

Chicago's Consent Decree for Reforming the Chicago Police Department

What is a Consent Decree?

A Consent Decree is an agreement that is contained in a court order for making changes and reforms to government bodies. Chicago is currently developing a Consent Decree for reforming the Chicago Police Department (CPD).

How does a Consent Decree work?

A Consent Decree is a document developed and negotiated between the involved parties. The Consent Decree is brought before a federal judge for discussion and approval and then a court-appointed monitor reviews the progress as the institution makes the changes agreed upon in the Consent Decree. The plaintiffs for the Consent Decree enforce it by bringing any violations & concerns to the federal court to be addressed, to make sure all of the demands of the consent decree are satisfactorily met.

Why are the people of Chicago fighting for a Consent Decree for the CPD?

On January 13, 2017, the US Department of Justice released a 164-page report of their investigation of the Chicago Police Department, confirming what the communities of Chicago had known for years. The DOJ Report outlines a history, pattern, and practice of corruption, racism, abuse of power, excessive force, crimes, and misconduct committed by the CPD. The DOJ investigation also exposed problems with CPD officers, training, supervision, leadership, culture, and operations.

With the election of Trump, the new head of the DOJ, who normally develops police consent decrees, refused to take any action to reform any police departments in the country. As a result, community organizations in Chicago formed a coalition - the Campbell Plaintiffs, of which Network 49 is a member - to file a lawsuit against the City of Chicago, to demand a Consent Decree. Months later, the Illinois Attorney General, Lisa Madigan, became aware of our lawsuit and filed a similar lawsuit herself in order to participate in the same effort. We then began negotiating with Lisa Madigan for advancing this Consent Decree with community participation.

Where are we now with the Consent Decree?

We are currently finalizing the Campbell Plaintiffs' community-generated Consent Decree document, and our attorneys are negotiating with the Illinois Attorney General and the City of Chicago to determine a satisfactory, effective, and official consent decree to bring before the Federal judge.

This is great, but how can I get involved?

- Join Network 49 & the Safe Communities Task Force to support our efforts to develop, monitor, and enforce the Consent Decree!
Contact Task Force Co-Chair Ted Miin at tmiin@gmail.com
- Educate! Share information with your friends & neighbors.
- Get on our mailing list to hear about key developments.
- Contribute to organizing teach-ins and community meetings.



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10 Point Plan for Consent Decree Provisions

The Consent Decree to address the Chicago Police Department's historic and current pattern and practices of racism, bias and violence must include the following provisions in order to create transformational change:

1. CPD has an obligation to preserve and respect the sanctity of life and protect all people from harm resulting from CPD officers' actions and inactions.
2. Survivors and victims of police violence and their families/loved ones must be treated with respect, are entitled to receive accurate up-to-date information, and access to support services.
3. Chicago must provide communities with the resources to resolve conflicts and create safe communities, and CPD officers must be incentivized to divert people from the justice system.
4. CPD must take affirmative steps to eliminate racism and bias from its policing practices.
5. Communities must have the ability to hold police accountable, and the accountability structure must be wholly independent from city hall and the police department.
6. CPD will ensure that the police force reflects the diversity of Chicago and is comprised of individuals qualified to implement bias-free policing and the least restrictive police response.
7. CPD will ensure that all officers are continually trained and retrained in bias-free policing, preserving and respecting the sanctity of life and the least restrictive police response, but will not waste additional tax dollars on a new training academy.
8. CPD will develop and implement officer performance metrics based on community and co-worker feedback, measures of use of least restrictive police response and commitment to bias-free policing. CPD supervisors will be evaluated based on the performance of their direct reports.
9. CPD and all oversight entities shall be transparent and shall make available data, reports, videos, and investigations in a timely and visually accessible manner.
10. People most affected by police violence will develop, monitor, and enforce the remedies related to CPD's violence and bias.

For more information:

Contact the **Network 49** Community Safety Task Force Co-Chair Ted Miin at net49safecom@gmail.com.



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