



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

Assistant Attorney General
950 Pennsylvania Ave, NW - RFK
Washington, DC 20530

June 9, 2026

The Honorable Cherelle Parker
Mayor
City of Philadelphia
City Hall, Office 215
1400 John F. Kennedy Boulevard
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107

Re: *Investigation of the Philadelphia Police Department*

Dear Mayor Parker:

This letter is to inform you that the United States Department of Justice is commencing an investigation of the City of Philadelphia (City) and the Philadelphia Police Department (PPD). The investigation concerns possible violations of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, 34 U.S.C. § 12601, which prohibits state and local governments from engaging in a pattern or practice of conduct by law enforcement officers that deprives individuals of rights protected by the Constitution or federal law. The Civil Rights Division's Second Amendment Section will conduct the investigation.

The investigation will evaluate the PPD's policies and practices regarding issuance and revocation of licenses to carry firearms and the PPD's enforcement of the Pennsylvania Uniform Firearms Act of 1995, 18 Pa.C.S. § 6101, *et seq.* The Department will be assessing law enforcement practices under the Second and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution. Our investigation will focus on the lawful exercise of rights only; this investigation does not support or condone any armed criminal activity or criminal obstruction of federal or local law enforcement.

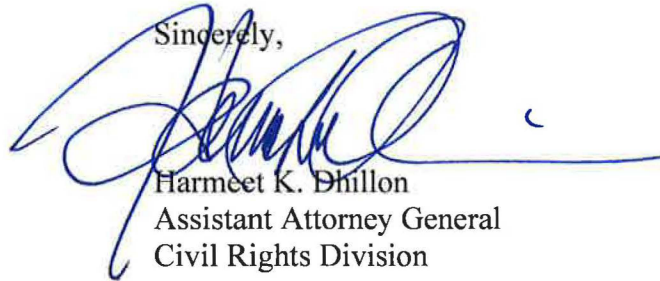
We have not reached any conclusions about the subject matter of this investigation. We will consider all relevant information, including information pertaining to the efforts the City and the PPD have undertaken to ensure adherence to the Constitution and federal law. During our investigation, we will seek to speak with City and PPD officials, as well as individuals who have interacted with PPD. We assure you that we will seek to minimize any potential disruption of the City's and the PPD's operations during our investigation.

We will notify you upon completion of our investigation. If we conclude that there is no pattern or practice of violating constitutional or federal statutory rights by the PPD, we will notify you and close the investigation. If, on the other hand, we conclude that there is reasonable cause to believe that such violations are occurring, we will provide you and the public with our findings and will aim to work cooperatively with the City and the PPD to reach agreement regarding how to best remedy those violations. If an appropriate remedy cannot be achieved through agreement,

the Attorney General is authorized to bring litigation in the United States District Court. In our years of enforcing civil rights statutes, we have worked with jurisdictions across the nation to resolve violations uncovered through our investigations, and in almost all cases we were able to resolve the violations without contested litigation.

We will contact you to discuss the next steps of our investigation. Please feel free to have your staff contact the Second Amendment Section Acting Chief, Barry Arrington, at (202) 304-8447.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Harmeet K. Dhillon", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Harmeet K. Dhillon
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

cc: Kevin J. Bethel
Philadelphia Police Commissioner

Kenyatta Johnson
City Council President

Renee Garcia
City Solicitor