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**CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

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CONGRESSIONAL ENERGY CAUCUS

December 3, 2015

The Honorable Loretta Lynch  
Attorney General  
United States Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0009

Dear Attorney General Lynch:

We are writing to request that the Department of Justice Civil Rights Division initiate a pattern-or-practice investigation into discriminatory policing by the Chicago Police Department (CPD). As you are aware, the City of Chicago is currently experiencing widespread protests as a result of the recently released video taken from the dashboard camera of a Chicago Police Department vehicle showing 17-year-old Laquan McDonald being fatally shot sixteen times by a Chicago Police Officer. A pattern that, unfortunately, has been repeated far too many times over the decades. Specifically, we are requesting that you investigate the circumstances surrounding this October 20, 2014 shooting at the hands of CPD Officer Jason Van Dyke. It has been reported in news outlets that there have been at least 18 citizen complaints filed against Officer Van Dyke, but he has never been disciplined prior to this shooting.

In the past year alone we have seen at least 11 different incidents of the unjustified use of lethal and excessive force by police officers against African-Americans:

1. The death of Dontre Hamilton, a 31-year-old man, by a member of the Milwaukee Police Department in Wisconsin on April 30, 2014.
2. The death of Eric Garner, an unarmed 43-year-old father, by a member of the New York City Police Department in New York on July 17, 2014.
3. The death of Michael Brown, an 18-year-old unarmed teenager, by a member of the Ferguson Police Department in Missouri on August 9, 2014.
4. The death of Ezell Ford, an unarmed 25-year-old mentally-ill man, by members of the Los Angeles Police Department in California on August, 11 2014.
5. The death of Laquan McDonald, a 17-year-old teenager, by a member of the Chicago Police Department in Illinois on October 20, 2014.
6. The death of Tamer Rice, a 12-year-old boy, by a member of the Cleveland Division of Police in Ohio on November 22, 2014.

<http://rush.house.gov>

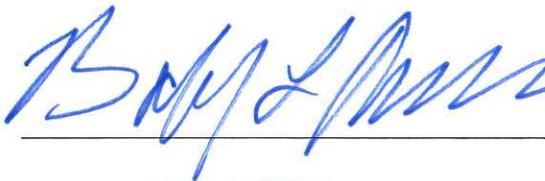
7. The death of Anthony Hill, a 27-year-old unarmed Air Force veteran, by a member of the DeKalb County Police Department in Georgia on March 6, 2015.
8. The death of Nicholas Thomas, a 23-year-old unarmed man, by a member of the Smyrna Police Department in Georgia on March 24, 2015.
9. The death of Freddie Gray, a 25-year-old man, in custody of the Baltimore Police Department, in Maryland on April 12, 2015.
10. The death of Sandra Bland, a 28-year-old woman, found hanged in a jail cell in Waller County, Texas on July 13, 2015.
11. The death of Jamar Clark, a 24-year-old unarmed man, by a member of the Minneapolis Police Department in Minnesota on November 16, 2015.

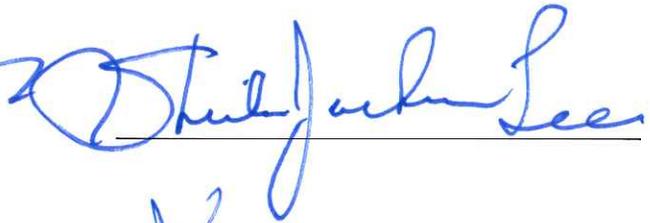
Simply put, these incidents and countless others are not isolated but reflect a pervasive pattern of racial bias in policing that is unacceptable.

These deaths are not the end of the story. Instead, they speak to broader problems that we, as a society, have failed to address. These are problems that are known to far too many Americans. As federal officials sworn to represent these citizens, I believe it is our moral responsibility to address these problems head-on.

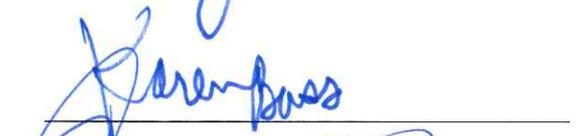
For this reason, I request that you initiate a pattern-or-practice investigation to look into these patterns of police violence being perpetrated on communities of color.

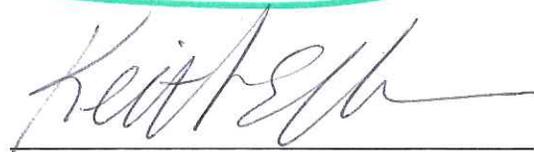
Sincerely,

















Dorinda Pauline

Donna F. Edwards

Tamie SCOTT Ca.

Frank Johnson

Fred Williams

W. F. Brown

Steve C. Parker (VI-00)

Ben H. Jones

S. L. [unclear] LA-02

Ch. Hill

Ernest [unclear]

Yvette D. Clarke

Alma [unclear]

Marcia L. [unclear]

Bobby [unclear]

Hal [unclear] NY-8

Wesley [unclear] FL-20

Rddie Bernice Johnson

Joyce Beaty OH-03

Norm Kelly

Barbara [unclear]

Wm Lacy Clay

Danny Dainis  
C. Stangel  
MV-733

Donald Coleman 1912

Tommy Clyburn  
John Lewis

John Conyers  
Mortie Water

Edward H. Norton

Corrine Brown

Ge. Butler

Gregory W. Meek

Dwight D.

Signatories:

1. The Honorable Bobby L. Rush
2. The Honorable Alma S. Adams
3. The Honorable Karen Bass
4. The Honorable Joyce Beatty
5. The Honorable Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
6. The Honorable Corrine Brown
7. The Honorable G. K. Butterfield
8. The Honorable André Carson
9. The Honorable Yvette D. Clarke
10. The Honorable Wm. Lacy Clay
11. The Honorable Emanuel Cleaver
12. The Honorable James E. Clyburn
13. The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
14. The Honorable Danny K. Davis
15. The Honorable Donna F. Edwards
16. The Honorable Keith Ellison
17. The Honorable Chaka Fattah
18. The Honorable Marcia L. Fudge
19. The Honorable Al Green
20. The Honorable Alcee L. Hastings
21. The Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee
22. The Honorable Hakeem S. Jeffries
23. The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
24. The Honorable Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
25. The Honorable Robin L. Kelly
26. The Honorable Brenda L. Lawrence
27. The Honorable Barbara Lee
28. The Honorable John Lewis

29. The Honorable Gregory W. Meeks
30. The Honorable Gwen Moore
31. The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton
32. The Honorable Donald M. Payne, Jr.
33. The Honorable Stacey E. Plaskett
34. The Honorable Charles B. Rangel
35. The Honorable Cedric L. Richmond
36. The Honorable David Scott
37. The Honorable Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
38. The Honorable Terri A. Sewell
39. The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson
40. The Honorable Marc A. Veasey
41. The Honorable Maxine Waters
42. The Honorable Bonnie Watson Coleman
43. The Honorable Frederica S. Wilson