The Atlanta Citizen Review Board is a proud agency of the City of Atlanta.

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(ACRB)
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