



State of New Jersey

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## **Office of the State Comptroller review finds State Police continuing to comply with professional standards to eliminate racial profiling**

A report released today by the Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) found the New Jersey State Police is continuing to comply with standards that were created to eradicate the practice of racial profiling.

OSC's review, conducted over a seven-month period, focused on the State Police Training Bureau and on the creation of a new state office to oversee State Police compliance with professional standards now that the State Police is no longer subject to federal monitoring. Subsequent reviews will focus on other areas.

Under state statute, OSC is required to periodically review the performance of the State Police and its efforts to prevent discrimination in its policies, practices and procedures.

"In the areas we looked at, the State Police continues to show strong efforts in ensuring high professional standards," State Comptroller Matthew Boxer said.

In its review, OSC observed high-quality instruction and training practices that were consistent with those set up during the period of federal monitoring. It found the State Police's design and delivery of training exhibited appropriate knowledge of the subject matter, collaboration among its various divisions and the maintaining of appropriate documentation.

The review also focused on the Department of Law and Public Safety's progress in creating an Office of Law Enforcement Professional Standards (OLEPS). The state Legislature required the creation of the office after the dissolution of the federal Consent Decree under which the State Police had agreed to federal monitoring.

According to the OSC report, a clear and complete transition from the Consent Decree to OLEPS' new oversight role has been slow to fully materialize, although staff members at both OLEPS and the Training Bureau continue to effectively perform the tasks and carry out the reforms that were set in place by federal monitors.

The report notes several issues of concern to be addressed to ensure continued compliance. Among its recommendations are that OLEPS take steps to transition itself to an independent auditor entity and that the Training Bureau and OLEPS consider implementing a self-approval process for training curricula.