



Executive Director Update

September 4, 2025 Board Meeting

Good evening, Board Members, Staff and Community Members,

I want to thank you for your commitment to this work and for being here tonight. As Executive Director, I'd like to provide you with an update on our progress, activities, and priorities as we continue to strengthen the mission of the Police Accountability Board.

Community Engagement & Public Input

First, I'm excited to share that our *From Call to Arrival Survey* is live on ROCPAB.org. We've already received almost 80 responses, which is a strong start, but we know there's more to gather. I encourage each of you to share the survey link with your networks and invite community members to participate. Their voices are critical to shaping our oversight and accountability work. This morning Sofia Lopez Cartagena (Data Analyst) and I conducted an interview on Spectrum News to discuss the report and why there was a need.

We also have two Community Listening Sessions scheduled. On September 10th, we will be at the Frederick Douglass R-Center from 6–8 pm, and on October 14th, we will gather at Ibero's Community Resource Room, also from 6–8 pm. These sessions are opportunities for us to hear directly from residents — their stories, their challenges, their hopes — and to build trust through transparency and presence.

This fall, our team will also be presenting in secondary schools and college classrooms to talk about the PAB and about students knowing their rights. This is about education, empowerment, and ensuring young people understand the role of oversight in their community.

On September 15th, the PAB will participate in a statewide panel hosted by the NYCLU focused on police transparency and accountability.

- The event will highlight the repeal of 50-a as one of the major recent wins for public access to police records.
- The panel will bring together legal experts, advocates, and oversight leaders to discuss the ongoing fight for records, the role of oversight bodies, and the broader impact of transparency on the public.

- The PAB will be represented as part of the discussion on direct accountability work and the importance of local oversight in shaping statewide reform.
- The session is designed not only to reflect on progress but to chart next steps for collaboration and relationship-building across advocacy and oversight organizations.
- National outlets including the New York Times and USA Today have expressed interest in covering the event, which could provide positive visibility for both the PAB and oversight efforts across New York.

This engagement is an important opportunity to:

- Demonstrate PAB's leadership in the statewide oversight landscape.
- Strengthen ties with advocacy partners and the legal community.
- Amplify community voices and lived experiences as central to transparency and accountability.

I also want to acknowledge the Public Affairs and Community Engagement Team. This summer the Community Engagement Team participated in 32 outreach activities, reaching 880 community members:

Statewide Oversight Leadership

I'm also proud to share that on September 30th, we will host the first New York State Civilian Oversight Consortium. Eight oversight agencies from across the state will be coming together. Registrations are already coming in, and we are finalizing our keynote speaker for the day. This is a historic moment — to unite oversight voices, share strategies, and demonstrate the power of collaboration at a statewide level.

Board Acknowledgment

I want to pause here to acknowledge that tonight marks Rabbi Drorah Settel's last Board meeting. Rabbi Settel, we thank you for your service, passion, and dedication to this Agency, to our staff, and to this community. Your leadership has been marked by both courage and compassion. You have helped guide the PAB through challenges and growth, and your impact will continue to shape our work. On behalf of the entire staff, thank you for your unwavering commitment — we are truly grateful.

I also want to welcome AJ Durwin to the Board.

Staff Development & Culture

In two weeks, our entire staff will participate in a three-day Undoing Racism Training. This is more than professional development — it is an investment in our culture, our shared language, and our ability to serve the community with equity and accountability at the center of all we do.

Internally, we continue to work on succession planning, morale check-ins, and the preparation of our Annual Report, which is a core Charter responsibility. On the operations side, updates to our space at 57 St. Paul are ongoing, including signage and workspace improvements. We are also reviewing budget priorities for the next quarter.

Legal & Strategic Updates

As you know, following the April 2025 court ruling, our authority to independently investigate individual complaints, issue subpoenas, and recommend discipline was legally revoked. Even with those limitations, the PAB remains fully authorized and committed to policy-level oversight, transparency, community engagement, publishing proposals for change, and advancing data accountability.

We continue to work closely with counsel to navigate these legal shifts while ensuring we fulfill our Charter obligations with integrity.

Communications & Public Visibility

On communications, our website and social media continue to see steady traffic, with spikes around survey launches, reports, and public events. We're actively using these platforms to highlight our work and promote transparency. Our recent and upcoming press coverage has focused on our listening sessions and community forums, reinforcing our presence and accessibility to the public.

Closing Reflection

I want to close with this: the PAB is growing in visibility, credibility, and impact. Each survey response, each listening session, each classroom presentation, and each statewide partnership builds on the trust we are working so hard to restore.

Our community is watching us closely, and what they see is an organization that shows up, listens, and delivers. I am grateful for each of you on this Board who continues to guide, challenge, and support our mission.

Together, we are showing that accountability and transparency are not just words — they are commitments that can change the relationship between community and policing.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dr. Lesli C. Myers-Small (she/her/hers)
Executive Director for the Police Accountability Board