

The New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety RACIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE



On his first day in office, Acting Attorney General Bruck announced that promoting racial justice would be one of the top priorities for the Department of Law and Public Safety. Addressing historic injustices requires systemic changes that the Department cannot make on its own, but there is still a moral obligation to act now to promote racial justice and equity for underserved communities. In response to the Acting Attorney General's call to action, the Department's many divisions and offices have identified nearly 100 initiatives designed to promote racial justice by early 2022. Some highlights of our ongoing work are below.

COMBATTING BIAS, DISCRIMINATION, AND HATE

- Proposing anti-discrimination rules for the professions and occupations – from doctors and nurses to plumbers and real estate appraisers – overseen by 51 licensing boards
- Issuing a first-of-its-kind mandate to prioritize racial justice in civil investigations and enforcement actions
- Creating a new civil rights training on intervening at work when someone is being discriminated against or harassed

ENSURING FAIRER TREATMENT FOR JUSTICE-INVOLVED INDIVIDUALS

- Launching a pilot program to address domestic violence in immigrant and low-income communities to reduce domestic violence while reducing justice-system involvement
- Ensuring that individuals who have paid their debt to society have an opportunity to seek work in the industries we regulate, including the alcoholic beverage and gaming industries
- Increasing housing opportunities for individuals with a criminal history

PROMOTING EQUITY AND ADDRESSING PAST WRONGS

- Revising the Juvenile Justice Commission's mission statement to include a focus on racial justice
- Ensuring that grant applications are reviewed by a diverse team to reflect the communities we serve
- Expanding outreach and support services to victims of crimes and their families

STRENGTHENING RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE COMMUNITY

- Using data to demonstrate how racial inequities impact communities
- Enhancing community outreach programs across the Department
- Connecting with communities with limited-English language proficiency to help their members report crimes against them