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MNJRC Statement on Federal Department of Justice Investigation
Findings of the City of Minneapolis Police Department

“This is a historic opportunity to re-imagine policing in Minneapolis.”

[Minneapolis, MN] Justin Terrell, Executive Director of the Minnesota Justice Research Center (MNJRC), today released the following statement in response to the US Department of Justice’s investigation findings of the City of Minneapolis Police Department:

“Today, US Attorney General Merrick Garland announced the findings of the Federal Department of Justice’s multi-year investigation into the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) and the City of Minneapolis. Its investigation uncovered significant systemic problems within MPD in violation of the US Constitution. These findings have initiated the creation of an agreement between the parties, known as a consent decree.

“The Minnesota Justice Research Center welcomes this news and calls upon leaders within both the City and MPD to take this historic opportunity to re-imagine policing in – and with – communities across Minneapolis. This is an all-hands on deck moment where the community, state, and federal government are on board with focus to address what is ailing policing in Minneapolis. We strongly encourage Mayor Jacob Frey and the Minneapolis City Council to join this movement to transform how public safety is decided, implemented, and achieved in Minneapolis.

“The DOJ’s announcement makes Minneapolis the first city police department in American history to be subjected to both state and federal consent decrees in response to the behaviors of its police department. These findings also solidify the federal government as a partner to communities in Minneapolis, who continue to lead the decades-long work to create a police department that serves the needs of all people in the city. Furthermore, where the consent decree with the State of Minnesota Department of Human Rights (MDHR) focuses on MPD’s pattern and practice of race-based policing in violation of the state’s Civil Rights Act, the consent decree between the DOJ and MPD will focus on ending MPD’s pattern and practice of violations of people’s rights under the US Constitution. It is also important to note that, for the first time, the DOJ has included racial discrimination specifically in their findings. Conversations of race and how it intersects with policing and constitutional rights are usually overlooked by federal entities.

“This is truly a first and historic moment, which is the only appropriate response to the global Uprising sparked by the murder of George Floyd in May of 2020.”

About the Minnesota Justice Research Center:
The Minnesota Justice Research Center (MNJRC) is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to driving meaningful change to Minnesota’s criminal legal system through rigorous and community-centered research, education, and policy development.

https://www.mnjrc.org/