

The Virgin Islands Consortium

VIPD Achieves Compliance With Federal Consent Decree, Entering Formal Monitoring Phase After Years of Reform Efforts

After more than a decade under federal oversight, the VIPD says it has achieved compliance with the Consent Decree. A review of every Consortium report since 2015 shows a reform path marked by extensions, monitoring, and persistent use-of-force hurdles.

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Police cordoned off the roadway following a shooting incident at Rainbow Beach in 2019. By. V.I. CONSORTIUM.

The V.I. Police Department announced Thursday that it has officially achieved compliance with the federal Consent Decree, marking what Commissioner Mario Brooks described as a significant milestone in the department's long-running reform process.

In its press release, the VIPD stated it "officially achieved compliance with the federal Consent Decree," adding that the department now enters a "formal monitoring period," during which continued oversight will remain in place for remaining sections requiring review.

Brooks said the milestone was the result of sustained effort across the department.

"This milestone is not simply an accomplishment; it is the direct result of your resilience, professionalism, and commitment over the years," Brooks stated. He added that compliance was achieved not only through written policies but through "daily discipline," adaptation, training, and adherence to higher standards.

"While this achievement is a major win for us, our work is not complete," Brooks said, noting that the department now moves into a formal monitoring phase and must maintain momentum and adherence to constitutional policing standards.

The department said it will continue strengthening internal audit processes, supervisory oversight, use-of-force accountability measures, reporting accuracy, and strict policy adherence, adding that these systems are now embedded into VIPD's operational framework and represent more than compliance requirements — they define the department's standard of service. The VIPD commitment to transparency, accountability, and public trust.

A comprehensive review of every V.I. Consortium article referencing the Consent Decree, from 2015 through 2025, shows that VIPD's path to this announcement has been neither linear nor without friction.

As far back as [January 28, 2015](#), then-Governor Kenneth Mapp framed exiting the Consent Decree as a strategic objective, even while acknowledging that the department was ill-equipped for 21st century policing, citing significant manpower and technology deficiencies.

In January 2016, the Consortium reported on a [\\$300,000 assessment](#) that highlighted systemic deficiencies and "consent decree confusion," describing the decree as having been levied in 2009 and extended after missed deadlines. Later reporting that year referenced oversight tied to a 2008 federal lawsuit, reflecting inconsistencies in how the decree's origins were described in public discourse.

By mid-2016, federal monitor Palmer Wilson outlined the technical structure of the decree, explaining that it contained more than 100 paragraphs, with 53 operational paragraphs, 51 of which were applicable to VIPD. At the time, the department was reported to be compliant with 31 of those 51, leaving 20 remaining. Quarterly federal court hearings and paragraph-specific deadlines were central to the compliance framework.

Consortium coverage repeatedly shows that compliance challenges narrowed over time to documentation, supervisory review, and use-of-force investigations.

In 2017 reporting, [then-Commissioner Delroy Richards described](#) how Level 1 use-of-force incidents — including shootings or serious injury — triggered a Force Investigation Team review. He also noted that Level 4 use of force, described in coverage as including handcuffing, required investigation under the decree’s standards.

[By December 2018](#), a federal judge was reported to have “essentially” lifted the Consent Decree after finding VIPD substantially in compliance, though follow-up monitoring remained in place for two years.

In April 2018, a Department of Justice official publicly stated that VIPD had achieved 85 percent compliance, but offered no timeline for full completion.

In December 2023, the Independent Monitoring Team reported that VIPD had reached just over 88 percent compliance, achieving substantial compliance in 37 of 42 paragraphs, including all citizen complaint provisions. However, ongoing weaknesses were cited in management supervision, use-of-force investigation timeliness, and data analysis.

By August 2025, reporting indicated that VIPD had cleared its Internal Affairs backlog, improving compliance with paragraph 71 concerning timely adjudication. Still, delays in clarifying and completing Level 4 use-of-force reviews were described as central obstacles to ending oversight entirely.

That same month, VIPD projected it would enter a monitoring period by the end of 2025, budgeting just over \$2 million for compliance-related efforts.

Leadership, Oversight, and Institutional Change

Throughout the years, Consortium coverage also highlighted how compliance efforts intersected with leadership transitions and labor tensions. In 2020, three police unions issued a no-confidence letter against Commissioner Trevor Velinor. Velinor responded that enforcement of discipline and adherence to Consent Decree protocols often generated resistance.

In 2024, Commissioner-nominee Mario Brooks told lawmakers that three outstanding areas remained before clearance from the decree: use of force, timeliness, and patterns and trends analysis. Those same domains appeared repeatedly in federal monitoring updates and Consortium reporting.

A Milestone, But Not an Endpoint

The Consortium archive depicts the Consent Decree as evolving from broad structural reform into a highly technical system dependent on consistent documentation, timely investigations, supervisory accountability, and reliable data practices. The February 26, 2026 release adds a new milestone — official compliance — while signaling that monitoring and oversight continue.

After more than a decade of federal oversight, court hearings, monitoring reports, policy revisions, and leadership transitions, VIPD’s declaration of compliance marks a significant chapter in its reform history.

