



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

Washington, D.C. 20530

May 2, 2025

Via mail

Hon. Mary Moriarty
Hennepin County Attorney
C-2000 Government Center
300 South Sixth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55487

Dear County Attorney Moriarty:

This letter is to inform you that the Department of Justice is opening an investigation to determine whether the Hennepin County Attorney's Office (HCAO) is engaged in a pattern or practice of depriving persons of rights, privileges, or immunities secured or protected by the Constitution or laws of the United States. *See* 34 U.S.C. § 12601. In particular, the investigation will focus on whether the HCAO engages in the illegal consideration of race in its prosecutorial decision-making.

Our investigation is based on information that the HCAO recently adopted a discriminatory *Negotiations Policy for Cases Involving Adult Defendants* directing prosecutors to consider racial identity when formulating plea offers, stating that "racial identity . . . should be part of the overall analysis," and that prosecutors, "should be identifying and addressing racial disparities at decision points, as appropriate." Our investigation, however, will include a comprehensive review of all relevant HCAO policies and practices that may involve the illegal consideration of race in prosecutorial decision-making.

Accordingly, the Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division has authorized a full investigation to determine whether the HCAO is engaged in a pattern or practice of depriving persons of rights, privileges, or immunities secured or protected by the Constitution or laws of the United States.

Please be assured that we have not reached any conclusions about the subject matter of the investigation. We will consider all relevant information, and we welcome your assistance in helping to identify what that might be. We would appreciate your cooperation in our investigation. In our years enforcing civil rights statutes involving state and local law enforcement agencies, we have worked with jurisdictions of all sizes across the nation to resolve investigations, usually without contested litigation.

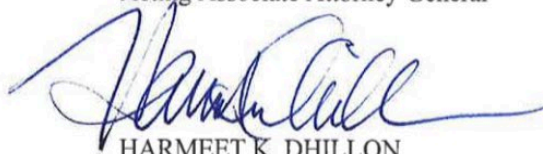
The Civil Rights Division's Special Litigation Section will oversee this investigation. It will be in contact with you shortly to set up a mutually agreeable date and time to discuss the parameters of this investigation, including the scope of information that we will be seeking from you.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

PAMELA BONDI
Attorney General

CHAD MIZELLE
Acting Associate Attorney General

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Harmeet K. Dhillon', is written over the printed name and title.

HARMEET K. DHILLON
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division