

Top 10 Questions for Interim Superintendent David O. Brown



1. In 2007 the Dallas Police Department change the way they determine what crimes are considered both aggravated assaults and batteries. An investigation by the Dallas Morning Newsⁱ uncovered that this change actually significantly lowered the violent crime statistics the Dallas Police Department (DPD) reported to the FBI through their Uniform Crime Report even though violent crime did not drop. As deputy chief at the time, you were named as being in the middle of it, supervising the lieutenant who led the effort. What specifically was your role?
2. A 2009 Dallas Morning News investigationⁱⁱ found that the DPD altered the way they categorize car burglaries that resulted in thousands of those crimes disappearing from official crime statistics. It also forced the DPD to review 2,000 such reports to figure why they were discarded. Given that you were Deputy Chief at the time these events occurred what specifically was your role in these crimes disappearing from official crime statistics?
3. In an April 9, 2020 story from [WBEZ](#) Radio in Chicago they reported that despite the fact that overall crime numbers decreased in Dallas during your tenure as Chief violent crimes like homicides, rape, and assault were really unchanged.ⁱⁱⁱ Considering there are serious allegations of manipulating crime data in the DPD during your tenure in the very specific categories that supposedly saw changes what credible data do you have to show that during your time as Chief of the DPD you impacted violent crime?
4. Was the incident involving LaQuan [McDonald](#) and Jason Van Dyke a murder or do you think the shooting was justified?
5. How familiar are you with the history of corruption & brutality with the Chicago Police Department (CPD)? For example, do you know who Jon [Burge](#) is?
6. Have you read the federal consent [decree](#) and is there anything in there that you intend to oppose?
7. How do you intend to deal with a Chicago police union recalcitrant to any kind of reform and believes that there is a massive [conspiracy](#) behind any reform efforts?
8. The phrase “community policing” means different things to different people. What is your definition of it, and what aspects of it do you plan to bring to Chicago?

9. Communities in Chicago routinely do not believe crime and violence statistics reported by CPD. Given during your time in Dallas the DPD's statistics were also highly questionable so how do you plan to bring integrity back to this aspect of the CPD's activities?

10. Improper uses of force continue to plague the CPD including a horrific shooting just a few weeks back caught on video in the subway. How do you plan to change these practices so that Chicagoans can trust that the CPD will only use force when justified when they have a history of not doing this that spans decades?

Web version of these questions:

<https://chicagojustice.org/2020/04/19/top-10-questions-for-interim-superintendent-david-brown/>

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ⁱ "Dallas assault statistics play down violence", Steve Thompson and Tanya Eisere, Dallas Morning News, Dec. 15, 2009

ⁱⁱ "Crime of Omission - DPD's burglary statistics don't tell the full story", Editorial, Dallas Morning News, Sept., 9, 2009

ⁱⁱⁱ "Pick For Top Cop Did Not Reduce Violent Crime In Dallas. How Will He Do in Chicago?", Patrick Smith, WBEZ Chicago, April 9, 2017