



June 12, 2019

VIA EMAIL AND U.S. MAIL

Mayor Frank Jackson  
601 Lakeside Ave.  
Cleveland, Ohio 44114  
sdumas@city.cleveland.oh.us  
snechvatal@city.cleveland.oh.us

cc: Chief Calvin Williams, Cleveland Division of Police  
Matthew Barge, Cleveland Police Monitoring Team  
Magistrate Greg White, Consent Decree Implementation Coordinator  
Gary Singletary, Chief Counsel, City of Cleveland  
Councilman Kevin Kelley, President, City Council  
Councilman Matt Zone, Chair, City Council Safety Committee  
Jason Goodrick, Executive Director, Community Police Commission

**RE: Department of Justice National Public Safety Partnership**

Dear Mayor Jackson,

We write to you today concerned about the recent announcement that Cleveland will be one of 10 additional cities nationwide to partner with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) to address violent crime. While we support city officials attempts to protect individuals from crime and improve safety in our communities, recent changes in programming and priorities by the DOJ leave us skeptical that this partnership will benefit Cleveland residents.

Over the past two years, the DOJ has initiated a number of alarming changes, including:

- Appointed a new U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio who promptly [dismantled](#) the office's civil rights unit.
- Ordered federal prosecutors to pursue the most serious charges and stricter sentences (including mandatory minimums), even for low-level crimes.
- [Ordered the review](#) of all current consent decrees aimed at reforming police practices, with the express goal of ensuring they were more favorable to law enforcement.
- Reinstated policies that encourage harsh penalties for drug possession and use, which goes against recent bi-partisan efforts to reverse the damaging and counterproductive decades-long policies of the War on Drugs.

- Grown the DOJ's investment in private prisons, which profit off those incarcerated in privatized facilities, and whose corporations often advocate for enhanced sentencing laws to expand their profits.
- Enforced immigration policies that targeted people of color and instilled fear in many communities, making victims and witnesses less likely to come forward.
- Announced plans to increase civil asset forfeiture – seizing property from people who have never been charged with a crime
- [Shifted the focus](#) of a DOJ community policing program to “fighting violent crime,” pulling the plug on investigations into traumatic fatal police shootings in cities such as St. Anthony, Minnesota (Philando Castile); North Charleston, South Carolina (Walter Scott); and Milwaukee, Wisconsin (Dontre Hamilton).

These policies represent a step back to enforcement-heavy approaches that have failed to stop crime and protect our communities, and lead to overpopulated jails.

Under the consent decree the Cleveland Division of Police has made positive reforms which will help rebuild trust with Cleveland residents. However, instituting policies advanced by this DOJ could seriously jeopardize those gains. We strongly urge city officials to reconsider this partnership with the DOJ, and to ensure that any initiatives it implements do not lead to the use of dragnet style policing, aggressive enforcement of drug laws, and targeting of vulnerable communities.

We respectfully request a meeting to discuss the contents of this letter. To schedule a time, please contact Emma Keeshin by phone at \_\_\_\_\_ or by email at \_\_\_\_\_.

Sincerely,

ACLU of Ohio

Cleveland Chapter, Council on American Islamic Relations

InterReligious Task Force on Central America

Cleveland Chapter, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)

Ohio Chapter, National Lawyers Guild

Ohio Immigrant Alliance

Ohio Student Association

*Enclosure: public records request*

June 12, 2019

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL AND EMAIL

Gary Singletary, Chief Counsel  
City of Cleveland  
601 Lakeside Ave., Room 106  
Cleveland, Ohio 44114  
gsingletary@city.cleveland.oh.us

cc: publicrecords@city.cleveland.oh.us

**RE: Public Records Request**

Dear Mr. Singletary,

Pursuant to Ohio's open records law, Ohio Revised Code § 149.43, we request that you provide all records<sup>1</sup> showing:

- communications between Cleveland city employees – including the Mayor, Public Safety Director, Chief and Deputy Chiefs of the Cleveland Division of Police – and the U.S. Department of Justice or Office of the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio, that refer or relate to the National Public Safety Partnership, or NPSP, from January 1, 2019, to the present date; and
- communications between Cleveland city employees – including the Mayor, Public Safety Director, Chief and Deputy Chiefs of the Cleveland Division of Police – and employees of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), from January 1, 2019, to the present date.

I look forward to receiving these records within a reasonable period of time.<sup>2</sup> Please provide responsive records on a rolling basis as you are able to prepare them, and kindly send the records to me in electronic format at no later than June 26, 2019.

If there is a cost related to production, please advise me before incurring that cost. If you believe that any portion of a responsive record is exempted from disclosure by the Ohio Revised Code, please specify the basis for redaction and release all non-exempt portions of the record. If there are any questions relating to this request, please contact me immediately.

Sincerely,



Emma Keeshin  
Advocacy Manager

<sup>1</sup> Records are defined to include, but are not limited to, writings, documents, papers, text files, computer files, emails, audio recordings, photographs, video recordings, annals, archives, journals, logs and/or notes, and drafts of those records. Emails include all pertinent emails sent to or from official or personal email accounts.

<sup>2</sup> *State ex rel. Consumer News Serv., Inc. v. Worthington City Bd. of Edn.*, 97 Ohio St. 3d 58, 65, 776 N.E.2d 82, 89 (2002).

**ACLU**

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION  
FOUNDATION

Ohio

4506 Chester Avenue  
Cleveland, OH 44103  
P: (216) 472-2220  
F: (216) 472-2210

1108 City Park Avenue  
Suite 203  
Columbus, OH 43206  
P: (614) 586-1959  
F: (614) 586-1974

acluohio.org  
contact@acluohio.org

Jack Guttenberg  
President

J. Bennett Guess  
Executive Director