ANNUAL REPORT
2018
Looking Back to Go Forward

Celebrating 10 Years of Service

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CHAIR’S LETTER

Dear Community Stakeholders,

In 2018, the city of Atlanta observed the 10th anniversary of the Atlanta Citizen Review Board (ACRB). The tragic death of Ms. Kathryn Johnston, and the ensuing community outrage, sparked the creation of this board.

The ACRB is an independent agency authorized to receive, mediate, investigate, hear, make findings, and recommend action on complaints against Atlanta Police and Corrections officers.

In the decade since its inception, the ACRB has vastly expanded outreach to community groups, promoted transparency and cooperation between the agency and the Atlanta Police Department (APD) and Atlanta Corrections Department (ACD) and initiated a mediation program.

I was honored to represent the City of Atlanta and the ACRB at the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) national conference this past September in St. Petersburg, Florida. The conference allowed me, and several of my ACRB colleagues, the opportunity to interact with the growing community of police oversight professionals, law enforcement officials, academics, and others working to strengthen citizen review and promote greater police accountability in the United Stated and abroad.

The ACRB continues to remain one of the few civilian oversight agencies that jurisdictions around the country seek to replicate. This can be attributed to the hard work and dedication of the ACRB staff and board members who are committed to seeking truth, justice and transparency for citizens and officers.

This annual report emphasizes the ACRB’s ongoing effort to increase community awareness and engagement by educating citizens on interaction with police officers. I encourage you to read the information contained in this report and share it with others.

I look forward to serving the citizens of Atlanta as board chair for the coming year, and would like to thank my fellow board members, ACRB staff and the citizens of Atlanta for your continued support.

Respectfully,

Cecilia Houston-Torrence
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2018 was a dynamic year for the Atlanta Citizen Review Board (ACRB). The agency celebrated its 10th year of providing independent civilian oversight of Atlanta police and corrections officers, faced the challenges of the cyberattack on the city’s network, conducted its first community engagement survey and initiated its police interaction quiz series. This report will discuss these events and review selected 2018 data within the context of the previous nine years.

Operating Highlights
Currently, the Board has 11 of its 13 authorized Board members seated. The agency staff consists of nine employees, three of which are investigators.

The agency received 135 complaints during 2018, of which 51 complaints were referred for a full investigation. Investigators completed 47 investigations. The Board rendered 39 decisions; of which, 31% were sustained or partially sustained. The Atlanta Police Department (APD) accepted 17% of the ACRB sustained complaints. At the end of the year, 26% of the ACRB sustained complaints were pending an APD decision. The Board did not adjudicate any cases from the Atlanta Corrections Department (ACD) during the year.

Keeping with the agency’s commitment to community engagement, the ACRB participated in over 100 community engagement events for the third year in a row and conducted 12 Know Your Rights trainings. Our Police Interaction Quiz Series started at the end of the year and has been a success. Additionally, the department received funding for two agency vehicles. These vehicles will allow the agency to increase its level of community engagement.

In 2018, the ACRB community engagement survey program was initiated to guide the agency in its work through measuring citizens’ perceptions on officer accountability and the agency. The ACRB continued to be impressed with the art and essays of the youth during our 2018 art and essay contest. The agency could not have accomplished all that it did without the assistance of our community partners, the Integrity Street Team (IST) and members of the Community Outreach Volunteer Ambassador Program (COVAP). The ACRB acknowledges the cooperation that many of the APD and ACD personnel have provided to the agency during investigations and training opportunities.

Sadly, the ACRB lost one of its most vocal supporters, Council Member Ivory Lee Young, Jr., representing Council District 3.
In Memoriam

Atlanta City Council Member Ivory Lee Young, Jr.

The ACRB will miss the guidance and support that Council Member Ivory Lee Young, Jr. provided over the years. Council Member Young was one of the original authors of the legislation to create the ACRB. A constant and consistent supporter, Council Member Young authored and carried sweeping legislation changes in 2016 to strengthen the ACRB. Thank you, Council Member Young.

How far that little candle throws his beams! So shines a good deed in a weary world.
~ William Shakespeare
**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 to promote the highest standards of conduct.

**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.

**Goal**

To lessen the possibility of urban unrest and promote public confidence in the Atlanta police and corrections departments.

**Values**

Integrity ● Credibility ● Fairness ● Commitment ● Excellence ● Justice ● Accountability ● Results Driven ● Teamwork ● Service ● Objectivity

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**2018 Board Members**

- **Cecilia Houston-Torre**
  - Chairperson
- **Shuntay Pitre**
  - Vice Chairperson
- **Tracee McDaniel**
  - Secretary
- **Trudy Boyce**
- **Bill Bozarth**
- **Gino Brogdon Jr.**
- **James Hardy**
- **Keith Hasson**
- **Gloria Hawkins-Wynn**
- **Michael Hopkins**
- **Tracee McDaniel**
- **Tamara Orange**
- **Barbara Ward-Groves**
- **Sherry Williams**

**2018 Staff**

- **Samuel L. Reid II**
  - Executive Director
- **Kabral Brathwaite**
  - Investigator Senior
- **Charles Curry**
  - Public Information Officer
- **Brian Fleming**
  - Investigator Senior
- **Lynn Garrett**
  - Executive Assistant
- **Ronald Jackson**
  - Investigator Senior
- **Melisa Reese**
  - Administrative Assistant
- **Tonya Richardson**
  - Investigator Senior
- **Sheena Robertson**
  - Investigation Manager
- **Myola Smith**
  - Project Manager
- **Kaleema Al-Nur**
  - Investigator (Contract)
THOUGHTS FROM OUR BOARD PARTNERS

Board members represent 13 entities reflecting the diversity of the City of Atlanta.

Urban League of Greater Atlanta

“The Urban League of Greater Atlanta values our seat on the Atlanta Citizen Review Board because it allows us to serve our community in a meaningful, lasting way. As a member of the Review Board, we gain direct insight into the city’s process for citizens to be heard fairly when they have issues regarding their interactions with public safety agencies and employees. The League is a civil rights organization, and this seat gives us a direct channel to assess the fairness of the systems through our historical prism and to advocate for justice for the city’s residents whom we all serve.”

Nancy Flake Johnson
President/CEO

Atlanta Planning and Advisory Board (APAB)

Manages the Neighborhood Planning Units (NPUs)

"NPU and APAB representation on the Citizen Review Board provides insight to the training of officers and internal operations of APD and, most importantly, a community voice when one or both fail. Reports back to the NPUs on the outcome of ACRB reviews without the filter of media coverage help the community better understand what is working and when it is necessary to work with their Councilmembers to provide additional resources and support. This partnership can only build a better, safer city for all Atlantans."

Debbie Skopczynski (President of APAB)
Chair, NPU F

Georgia Coalition for the Peoples’ Agenda (GCPA)

“It’s critical that the community knows that it has somebody that will speak for them and that will work with the Citizen Review Board to make sure that citizens get justice for cases that involve the police. We respect and honor the police, but we also understand that sometimes, like everything, there are bad people in everything. But we try to make sure that the process is equitable for our communities and that we get fairness and justice. And having that representative on that Board does that for us.

We’re glad that we have a legacy person that is on the Board through Tamara Orange. Dr. James Orange was one of our (Georgia Coalition for the Peoples’ Agenda’s) founders and leaders. Therefore, he stood for justice and she is living up to that legacy.”

Helen Butler
Executive Director
Georgia Coalition for the People’s Agenda (GCPA)
INTRODUCTION

The end of 2018 closed out the first ten years of independent civilian oversight of Atlanta police and corrections officers. With this report, the agency will pause to observe the spirit of “Sankofa.” It is important for the agency to take stock of the work that has been done, the work that is being done, and the work that is yet to be done.

Sankofa is a word from the Akan people of Ghana that means “literally go back and get it.”¹ As we look back, we see where the agency has made great strides and can be proud of the work that has been done. However, we can never forget why the ACRB was created – to reduce the chances of another Kathryn Johnston type death. It is in remembrance of Ms. Johnston and the actions surrounding her death that we conduct our work based on integrity, fairness, and excellence. Board members, citizens, and community partners have worked tirelessly to promote a viable, independent investigative agency in an area of public work that is often closed to the public.

The road to progress is slow and winding. We still see the old challenges of improving APD discipline on ACRB sustained complaints and building citizen awareness of the agency. In 2018, the APD agreed with 17% of the ACRB sustained complaints, while 26% of the sustained complaints were still awaiting an APD action at the end of the year. Like many oversight agencies, lacking the authority to compel the law enforcement agency to act on their sustained complaints, the ACRB will need to continue to work with the APD to resolve the issue of low discipline. We are hopeful that under the new police leadership and continued communication about the issues we can resolve the low discipline concern.

This tenth-year report considers selected 2018 data in the context of the previous nine years data. The report is divided into the following sections:

- Agency Overview
- Selected 10 Year Complaint Data
- Agency Programs

AGENCY OVERVIEW: HOW WE ARE MEETING OUR MISSION

Investigate
- Redress for citizens
- Full and Thorough Investigation
- Citizen Involvement in Decisions
- Corrective Action
- Discipline

Mediate
- Perspective Sharing
- Mutual Respect
- Honest Dialogue
- Professional Assistance

Advocate
- Awareness Building
- Community Engagement
- Know Your Rights Training
- Citizen Empowerment
- Website

Educate
- Transparency
- Feedback
- Information Loopback
- Systemic Change

Present (Action Phase)
- Training
- Outreach (Awareness and Education)
- Appropriate corrective actions (policy changes, training, discipline)
- Effective use of data
- ACRB growth

Past
- Lack of training
- Lack of awareness
- Lack of education
- Weak Image
- Increased payouts to citizens
- Lack of trust
- Lack of confidence

Future
- Increased public confidence in law enforcement
- Positive perceptions of law enforcement professionalism
- Lower settlement and litigation costs
- Empowered communities
- Mutual respect between citizens and officers
THE ACRB TABLE - OVERSIGHT OF ATLANTA POLICE AND CORRECTIONS OFFICERS

The ACRB sits at the table of civilian oversight of Atlanta police and corrections officers with internal and external stakeholders who all have a role in the success of officer accountability system and maintaining checks and balances on police authority. Each seat at the ACRB Table of Civilian Oversight is important to create and maintain effective and efficient oversight. The roundness of the table depicts the equal part that all internal and external stakeholders have with respect to ensuring that the highest standards of policing are achieved, maintained and supported.
Throughout the ACRB’s existence, the agency’s primary focus has been to provide a public service that is credible, legitimate, and fair. Our strategic plan incorporates four goals that approach civilian oversight holistically.

**Strategic Goal 1 – Meaningful Results**
Provide meaningful results that will change the behavior of officers who receive sustained misconduct complaints and thereby reduce the costs associated with misconduct.

- Complaint investigations, mediations, and adjudications
- Agency growth to pursue proactive strategies
- Ordinance enhancements
- Training and policy recommendations
- Officer compliance issues

**Strategic Goal 2 – Awareness Building**
Build awareness of the ACRB so every citizen will know that the ACRB will fairly, thoroughly, independently, and timely address concerns about misconduct involving APD and ACD officers.

- Monthly public Board meetings, community engagement program
- Integrity Street Team (IST)/ Community Outreach Volunteer Ambassador Program (COVAP), at least three Board meetings in community locations annually
- Newsletters, social media, mass media, community involvement

**Strategic Goal 3 – Education**
Educate citizens and officers about the importance of appropriate community/police relationships and of the rights/responsibilities that citizens and officers owe to society.

- Know Your Rights trainings
- Participation in community engagement activities
- Police Interactive Quiz Series and website education provided

**Strategic Goal 4 – Positive Impact**
Positively impact the community/police relationship.

- Annual Art and Essay Contests
- Board member participation in APD Citizen Academy
- APD ride-a-longs
- Community Survey
- Collaboration with community and APD/ACD
Stages of the ACRB Process

- **Receive/Evaluate Evidence**
- **Recommendation**

**Investigation/Mediation**

- **Review/Discuss**
- **Vote - Sustain/Not Sustain/ Unfounded/Exonerated**
- **Recommendation**

**Board's Decision**

- **Decision - Agree/Disagree**
- **No Action**
- **Discipline**
- **Oral/Written Reprimand**
- **Suspension**
- **Termination**
- **Training**

**Chief's Decision**
Integrity is a cornerstone of the ACRB’s work. It is the starting point of every agency action. ACRB Board decisions are a culmination of the investigative work that includes the filed complaint, evidence gathered, and staff recommendation, combined with the diversity of the board members’ perspectives and the collective experience training, and knowledge of the agency.
SELECTED 10-YEAR COMPLAINT DATA

Complaints Received

The average number of complaints for the preceding nine years is 112 complaints. The ACRB received 135 complaints in 2018, which is a 16% decrease from 2017. In 2017, the ACRB also experienced a decrease in the number of complaints received. At that time, it was noted that the media environment documenting the social outcry about law enforcement officer killings of unarmed citizens was also decreasing. Despite a spike in deadly police shootings in Georgia in 2018\(^2\), the social outcry and daily news stories were not as prominent as they were in 2015 and 2016, which might have contributed to the decrease in 2018 complaint filings. It is also notable that since December 2017, the APD has been under new leadership. This change in leadership may be a contributing factor as well.

Complaints Assigned for a Full Investigation\(^3\)

The percentage of complaints assigned to a full investigation increased from 30% in 2017 to 38% in 2018. 2018 had the second highest number of complaints assigned for a full investigation in the ten-year history of the agency. This is a result of the 2016 ordinance change that expanded the ACRB allegation jurisdiction to include appropriate action required and conduct.


\(^3\) Because of the cyberattack, the data for 2011 could not be compiled.
In 2018, the top three allegations assigned for investigation were appropriate action required (40%), excessive force (21%), and conduct (15%).

**Completed Investigations**

Completed investigations decreased by 13% from 2017 to 2018. This is not surprising considering the agency faced several challenges during 2018, most notably, the cyberattack on the city’s network. The ACRB lost its database, and most of the office computers were down. The inability to process reports and gather data caused a significant drag on the investigative time line. Another factor was that the agency only had one investigator throughout much of the year.

**Investigative Timeline**

Completed investigations averaged 265 days, which is beyond the agency’s goal to compete investigations within 180 days. Investigation timelines are subject to the complexity of the investigation, availability of the complaint parties and witnesses, and investigative resources. At the end of 2018, the ACRB had secured two experienced investigators which will result in faster complaint investigations in 2019. Fortunately, most of the ACRB database has been recovered.

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4 Because of the cyberattack, the data for 2011 could not be compiled.
5 Because of the cyberattack, the data for years 2009 – 2011 could not be compiled.
6 Most data restored March 22, 2019; 195 cases missing.
Board Decisions

Board determinations decreased by 16 from 2017 to 2018. The Board had several experienced members’ terms expire during 2018, which led to a reduction in the number of cases reviewed. By the end of 2018, the Board gained four new board members bringing the average length of board service down to 1.8 years. As the new members gain experience and training, the Board should increase the number of cases determined. In 2019, the board is operating at nearly full strength with 11 of the authorized 13 Board seats occupied. The Board will be on track to conduct more reviews in 2019. The Board has an aggressive training schedule planned for 2019 to ensure that all Board members are prepared for the Board’s work.

Sustained Complaints

The percentage of sustained complaints increased by 11% from 2017 to 2018. Sustained complaints are decided based on the evidence uncovered during the investigation. City documents, recordings, and access to officers are the most accessible evidence that the agency can obtain. Some of the cases suffer because the witnesses failed to come forward for the investigation, witnesses failed to participate in the investigation and lack of medical documentation.

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7 Because of the cyberattack, the data for 2010 and 2011 could not be compiled.
8 The number of sustained complaints was not captured for 2010.
A complaint is not sustained when there is not enough support to meet the preponderance of the evidence standard.\textsuperscript{9} This does not mean, however, that the incident did not occur as the citizen alleged. Citizens often ask if there is any value in filing a complaint when the incident is a one-on-one incident with an officer. There certainly is considerable value. Besides the personal empowerment that comes from asserting your rights, the documentation of an incident could prove to be important in the future when assessing the history of an officer and the departments’ handling of citizen complaints. Additionally, body-worn camera (BWC) and citizen recordings are sometimes the best witnesses to the incident in a one-on-one incident.

**APD Response to ACRB Sustained Complaints\textsuperscript{10}**

ACRB sustained complaints are provided to the APD/ACD for disciplinary decisions. The chiefs of police and corrections have the sole authority and responsibility to manage their departments with the use of appropriate discipline and corrective action. The ACRB does not have legal authority to compel the APD or ACD to take any action.

At the end of 2018, the APD agreed with 17\% of the ACRB sustained complaints. As mentioned in previous annual reports, the low percentage of agreement on ACRB sustained complaints is a challenge that must be resolved. This data point is the greatest concern for many community members with whom the agency has conferred with concerning the perception of department’s handling of officer accountability and the ACRB.

The ACRB and APD have been discussing the challenge. Some issues have been resolved, such as earlier communication of the ACRB complaints, providing greater details of the ACRB complaint allegations to the APD, and alignment of the independent parallel ACRB and APD investigations of the complaint allegations.

\textsuperscript{9} Preponderance of the Evidence Standard – the burden of proof is met when the investigative evidence shows that the allegation is more likely true than not, meaning the weight of the evidence is greater than 50%.

\textsuperscript{10} Because of the cyberattack, the data for 20110 and 2011 could not be compiled.
ACRB is hopeful that through the continued meetings with the APD Office of Professional Standards (OPS) we can clarify more issues and develop a path toward better APD agreement percentages on ACRB sustained complaints. Outside of the agreement issue, the ACRB and APD have worked collaboratively on training, coordination on the receipt of evidence, and accessibility of departmental employees. It is in the spirit of mutual collaboration and fairness to citizens and officers that the ACRB and APD will continue to work through the issues.

Body Worn Camera (BWC) Impact

2018 was the first year that all APD patrol officers had BWCS. The agency investigated ten complaints that had BWC footage. Six of the complaint investigations reviewed by the Board involved a sustained violation of the APD Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) BWC Policy. In those complaints, officers failed to record the interactions with the citizens.

The agency’s experience with the BWCS has been positive. The APD has been cooperative with providing access to the footage. We noticed two issues with the use of the BWCS:

- officers failing to activate the BWC at the appropriate time and
- turning the BWCS off before the end of an encounter.

These issues were highlighted in the City Auditor’s 2018 Report on APD BWC usage. As we stated in the conclusion section of our 2014 Atlanta Citizen Review Board Study on Body-Worn Cameras (BWCS) and Discussion of Concerns and Recommendations on BWCS for Atlanta Police Officers,

> Strong policies and consistent enforcement are essential to the integrity of the program. Avoidance of proper supervision, management, or leadership may result in officers and citizens losing invaluable privacy rights and a downward spiraling of the very trust that the use of the cameras can provide. Human nature always finds a way to adjust to technology; however, the tried and true concepts of effective management, strong policies, consistent application and enforcement

11 In early 2018, the ACRB met with the City Auditor’s Department and discussed our concerns with the officers’ usage of the BWCS. We provided the Auditor’s Department with information from ACRB cases that highlighted the issues.
of policies, and respect are more important than technology; otherwise, the only beneficiaries of the BWCs are the companies that make them.

AGENCY PROGRAMS

Mediation

The ACRB mediation program started in 2017. It provides an opportunity for citizens and officers involved in a complaint to meet with an independent mediator to discuss the complaint, share perspectives on the incident and determine how to resolve the complaint.

A preliminary investigation is conducted on each complaint received. When the complaint meets the mediation qualifications, a mediation is offered to the citizen and officer. The citizen and officer must agree to mediate the complaint. If the mediation fails to settle the complaint, the complaint proceeds to investigation. If the mediation is successful, the complaint is closed.

During 2018, very few complaints qualified for mediation. In many cases, the allegations did not meet the threshold, or the citizen did not want to meet with the officer. Going forward the agency will increase its messaging to the community to build awareness of the mediation program and increase citizen understanding of the benefits of the program. It should be noted that APD officers have been welcoming and supportive of participating in the mediation program.

Community Engagement

Even with participation in over 100 community events and activities for the third straight year, the agency is still confronted with citizens who are not aware of the agency and its work. We operate 10 community engagement programs, including the recent additions of the community engagement survey program and healing circles.12 From Board meetings in the community to participation in community

12 ACRB Outreach Programs: Art and Essay Contest, Police Interaction Quiz, ACRB Homeless Outreach Program, Know Your Rights Training, Captain Integrity, Mall Day Program, Community Engagement Survey Program, Healing Circles, Community Outreach Support Services, Community Outreach Volunteer Ambassador Program (COVAP), Integrity Street Team (IST).
events, the agency attempts to respond to every community engagement request that is made of the agency.

The Know Your Rights (KYR) program continues to grow every year. The agency works hard to ensure that every KYR training is geared toward the audience. Every question that is presented to KYR staff is brought back to the office to determine if an adjustment should be made to the training. The agency is now conducting informal surveys at the end of each KYR training to ensure that the program is delivering what the citizens need.

The agency’s community partners have been a great asset of the community engagement program. Friday of each week, ACRB distributes scores of its Investigation/Mediation cards to the homeless who come to Clyde Corbin’s Kitchen. Clyde’s Kitchen is a part of the mission of Crossroads Community Ministries. The agency’s partnership with the Atlanta Fulton Public Library System has assisted the agency with its art and essay contest and making the agency information available to the public.

During 2018, members of the ACRB staff participated in training for facilitating healing circles. Healing circles are based on the practices of indigenous people who valued the communication of all where mutual respect and the opportunity for expression is honored. The agency is planning to offer healing circles to community members who need and want to express their feelings and concerns about police in a constructive, supportive, and safe environment with others.

The addition of the new agency vehicles will allow the ACRB to increase its visibility throughout the Atlanta community. The agency is developing a plan that specifically addresses the use of the vehicle’s presence in the community.

**Community Engagement Survey Program**

The ACRB initiated its five-year community engagement survey program during the spring of 2018. The initial survey focused on the ten Atlanta zip codes with histories of high police activity based on the Part One of the Federal Uniformed Crime Report. The survey participants confirmed the anecdotal evidence that the agency had been receiving for years. Mainly, that there were still high levels of distrust in the APD and ACD to hold officers accountable and awareness of the agency is still needed. Additionally, the 2018 survey responses indicated that the lack of trust and belief that
nothing would happen with a complaint may impact citizens’ decisions to file a complaint against an officer. The survey also gave the agency a better understating of how significant the concern about retaliation is for some citizens. The agency plans to use the annual surveys as one measure of its impact on citizens’ perceptions of officer accountability and the ACRB’s role in the officer accountability system.

**Police Interaction Quiz Series**

The agency initiated the ACRB Police Interaction Quiz series to offer citizens a fun and challenging way to test their knowledge of the police interactions and the agency. Each quiz in the three-part quiz series has ten questions. Winners had to score 90% or higher to win an ACRB swag bag. Those who scored 90% or more on all three quizzes received the swag bags and entry into the grand prize drawing. To ensure that the series had the educational impact that we sought to provide, we added an education page to the website for citizens to review as preparation for the quiz.

**Challenges to Overcome**

**APD Response to ACRB Sustained Complaints**

The most serious challenge facing the ACRB is the low percentage of agreement on ACRB sustained complaints. While the APD has been most cooperative in the access of training, records, and officer availability, it is the agreement on sustained complaints that citizens consider to be the most important measure of success of the City’s officer accountability systems that include the ACRB, APD, ACD, and the elected officials. However, there is hope that with continued discussions and developing better alignment between the ACRB and APD, citizens will recognize improvement in the percentage of agreement on ACRB sustained complaints.

**Lack of Trust and Confidence in Officer Accountability**

The 2018 Community Engagement Survey responses revealed high percentages of lack of trust and confidence in the APD and ACD to hold officers accountable. The survey responses also indicated two possible reasons for not filing a complaint against an officer – lack of trust and the belief that nothing would happen. The results of the

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13 For more information, see the 2018 ACRB Community Survey Report.
survey appear to confirm the effect of the APD’s decisions on the citizens perceptions of the agency.

**Community Awareness of the Agency**

Citizen awareness of the agency is another challenge that requires the agency to commit significant resources. The ACRB has been committed to community outreach since 2012. The agency has grown its outreach program tenfold over the years; however, the 2018 community survey results indicate that community engagement is an activity that the agency will need to continue to pursue.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

The agency is excited about 2019. There are many opportunities for the agency to pursue that will have a direct impact on the citizens’ awareness of the agency from the rolling out of the new agency vehicles to additional programs that will connect citizens with the agency. The agency’s most anticipated action is its continued work with the APD to come to better alignment between the ACRB and APD on ACRB sustained complaints. Our goal is to find the path beyond the historical low percentages of agreement on ACRB sustained complaints.

While progress is sometimes seemingly slow, the agency’s commitment to providing meaningful results in officer accountability to citizens never waivers. We hope that after reading this report you have found a place where you can and will get involved with the agency’s work.

Civilian oversight is a function that is open to all citizens and officers. Civilian oversight is not an us-against-them situation. It is an encompassing service that seeks to use the best of citizens and officers to address officer accountability and provide community education in an effective way. ACRB opportunities for involvement with the agency are broad. For citizens, the agency provides volunteer opportunities, board service, and a forum for expression of officer accountability concerns. For officers, the agency can provide opportunities to participate in focus groups and discussions with citizens in an environment that seeks to understand and to be understood. Everyone,
citizens, officers, elected officials can be a part of making effective officer accountability and improving relations between citizens and officers a reality.

Stay informed. Get involved. Educate and Advocate.
The Atlanta Citizen Review Board is a proud agency of the City of Atlanta.

Atlanta Citizen Review Board (ACRB)

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