



**U.S. Department of Justice**

**Civil Rights Division**

*Assistant Attorney General  
950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20530*

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April 21, 2021

The Honorable Jacob Frey  
Minneapolis City Hall  
350 S. Fifth St., Room 331  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Re: Investigation of the City of Minneapolis and the Minneapolis Police Department

Dear Mayor Frey:

This letter is to inform you that the United States Department of Justice is commencing an investigation of the City of Minneapolis (the City) and the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) pursuant to the pattern or practice provision of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, 34 U.S.C. § 12601, which prohibits state and local governments from engaging in a pattern or practice of conduct by law enforcement officers that deprives individuals of rights protected by the Constitution or federal law. The investigation will be conducted by the Civil Rights Division's Special Litigation Section and the Civil Division of the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Minnesota.

This investigation will assess MPD's uses of force generally and specifically as it involves individuals with behavioral health disabilities or individuals engaged in peaceful expressive activities. The investigation will also assess whether MPD engages in discriminatory policing. We will review MPD policies, training, supervision, and investigatory files, as well as MPD's systems of accountability, including misconduct complaint intake, investigation, review, disposition, and discipline. The Department will be assessing law enforcement practices under the First, Fourth, and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution, as well as under the Safe Streets Act of 1968, 34 U.S.C. § 10228; Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d; and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12132.

We have not reached any conclusions about the subject matter of this investigation. We will consider all relevant information, including information pertaining to the efforts that the City and MPD have undertaken to ensure adherence to the Constitution and federal law. During our investigation, we will seek to speak with City and MPD officials, as well as individuals who have interacted with MPD, including community members and others who may have relevant insights into this matter. We assure you that we will seek to minimize any potential disruption on the City and MPD's operations during our investigation.

We will notify you upon completion of our investigation. If we conclude that there are no systemic violations of constitutional or federal statutory rights by the City or MPD, we will notify you and close the investigation. If, on the other hand, we conclude that there is reasonable

cause to believe that such violations are occurring, we will provide you and the public with our findings and will aim to work cooperatively with the City to reach agreement regarding how to best remedy these violations. If an appropriate remedy cannot be achieved through agreement, the Attorney General is authorized to bring litigation in the United States District Court. In our years of enforcing civil rights statutes involving state and local law enforcement agencies, we have worked with jurisdictions across the nation to resolve violations uncovered through our investigations, in almost all cases without contested litigation.

We will contact you to discuss the next steps of our investigation. Please feel free to have your staff contact the Special Litigation Section Chief, Steven H. Rosenbaum, at (202) 616-7157.

Sincerely,



Pamela S. Karlan  
Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

cc: Chief Medaria Arradondo  
Minneapolis Police Department

President Lisa Bender  
Minneapolis City Council

Jim Rowader  
Minneapolis City Attorney

Mark Ruff  
Minneapolis City Coordinator