



**U.S. Department of Justice**

**Civil Rights Division**

JMS:TMG:ZIL:VPH:MLL:VHD:SSL:CXN:mrbr  
DJ 207-82-1

*Special Litigation Section - PHB  
950 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington DC 20530*

March 31, 2011

Ms. Nancy Talner, Staff Attorney  
ACLU of Washington  
901 Fifth Avenue #630  
Seattle, WA 98164

Dear Ms. Talner:

Thank you for your participation in the community meeting held on February 15, 2011 with the United States Department of Justice regarding the Seattle Police Department ("SPD"). Your perspective and insight regarding SPD practices were very important in the preliminary investigation process. On March 31, 2011, the Civil Rights Division in conjunction with the United States Attorney's Office, Western District of Washington announced the commencement of an investigation into allegations of the use of excessive force and discriminatory policing by members of the Seattle Police Department, pursuant to the pattern or practice provision of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, 42 U.S.C. § 14141 ("Section 14141"), as well as the anti-discrimination provisions of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 ("Safe Streets Act"), 42 U.S.C. § 3789d, and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d ("Title VI").

Section 14141 allows the Department to seek equitable relief to remedy a pattern or practice of misconduct by state and local law enforcement agencies, such as police departments. When a systemic pattern or practice of misconduct is determined to exist, we have the authority to initiate civil action against the jurisdiction in order to remedy the misconduct. The Department also has authority to enforce the anti-discrimination provisions of the Safe Streets Act and Title VI, which together prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex or national origin by police departments receiving federal funds.

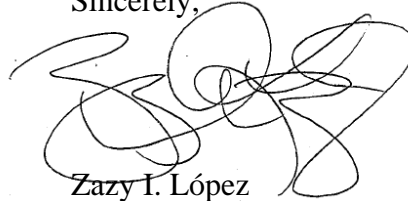
As part of the United States Department of Justice's investigation process, we will actively be seeking input and assistance from the Seattle community. We would appreciate it if you would forward any information that you believe may be relevant to our review of the SPD to the Special Litigation Section at the below address:

Seattle Police Department Investigation  
c/o J. Michael Diaz  
Assistant United States Attorney  
United States Attorney's Office, Western District of Washington  
700 Stewart Street, Suite 5220  
Seattle, WA 98101-1271  
Community.Seattle@usdoj.gov  
(855) 203-4479 (toll free number)

We also encourage you to directly contact Sarah Lopez, the Investigator assigned to this matter, at (202) 305-0372. If you have any other questions about the investigation, please feel free to reach Zazy López at (202) 305-8702, or J. Michael Diaz at (206) 553-4358.

For additional information about the Special Litigation Section, you may want to review our website: <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/split/index.html>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zazy I. Lopez", with several loops and flourishes.

Zazy I. López  
Trial Attorney  
Special Litigation Section  
Civil Rights Division

cc: Jenny Durkan  
United States Attorney  
United States Attorney's Office  
Western District of Washington

J. Michael Diaz  
Assistant United States Attorney  
United States Attorney's Office  
Western District of Washington