



City of Spokane

November 16, 2011

Mr. Thomas E. Perez
Assistant Attorney General
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Civil Rights Division
Criminal Section – PHB
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Perez:

As the Mayor of the City of Spokane, Washington, I have consulted with the U.S. Attorney for Eastern Washington, Mr. Mike Ormsby, about the best way to begin a process of positive change for the Spokane Police Department. I believe we need expert, outside help in examining how we do business and what steps we need to take to improve the way we police.

Mr. Ormsby directed me to your Division and the work you do in this area. I am therefore respectfully requesting your office begin a "Pattern or Practice" investigation of the Spokane Police Department.

I acknowledge that, if you elect to conduct an investigation of this type, your Division will review the entire department. With that in mind, I am requesting a specific look into compliance and accountability surrounding our policies and procedures. I would also like an investigation into our policies and procedures themselves, including Standard Operating Procedures, to ensure that they are effective and modern. Finally, a recent federal court case involving one of Spokane's officers (USA v. Karl Thompson) causes me to ask that the Division also examine how we retain evidence and work product in Spokane Police Department investigations.

I appreciate your earnest consideration and am hopeful that your workload permits you to help us identify and fix areas that need attention. I know the community and the Spokane Police Department are eager to begin rebuilding mutual trust, and we will be much more effective with your agency involved in that process.

Sincerely,

Mary B. Verner
Mayor

Cc: Mr. Mike Ormsby, U.S. Attorney
Chief Anne Kirkpatrick, Spokane Police Department
Spokane City Council Members

"Spokane – Near Nature, Near Perfect"

808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., Spokane, Washington 99201-3335
Phone: (509) 625-6250 FAX: (509) 625-6563