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Head of NYPD Watchdog Resigns

Richard Emery, head of the organization that handles civilian complaints against the New York Police Department, stepped down after a conversation with Mayor Bill de Blasio.

BY [PERVAIZ SHALLWANI](#) / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS / Updated: Tuesday, April 13, 2016, 6:08 PM

The head of the agency that handles civilian complaints against the New York Police Department resigned Wednesday, hours after it emerged that he is the subject of a civil lawsuit filed by the agency's executive director.

Richard Emery said he decided to resign after a "lengthy substantive discussion" with Mayor [Bill de Blasio](#), according to a statement he sent to the mayor's office around 4 p.m. Wednesday.

"He and I agree that the confluence of recent circumstances will preclude me from further fulfilling my goals" as Chairman of the Civilian Complaint Review Board, Mr. Emery wrote.

Mr. Emery, a prominent civil rights lawyer in the city, was appointed by Mr. de Blasio and has been credited with bringing needed reforms to the organization.

"Over the past two years, the CCRB has resolved cases much more quickly and efficiently, and I am thankful to Richard and the entire CCRB staff for their dedication to this effort," Mr. de Blasio said in a statement.

Mr. de Blasio said CCRB board member Deborah N. Archer has agreed to serve as acting chair of the CCRB, effective immediately.

Mr. Emery's resignation comes hours after reports that he was being sued by his executive director, Mina Malik, for allegedly retaliating against her and another female attorney by using a derogatory remark.

"We are pleased that filing this lawsuit had such a quick and positive impact," Douglas Wigdor, Ms. Malik's attorney, said in a statement.

The resignation also comes less than two months after Mr. Emery apologized to the NYPD for saying police unions were "squealing like a stuck pig."

The CCRB canceled its scheduled monthly meeting Wednesday night at the request of the mayor at around the same time Mr. Emery announced his resignation.

—Mara Gay contributed to this article.