

June 5, 2020

ATTORNEY GENERAL RAOUL ISSUES STATEMENT REGARDING CHICAGO POLICE CONSENT DECREE

Chicago — Attorney General Kwame Raoul today issued a statement regarding implementation of a consent decree between the city of Chicago and the state of Illinois that requires the city to implement wide-ranging reforms of the Chicago Police Department (CPD). In a status hearing today regarding the consent decree and the CPD's response to protests taking place throughout Chicago, attorneys from Raoul's office argued that the city has failed to implement the consent decree in a timely manner.

"My commitment to enforcing the consent decree between the city of Chicago and state of Illinois has never wavered. If anything, the horrific murders of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, two in a long list of black lives lost at the hands of police, have strengthened my resolve to do my part to end pervasive police violence against our black and brown residents.

"We cannot let another day go by where the CPD hides behind a broken accountability system, inexcusably misses dozens of court-ordered deadlines with no plan in place to catch up, and fails to take the necessary steps to remedy the problems outlined in the U.S. Department of Justice's 2017 report. The city owes the community it serves meaningful reform, not lip service, not Band-Aids, and not politics.

"I am calling on the city to recommit to implementing structural change within the Chicago Police Department, to publicly reject systemic racism, and to truly and transparently commit to gaining the trust of communities of color. I look forward to the independent monitor's upcoming special report that will give us a more complete picture of how the CPD is responding to the protests that are continuing throughout Chicago. The protests are proof that the residents of Chicago are tired of waiting. I am calling on the city to do the hard work it assured people would be done to end systemic racism and restore accountability.

"I was pleased to hear Mayor Lightfoot's recent comments acknowledging that implementation of the consent decree has been too slow. After several months of missed deadlines, one would be hard-pressed to disagree.

"The obstacle to implementation has never been the consent decree; rather, it has been the Chicago Police Department's failure to prioritize the consent decree by committing sufficient resources to implement the court-ordered reforms. The city and the Chicago Police Department must finally take meaningful steps to implement the consent decree with the sense of urgency this moment in time demands. As tens of thousands of Chicagoans raise their voices to mourn and cry out for change, the city's leadership owes them no less."

Raoul is urging the city to deliver to the court, the monitor, and the Attorney General's office a plan detailing when and how it will meet all of the consent decree deadlines missed.

To find more information, visit the [Attorney General's consent decree website](#).