



U.S. Department of Justice

Washington, DC 20530

NOV 05 2015

Sherrilyn A. Ifill
President and Director-Counsel
NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.
40 Rector Street, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10006-1738

Dear Ms. Ifill:

This responds to your letter to the Attorney General dated July 13, 2015. In your letter, you asked the Department of Justice to open a federal civil rights investigation into the policing practices of the North Charleston Police Department. You also asked for a federal criminal investigation of former North Charleston Police Department officer Michael Slager, who fatally shot Walter Scott, an unarmed African-American male, earlier this year.

As you noted in your letter, the Special Litigation Section of the United States Department of Justice is responsible for enforcing the provision of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, 42 U.S.C. § 14141. This statute 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, we have the authority to initiate civil action against the jurisdiction (city, county, or state) in order to remedy the misconduct.

We will consider your letter carefully, along with other information we may receive, to determine whether a pattern or practice investigation of the North Charleston Police Department is warranted under 42 U.S.C. § 14141. We will also refer your letter to the Criminal Section of the Civil Rights Division for consideration of your request to federally prosecute Michael Slager under 18 U.S.C. § 242.

Ms. Sherrilyn A. Ifill
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We hope this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact the Department if we may provide additional assistance regarding this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alexa Chappell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "A".

Alexa Chappell
Intergovernmental Liaison