

**NEWARK  
POLICE  
DEPARTMENT  
PUBLIC  
INFORMATION  
OFFICE**



**31 Green Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Newark, New Jersey 07102  
(973) 733-6309  
Sharpe James, Mayor  
Anthony F. Ambrose III, Acting Police Director  
Irving Bradley Jr., Acting Chief of Police**

**For Immediate Release**

**Contact: Lieutenant Derek Glenn or Detective Todd McClendon at 973 733 6309  
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**POLICE DIRECTOR ANTHONY F. AMBROSE  
STATEMENT ON RECENT CORRUPTION**

The recent actions of a few officers are having a significant and corrosive impact on the reputation of the more than 1900 members of the Newark Police Department. Their actions are a disservice to the officers who work tirelessly to ensure the public's safety, reduce crime, and improve the quality of life for those who live and work in this proud city.

Chief Irving Bradley and I are working tirelessly to rid the Department of any individual or group of individuals who choose to engage in criminal acts or any other activity that erodes the public's trust or damages the reputation of the City and the Newark Police Department.

In recent months I increased the personnel assigned to both the Professional Standards Unit and the Internal Affairs Division. The Professional Standards Unit will conduct checks to ensure that our officers follow department procedures and the state and federal laws that govern our actions. The Professional Standards Unit works closely with Internal Affairs and the Attorney General's and Prosecutor's Offices to identify and investigate department members suspected of criminal activity.

The Department is also purchasing a new state-of-the-art computerized personnel tracking system. The system provides the most efficient and effective means to track citizen complaints and other information about an officer. The system is designed to provide an alert when it identifies behavior of potential concern. By providing the necessary forewarning the Department can take the appropriate corrective action before the behavior becomes a problem.

After a thorough analysis of current policies and procedures, primarily those dealing with the confiscation of money and drugs, the Chief and I are initiating reforms to ensure that recent history doesn't repeat itself.

Any time money is confiscated from a prisoner, a superior officer will be required to interview that prisoner and review the confiscation report to ensure that there aren't any conflicts or allegations of impropriety. At the completion, the supervisor must sign the paperwork documenting the process and which supervisor completed it.

If a prisoner refuses to sign the confiscation report or there is any conflict or the hint of impropriety an Internal Affairs investigation will immediately be initiated. Additionally a superior officer will ensure that all of a prisoner's personal property is accounted for also by interviewing each prisoner. Any discrepancies will also be the catalyst for an Internal Affairs Investigation.

Members of the Department's Internal Affairs Division have already started to randomly interview prisoners as both a preventive measure and also to ensure that there aren't any allegations of improprieties made against police personnel.

In-service training for all members of the Department is also being initiated to ensure that all officers are apprised of any changes to state and federal laws and court rulings, particularly those involving a person's civil and constitutional rights and those dealing with arrest, search and seizure.

We are currently installing cameras in all of the vehicles used by the Department's Auto Theft Task Force, a process expected to be completed in the upcoming weeks.

I urge our residents to report suspected police wrongdoing by calling the toll-free and confidential Internal Affairs Hotline at 1-(888) NWK-IAD1 or 1 (888) 695-4231. The Department is also in the process of publicizing the hotline number with the assistance of the media and other forums.

The Chief and I felt that it was important to make the public aware of these reforms. We want to demonstrate to our public that we have taken the steps necessary to keep this from re-occurring and educate the public about our process.

We are proud of how the Newark Police Department's brave young men and women have reduced crime in Newark by more than 53 percent in the last six years. But we demand the highest moral, ethical, and professional standards from all of our officers, all the time, every time. I will not allow officers to break the law to enforce the law.

Mayor Sharpe James said, "While they represent a small fraction of the dedicated men and women in uniform, it is indeed a tragedy when members of our Police Force violate the trust that has been placed in them, and they must be held accountable and subject to the same scrutiny as all other citizens."