



NEWS RELEASE

Chicago Police Department

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CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TOWARD CONSENT DECREE COMPLIANCE

First-year progress centralized on officer training, community engagement and establishing Department-wide framework to prioritize reform

CHICAGO – The City of Chicago today filed a status report with U.S. Northern District Judge Robert M. Dow, detailing the significant progress toward consent decree compliance achieved by the Chicago Police Department (CPD) during the Independent Monitoring Team's (IMT) second reporting period. Nearly a year after the City of Chicago entered into a consent decree with the State of Illinois to mandate public safety reforms, CPD has made significant progress with over 100 paragraphs of the consent decree, and continues to implement enforceable, meaningful reforms that will build a more transparent, accountable and professional police force.

The new status report recaps the City's progress over the past six months to comply with consent decree requirements and deadlines, specifically focusing on recent reorganizational efforts to prioritize compliance across the Department, expanding community input opportunities on policy developments and implementing new training requirements and reforms.

"The progress achieved thus far would not have been possible without the thousands of Chicagoans who have joined us along our path to reform," said CPD Interim Superintendent Charlie Beck. "This includes residents who have taken the time to share feedback on Department policy, as well as our Department members who have committed to making this work."

While the City continues to make progress on compliance, a number of deadlines have been missed in several important areas, including how to effectively engage community members most impacted by CPD policies and how quickly the Department produces requested information, manage data and reviews policies. From mandating all CPD consent decree-related positions be prioritized in the hiring process to restructuring CompStat meetings with district commanders to assess training compliance, Interim Supt. Beck has worked over the past several months to ensure the Department has the framework, resources and personnel necessary to improve compliance with consent decree deadlines.

Department Re-Organization Prioritizes Consent Decree

As part of these foundational efforts and recommendations by the IMT, the Department announced last month a major re-organization of its command structure to not only deploy more personnel and resources in the field, but also prioritize the consent decree through the new Office of Constitutional Policing and Reform. The new office combines all the functions tied to the Department's reform efforts under the command of Deputy Superintendent Barbara West, a 26-year veteran of CPD and the highest-ranking African American female in the history of the Department.

Deputy Superintendent West now oversees a wide range of functions directly impacting consent decree compliance, including reform management, training, professional counseling, force review, administrative support, research & development, audits & inspections and project management. From implementing department-wide policies to ensuring district officers complete the necessary training requirements, Deputy Superintendent West will work to build on CPD's roadmap to reform as outlined in the consent decree and increase accountability at every level of the Department.

Embracing Community Input on Policy Development

Over the past six months, CPD has fundamentally revamped its approach to community engagement around policy development following the Monitor's recommendations. In February, CPD held four open conversation-based meetings across the city to facilitate community input on key policy topics. Over 100 people attended each of these meetings, where community members and advocates discussed their ideas and experiences directly with CPD policy analysts and training curriculum specialists.

Responding to feedback from a coalition of community organizations committed to monitoring, enforcing, and educating the community about the consent decree, CPD will continue to communicate with those who participate in the policy feedback process to ensure that community partners who share time, ideas and stories are kept in the loop as these policies progress through development. The Department also continues to work with the IMT, the Office of the Illinois Attorney General and Coalition to refine and improve this process.

As a next step, CPD is forming a dedicated, community-driven working group to discuss its use of force policies, and is exploring separate working groups for other focused topics, including policies related to youth and children, investigation and response to hate crimes, interactions with individuals with disabilities, and more.

Increase in Training for Officers

The Department kicked off 32 hours of annual in-service training in January 2020, as part of its commitment to improving in-service training under the consent decree. The increase builds off the 24 hours of in-service training provided in 2019, as mandated by the consent decree.

All officers will receive 32 hours of in-service training in areas such as use of force, law enforcement medical assistance and recovery training (LEMART), procedural justice and custodial escort training throughout 2020. Annual in-service training will increase to 40 hours in 2021.

Policy Reform

A host of new Department policies went into effect over the past six months, from updating 12 of the CPD's Use of Force policies, to requiring officers to make notifications to the Office of Emergency Management and Communications whenever they point their firearm at an individual.

The Department revised Use of Force policies to more clearly reflect the language and requirements listed in the consent decree. Collectively, these policies outline the Department's use of force and response to incidents involving force. The policies were posted for public review and comment on Feb. 28, 2020. The public comment period leads to the next phase of compliance, which includes community engagement.

The City and the Chicago Police Department (CPD) continue to build a foundation for durable reform in pursuit of a more transparent, accountable and professional Department. The Independent Monitoring Team overseeing CPD's compliance with the consent decree will release their second semi-annual report next month.

The City Status Report can be viewed at the following link: <https://home.chicagopolice.org/city-of-chicagos-second-semiannual-status-report/>

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