

BPD Monitoring Team

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Consent Decree Monitoring Team Statement on Baltimore Police Department's Completion of Training and Activation of Policies regarding Stops, Searches and Arrests

February 10, 2021

(Baltimore, MD) – The Baltimore Police Department's completion of training and corresponding activation of revised policies on stops, searches and arrests are an important milestone along its path to Consent Decree compliance. In its investigation in 2015-16, the Department of Justice found that BPD was engaged in an unconstitutional pattern-and-practice of stopping, searching and arresting Baltimoreans without legal justification and based on their race. Perhaps more than anything else, it was this pattern-and-practice that reflected BPD's "warrior" policing culture and eroded community trust.

Now is when the rubber meets the road: BPD must show that its new policies and training are having a measurable, tangible impact *on the street*—that its officers are treating community members with respect and carrying out their core law enforcement duties fairly and constitutionally. Particularly with the implementation this spring of BPD's new record management system, which at long last will enable comprehensive assessment of officer actions in a relational electronic database, the Monitoring Team will focus increasingly on evaluating BPD's stop, search and arrest practices. Improvements in this area are indispensable to building BPD's legitimacy, fostering community trust and, ultimately, achieving compliance with the Consent Decree.

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The Baltimore Police Monitoring Team oversees the implementation of the Consent Decree – a judicially-enforceable agreement – between the Baltimore City Police Department, the City of Baltimore and the United States. The Consent Decree requires BPD to adopt a number of specific reforms aimed at ensuring effective, safe, and constitutional policing. The Monitoring Team's job is to help the Court gauge whether, consistent with the Consent Decree's objectives, BPD is achieving meaningful reform by making tangible changes in its policies and practices for the benefit of Baltimoreans. The Monitoring Team also provides technical assistance to BPD as it seeks to implement the reforms required by the Consent Decree. The Monitoring Team includes specialists in policing and police reform, civil rights enforcement, psychology, social science, organizational change, data and technology, and community engagement.