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Greetings,

This is my 150-word public comment for the Ethics Commission meeting of 11/12/21. Please include it in the minutes under agenda item #7, about the BLA Performance Report on the Ethics Commission.

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The BLA audit recommended that Ethics staff; *“...report on whistleblower retaliation case outcomes to the Ethics Commission on an annual basis, including reasons for dismissals and case closures, to enhance transparency of these investigations.”* What about transparency for whistleblower retaliation claims that bypass Ethics? The Commission on the Status of Women tracks claims relevant to its purview via annual summaries of women's discrimination claims and lawsuits provided by the City Attorney. [Here's a sample](#). While these reports are mandated by the Administrative Code, there's now a process whereby Ethics could also check the nature and outcomes of whistleblower retaliation claims filed with the City. Some whistleblowers bypass Ethics and sue the City for retaliation. If they don't know about - or don't trust - Ethics' handling of retaliation claims, that could prompt better outreach. Reviewing the legal outcomes of retaliation claims that were initially dismissed by Ethics could prompt investigative reforms.

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Respectfully,  
Derek Kerr, MD