



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison

950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Room 1629

(202) 514-3465

Washington, DC 20530

<http://www.usdoj.gov/oipl/oipl.html>

July 20, 2010

RECEIVED BY

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COMMISSIONER
DAN SALTZMAN

Mr. Dan Saltzman
Commissioner
City of Portland, Oregon
1221 SW 4th Avenue
Room 230
Portland, OR 97204-1900

Dear Mr. Saltzman:

This responds to correspondence from you to Attorney General Eric Holder requesting that the Department of Justice ("Department") investigate the Portland Police Bureau's ("PPB") January 29, 2010 shooting of Aaron Campbell. We apologize for the delay in responding. In addition to conducting the incident review, you request a systemic investigation into whether the PPB engages in a pattern or practice of discriminatory policing. As indicated in your letter, the Department's Civil Rights Division, Criminal Section, has opened an investigation into Mr. Campbell's shooting by PPB. Your pattern and practice request has been referred to the Division's Special Litigation Section for review.

The Special Litigation Section of the Department is responsible for enforcing the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, 42 U.S.C. § 14141, which allows the Department to seek equitable relief to remedy a pattern or practice of misconduct by law enforcement agencies, such as police departments. When a systemic pattern or practice of misconduct is determined to exist, the Section has the authority to initiate civil action against the jurisdiction (city, county or state) in order to remedy the misconduct. The Section also has similar authority under the anti-discrimination provisions of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, 42 U.S.C. § 3789d, and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d, which together prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex or national origin by police departments receiving federal funds.

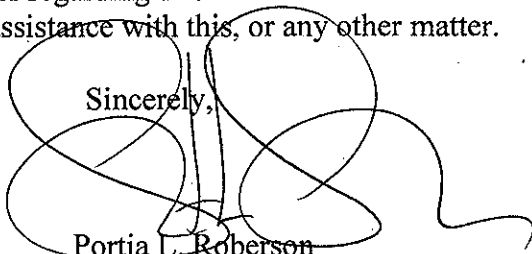
While the Section's authority does not extend to investigating incidents involving a single individual, it will consider your information, along with any other information it may receive, to determine whether an investigation into PPB is warranted. If you have additional details that you believe may be relevant to that review, we would appreciate you forwarding that information directly to the Special Litigation Section, as follows:

ATTN: Laura Coon, Room 5908
U.S. Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division
Special Litigation Section - PHB
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

As we were unable to verify a mailing address for the African American Alliance, a signatory in your letter requesting a PPB patterns and practices investigation, please feel free to share this response with its Co-Chairs, Joyce Harris and Lorenzo Poe. Marcus Mundy, your fourth signatory and the President and Chief Executive Office of the Urban League of Portland, received an identical letter under separate cover.

Thank you for writing to General Holder regarding this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if we may be of assistance with this, or any other matter.

Sincerely,



Portia L. Roberson
Director