



August 24, 2017

Via First Class and Electronic Mail (cops.foia@usdoj.gov)

Russ Washington, Acting Director
U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Community Oriented Policing Services
145 N Street, NE
Washington, DC 20530

RE: North Charleston, S.C. Police Department

Dear Acting Director Washington:

On behalf of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF), we write to request copies of the following documents pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. §552, relating to grant awards and technical assistance provided to the North Charleston, S.C. Police Department (NCPD) or other North Charleston city officials by the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office). Unless otherwise specified, the information requested relates to the period from January 1, 2007 to the present.

1. Any and all documents, such as, applications, reports, statistical information and analyses, emails, memoranda, draft documents and/or correspondence, concerning the NCPD, including but not limited to:
 - a. Grant applications and reports between the City of North Charleston and the COPS Office, such as the \$1.8 million grant awarded to North Charleston through the COPS Hiring Program in 2015.¹
 - b. Grant award letters to North Charleston city officials from the COPS Office.
2. Any and all documents, including but not limited to data, statistical information and analyses, emails, memoranda, policies, draft documents, and/or correspondence transmitted, electronically or otherwise, between the COPS Office and Police Foundation or other consultants regarding the Collaborative Reform Initiative for Technical Assistance with NCPD (Collaborative Reform Initiative),² which the COPS Office began in or about May 2016.
3. Any and all documents relating to the Collaborative Reform Initiative, including but not limited to emails, memoranda, draft documents, and/or correspondence transmitted,

¹ See, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, U.S. Dep't of Justice, *COPS Hiring Program Award List 2015*, https://cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/2015AwardDocs/chp/CHP_Award_List.pdf.

² See, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, U.S. Dep't of Justice, *Goal and Objectives Statement for the Collaborative Reform Initiative for Technical Assistance with the North Charleston Police Department*, https://cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/crita/CRITA_Goal_and_Objectives_NCPD.pdf.



electronically or otherwise, between the COPS Office or its consultants and NCPD concerning:

- a. the NCPD's use of force practices and outcomes, including but not limited to:
 - i. policies and procedures on use of force and de-escalation;
 - ii. officers' training in use of force;
 - iii. criminal and administrative investigations; and
 - iv. patterns and trends in use of force by city geography, community characteristics, departmental units, subject demographics, and officer demographics.
 - b. the impact of enforcement operations on historically marginalized and discriminated against populations, such as racial and ethnic minorities, the LGBTQ community, persons with mental illness, persons with physical disabilities; and the homeless population, including but not limited to:
 - i. policies, procedures, and training to address biased policing;
 - ii. patterns and trends in pedestrian, traffic, and investigative stops of members of the public;
 - iii. oversight and accountability mechanisms to address bias.
 - c. community-oriented policing policies and practices, including but not limited to:
 - i. policies, practices and training to adopt fair and impartial policing as an organizational philosophy;
 - ii. organizational plans and strategies for community policing;
 - iii. participatory decision making with the public.
 - d. the citizen complaint process, including but not limited to:
 - i. patterns and trends in citizen complaints, case processing, and outcomes;
 - ii. roles, authority, and operational responsibilities throughout the process;
 - iii. remediation and disciplinary mechanisms for officers found to have engaged in misconduct; and
 - e. recruitment, hiring, promotions, and personnel policies and practices.
4. Any and all documents relating to the Collaborative Reform Initiative, including but not limited to emails, memoranda, draft documents and/or correspondence transmitted, electronically or otherwise, between the COPS Office and the Office of the Mayor of North Charleston, South Carolina.



5. Any and all documents relating to the Collaborative Reform Initiative, including but not limited to emails, memoranda, draft documents and/or correspondence transmitted, electronically or otherwise, between the COPS Office and any members of the North Charleston City Council.

LDF seeks your response no later than 20 business days after receipt of this request. 5 U.S.C. §552(a)(6)(A). Please provide the documents in an electronic format, and any data and statistical information in a format that is searchable and analyzable, such as a txt. or .csv file or an excel spreadsheet.

If the COPS Office provides photocopies of any records, then LDF respectfully requests a waiver of copying and other fees, because it is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, does not seek the records for a commercial purpose, and disclosure of the records is in the public interest as it will contribute significantly to the public's understanding of the COPS Office's involvement in assessing the policies and practices of the North Charleston Police Department. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii). If the COPS Office declines LDF's request for a waiver, we agree to pay the \$25 FOIA processing fee, and request an invoice detailing additional reasonable standard charges prior to fulfilling this request.

If it is your position that responsive records exist, but those records or portions of those records are exempt from disclosure, please identify the records that are being withheld and state the basis for the denial for each record being withheld. Please also provide the nonexempt portions of the records. 5 U.S.C § 552(b)

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact Monique Dixon at 202-682-1300 or Raymond Audain at 212-965-2200, with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Monique L. Dixon".

Monique L. Dixon
Deputy Director of Policy and
Senior Counsel

Raymond Audain
Senior Counsel