

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Independent Monitor Releases Draft First-Year Monitoring Plan for Public Review and Comment

On January 18, 2017, the Independent Monitor of the Newark Police Division, Peter Harvey, announced that he has released a draft First-Year Monitoring Plan for public review and comment. The Plan is the culmination of a joint effort between the Independent Monitor, the Department of Justice (“DOJ”), the City of Newark (“City”), and the Newark Department of Public Safety’s Police Division (“NPD”), collectively (the “Parties”) to create a roadmap to achieve compliance with the Consent Decree during the first year of its implementation.

Under the Consent Decree, the NPD is required to reform its policing practices in the following areas over a five-year period:

- Internal Affairs: Theft, Complaint Intake and Investigation, Compliance Reviews and Integrity Audits, Discipline
- Stops, Searches, and Arrests
- Bias-Free Policing
- Community Engagement and Civilian Oversight
- Use of Force
- Data Systems Improvements: Early Warning and Record Management Systems
- In-Car and Body-Worn Cameras
- Training

The [draft First-Year Monitoring Plan](#) consists of four documents setting forth how the Independent Monitor will assess the NPD’s compliance in these core areas during the first year and establishes deadlines for achieving these tasks. Specifically, the Plan identifies which of the Consent Decree’s requirements will be assessed during the first year, adopts the deadlines for the NPD to develop policies and deliver trainings to NPD personnel required by the Consent Decree, and establishes the schedule for assessing outcome measures and completing compliance reviews. It also details the methods by which the Independent Monitor will communicate and collaborate with the public through the first year of the Consent Decree.

During the first year, the Independent Monitor will establish baseline assessments for each area required by the Consent Decree: (1) stops, searches, and arrests; (2) use of force; (3) theft allegations; (4) training; (5) supervision; and (6) accountability. The Independent Monitor also will release public reports updating the Court, the City, the NPD and the public addressing the status of the City and NPD’s compliance with the requirements of the Consent Decree, and recommending necessary next steps and projections for the subsequent reporting period. The first report will be issued in March 2017.

In order to fully achieve the objectives of the Consent Decree, the Newark community must have an active role in how these reforms are implemented. Therefore, the Independent Monitor encourages community members to submit comments on the draft Plan via the Independent

Monitor's [feedback form](#) or telephone line: 844-967-3668 (844-9-NPDMNTR). Comments may also be mailed to the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, Attention: Ryan P. Haygood, President and CEO, New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, 60 Park Place, Suite 511, Newark, NJ 07102-5504. Comments will be due by February 10, 2017.

These comments will be carefully considered and evaluated in formulating the final version of the Monitoring Plan. The final Plan will be made publically available shortly thereafter.

“The Consent Decree is an opportunity for the City of Newark to transform the NPD’s practices and rebuild trust with the community it serves,” said the Independent Monitor, Peter Harvey. “The Independent Monitoring Team looks forward to working closely with the City of Newark, the NPD, the Department of Justice, and Newark’s community members to implement the Consent Decree’s requirements.”

Background: The Consent Decree emerged from a comprehensive investigation into the operations of the NPD conducted by the DOJ. On July 22, 2014, the DOJ issued a report concluding that NPD officers engaged in a pattern or practice of unconstitutional policing, including theft by officers, unlawful stops and arrests, excessive use of force, and retaliation against individuals who exercise their First Amendment rights. On March 30, 2016, the DOJ and the City reached a settlement intended to bring comprehensive and long-lasting reform to the NPD.

On May 5, 2016, Peter Harvey was appointed as the Independent Monitor. The Independent Monitor is required to assess the City’s and NPD’s implementation and compliance with the Consent Decree, report on the City’s progress to the Court and work with the Parties to overcome any barriers to compliance. Mr. Harvey served as Attorney General for the State of New Jersey during the time that the New Jersey State Police was subject to a federal consent decree between the State of New Jersey and the DOJ. Mr. Harvey leads a team of local and nationally-recognized experts, consisting of former law enforcement professionals, community advocates, and leading academics.

For more information on the [Consent Decree](#) and the Independent Monitor, please visit the [Independent Monitor’s Website](#).

The draft First-Year Monitoring Plan can be found [here](#).