

## Judge says police-community relations improved, monitoring to end

The monitoring of police-community relations by a court appointed monitor enough for - particularly in the African American community is to end in October, following a final report, U.S. District Judge Susan Dlott stated Tuesday.

Dlott, who has presided over the implementation of the Collaborative Agreement between police and local and federal parties, said agreement monitor Saul Green would make a final monitoring report in October.

The Collaborative Agreement was struck in 2001 to improve relations between police and the community following the civil unrest fueled by the shooting deaths of a number of Black men in Cincinnati by police in a short period of time.

Dlott praised the work of all parties involved in improving police-community relationships in what has been regarded as one of the most successful plans like this in the country.

The progress thus far made in police-community relationships will be carried forward through an advisory committee to be formed by City Manager Milton Dohoney and a team to be created by the Cincinnati Police Division. The agendas for the meetings will be built pragmatically with presentations on actual problem-solving projects, and updates on police training. Additional topics to be discussed include the review of various reports on officer conduct, such as, future RAND Reports on police-community relationships, Citizens Complaint Authority reports, community efforts to improve police-community relations, and findings of the CPD's Employee Tracking Solutions risk management system.

In addition to Dohoney, committee members are Police Chief Thomas H. Streicher Jr., CPD Cols. Cindy Combs, Michael Cureton, Vincent Demasi and James Whalen, and S. Gregory Baker, CPD community relations director, and members from the public including Pat Bready, Herb Brown, Marie Gemelli-Carroll, Doreen Cudnik, Margaret Fox, Al Gerhardstein, Don Hardin, Chip Harrod, Rev. Michael Howard, Cheryl Meadows, Rev. Pete Mingo, Gwen Robinson, Iris Roley and Stan

Ross.

In court documents, Green informed Dlott that Cincinnati police are now more judicious in using deadly force in making arrests. He also noted the city now has a Citizens Complaint Authority where citizens review and investigate complaints against police.

ACLU lawyer Al Gerhardstein, who has represented the plaintiffs in the case, said The City of Cincinnati, the CPD, and the other parties involved are dedicated to the requirements and aspirations of the Collaborative Agreement. "With this plan, the city, the CPD, and the parties will remain engaged in an ongoing effort to improve police-community relations throughout the City of Cincinnati, he said. "The city, the CPD, and the parties wish to thank the monitor and his team and this Court for their tireless efforts on behalf of the citizens of Cincinnati."

In January 2001, lawsuits accusing the police of racial profiling and excessive use of force were consolidated by the ACLU of Ohio and Cincinnati Black United Front.

The resulting Collaborative Agreement established Community Problem-Oriented Policing (CPOP) and the Citizen Complaint Authority. The use of force and officer accountability also were addressed in the agreement.

In August 2007, the City and the Plaintiffs agreed to extend portions of the CA for one additional "transition year" to fully implement the adoption of problem-solving as the City's principal crime-fighting strategy to address crime and disorder problems. During the transition year the community and police joined in macro-problem-solving efforts such as the Cincinnati Initiative to Reduce Violence (CIRV), which works to reform persons with criminal backgrounds in the city, CeaseFire Cincinnati, a public awareness group, and Out of the Crossfire, a program that intervenes with victims of gunshot wounds. Ongoing problem-solving projects also continue within the CPD and the Community Police Partnering Center.