



Official Statement from State Rep. and Mayoral Candidate La Shawn K. Ford On the Chicago Consent Decree Approval

“This week, U.S. District Judge Robert Dow, Jr. approved the Chicago consent decree following the 2017 investigation of the Chicago Police Department by the United States Department of Justice Civil Rights Division and the Illinois State’s Attorney’s Office, Northern District.

We must understand that the investigation was launched after the world witnessed a video showing former Chicago Police Officer Jason Van Dyke fatally shooting Laquan McDonald 16 times. It was a grassroots community effort of organized protests and shutdowns to hold city leadership accountable for their role in the cover-up of McDonald’s death.

Because of grassroots community efforts, the federal government and the State’s Attorney’s office confirmed what many Black and Brown community members in Chicago have expressed and experienced - the Chicago Police Department has engaged in a pattern or practice of unconstitutional use of force which violates the Fourth Amendment and department policy. Recently, the [American Civil Liberties Union \(ACLU\) of Illinois found that driving while Black and Latinx leads to unjustified traffic searches](#). From 2015 to 2017, Black and Latinx drivers were pulled over at higher rates than White drivers. The data also revealed that over a three year period, traffic stops increased in the City of Chicago with ‘Black drivers accounting for the majority of increases.’ Racial profiling is unlawful and law enforcement agencies should abandon the practice. We must do all that we can as a society to work together to end discrimination. Therefore, I sponsored a bill to curb racial profiling in Illinois - [House Bill HB0025 Eliminate Racial Profiling Act](#).

The Consent Decree is here at the right time as we approach city elections on February 26. If I am elected mayor of Chicago, I plan to work closely with the independent monitor to ensure that the policy changes within the consent decree are being met and executed. I plan to work with community organizations to establish a Civilian Police Accountability Council. I plan to work with city council to strengthen the Chicago Police Department hiring practices by strengthening the educational requirements. My administration will bring the people to the table to move this city in the right direction. I look forward to working with the people to heal this city.”

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