

D.C. Use of Force Policy, Practice Under Review

In March the Office of the D.C. Auditor contracted with The Bromwich Group to conduct a compliance review of the major reforms made by the Metropolitan Police Department in its use of force policies and practices between 2001 and 2008.

In 2001 then-Mayor Anthony Williams and Police Chief Charles Ramsey signed an agreement with the Department of Justice to implement reforms in the department's use of force, ranging from firearms training and usage to investigations of police use of force incidents and allegations of police misconduct. Bromwich, then a partner with Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson, was jointly selected by the Department of Justice and MPD to serve as the Independent Monitor overseeing MPD's implementation of numerous policy and organizational reforms.

In concluding the work in 2008, the monitor's final [report](#) noted that the 7-year effort "had a measureable impact on the way in which MPD uses force at the street level" and that MPD "serves as a model for law enforcement agencies that are serious about improving their use of force related policies, procedures, and practices."

The ODCA compliance review will assess whether MPD continues to comply with the MOA provisions in order to be a "best practices" department, and whether there are additional steps the department can take, now, to strengthen its policies and procedures.

D.C. Auditor Kathy Patterson said: "I am pleased to partner with Michael R. Bromwich and The Bromwich Group in this compliance review, based on the excellent work his team did in conjunction with the Department of Justice, working with MPD a decade ago."