

LAPD – Consent Decree

The Federal Consent Decree resulted from the Rampart Commission incidents and was supervised by the U.s. Department of Justice. The agreement was formally entered into law on June 15, 2001. A Deputy Chief was named as administrator, overseeing a staff of 187 sworn officers, 112 civilians, and a projected budget (2008) of \$55 million. The Decree was instituted for a minimum of 5 years during which the Department had to show ongoing compliance. Intended to promote integrity and prevent civil rights violations, it placed emphasis in 9 major areas.

- Management and supervision of civil rights integrity
- Critical incident procedures, documentation, investigation, and review
- Management of gang units
- Management of Confidential Informant Program
- Development for response to persons with mental illness
- Training
- Integrity audits
- Operations of the Police Commission and Inspector General
- Community outreach and public information

After establishing and staffing an Audit bureau, Civil rights Integrity Division, and the Risk Management Division, all employees had to be trained in the new procedures and policies. Essential to the monitoring process was the Training Evaluation and Management System, second generation (TEAMS II) computer database. This database is able to record all uses of force, pursuits, internal investigations and citizen complaints, awards and commendations, civil lawsuits, performance evaluations and training history. When making a stop or an arrest the officers involved must include demographic information about the officer and the citizen involved. TEAMS II database is the core of the Consent Decree and all other provisions relate back to the information gathered from the database.

An extension was given in 2006, but the LAPD was not released from the decree. In 2009 a transitional release was approved with much of the responsibility of monitoring the Department falling on the Police Commission and the Inspector General's office. The four areas of concern are—

- Bias Policing (Claims of racial profiling have not diminished sufficiently. Reports and installation of in-car video cameras recording all traffic and pedestrian stops are required.)
- Financial Disclosure (Intended to help identify and discourage corrupt officers who have access to cash, drugs and other contraband confiscated from suspects, the policy requires hundreds officers in gang and narcotic units to submit details of their personal finances to supervisors.
- TEAMS II continuation (Computer program which records all uses of force, pursuits, internal investigations, and citizen complaints, awards and commendations, civil lawsuits, performance evaluations and training history.)
- Management of gang units (Manager, supervisors, and non-supervisory members of gang units have specific requirements of performance and methods of policing.)