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MOEEL LAH FAKHOURY LLP REPORTS ON THE STATUS OF INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIONS INTO ALLEGED POLICE MISCONDUCT IN THE CITY OF ALBANY

ALBANY, NY – The Albany Community Police Review Board (CPRB) has partnered with Moeel Lah Fakhoury LLP (MLF) to help the CPRB implement its expanded responsibilities following the passage of Proposition 7 – Local Law J on November 2, 2021. This voter-approved change in the city code granted the CPRB increased authority, including the power to conduct independent investigations with subpoena authority and to oversee, review, and resolve community complaints related to alleged police misconduct.

However, since Local Law J passed, the CPRB has faced significant barriers and challenges in independently investigating cases of alleged misconduct. MLF's team of experienced oversight professionals has prepared a report outlining the status of the law's implementation, highlighting issues with the current misconduct investigation process in the City of Albany that require improvement in order for the CPRB to effectively fulfill its obligations.

The report's key findings include:

- **Restrictions to Accessing Evidence:** Limitations on the duration the CPRB and its contracted investigators can access Albany Police Department (APD) records, including OPS case files and various forms of video footage, such as body-worn camera recordings.
- **Delays and Refusals:** Persistent delays in providing case information and, in some instances, outright refusals to grant access to essential materials.
- **Subpoena Compliance:** Resistance from APD and Corporation Counsel in complying with properly served subpoenas, despite Local Law J clearly granting the CPRB compulsory process authority.
- **Lack of Transparency:** A lack of timely and substantive updates on officer discipline, including a deficiency in transparency regarding disciplinary actions taken against officers, as well as the absence of comprehensive reports on disciplinary investigations, including those by the Chief of Police.

In light of these findings, the report presents five key recommendations aimed at addressing the identified issues and aligning practices with established standards for police oversight.

The full report can be viewed [here](#).

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