

March 6, 2002

Ms. Ruth Carter
Corporation Counsel
City of Detroit
660 Woodward Avenue, Suite 1650
Detroit, MI 48226-3491

Re: Investigation of the Detroit Police Department

Dear Ms. Carter:

As you know, the Civil Rights Division and the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Michigan are jointly conducting an investigation of the Detroit Police Department (DPD), pursuant to the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, 42 U.S.C. § 14141. We greatly appreciate the cooperation of the City of Detroit and the DPD thus far in this investigation.

At the beginning of our investigation, you requested that we inform you as soon as possible if we identified any problems during the course of the investigation. Since the investigation began, we and our consultants have reviewed hundreds of pages of documents, and interviewed over one hundred DPD officers, including command-level and line officers. Based on this preliminary review, we have identified several areas of concern, which we set forth below, along with our recommendations for addressing these problems.

Important aspects of our fact-gathering process have yet to be completed, most notably reviewing DPD incident reports and investigations provided by the City. Therefore, this letter is not meant to be exhaustive, but rather focuses on significant concerns we have identified and recommendations we can provide based on our review of the DPD's policies and procedures.

The issues identified below focus on the following areas: use of force and use of force reporting, external complaints, internal investigations, supervisory oversight, discipline, and training. Please note that we may identify additional issues as our investigation progresses, and that the concerns discussed below do not relate to the components of our investigation that are focused on holding cell conditions and arrest and witness detention policies and practices.