



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

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DJ 207-82-1

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

APR 04 2011

SEATTLE OFFICE
FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

March 31, 2011

Chris Stearns
Seattle Human Rights Commission
810 Third Avenue, Suite 750
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Mr. Stearns:

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.

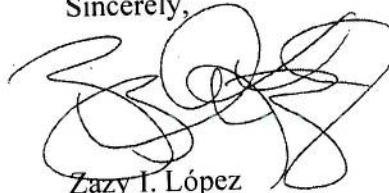
As part of the United States Department of Justice's investigation process, we will actively be seeking input and assistance from the Seattle community. We would appreciate it if you would forward any information that you believe may be relevant to our review of the SPD to the Special Litigation Section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

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



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SEATTLE OFFICE
FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

March 31, 2011

Ms. Roslyn Solomon, Chair
Seattle Human Rights Commission
810 Third Avenue, Suite 750
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Ms. Solomon:

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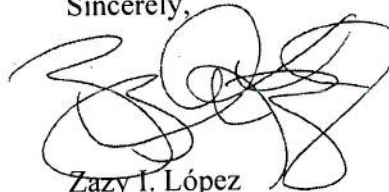
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