

May 4, 2015

The Honorable Loretta Lynch
Attorney General of the United States
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Lynch:

The City of Boston has experienced several alarming cases involving allegations of racial profiling, police brutality, excessive/deadly force and corruption by members of the Boston Police Department. As citizens and community organizers whose duty it is to advocate for justice for citizens of the entire City of Boston equally, we are requesting that a full review of the Boston Police Department's practices, policies and procedures be conducted by the Department of Justice.

Citizens of Boston who have had negative contact with the Boston Police Department are further disheartened by the District Attorney's consistent failure to find any wrongdoing in all cases involving white officers and victims of color.¹ Many in Boston have lost faith that the current system will provide justice for all. This is but one of many issues facing the Boston Police Department. We are requesting the DOJ's intervention in Boston specifically, however, you will find these problems throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Over the decades the Boston Police Department has been embroiled in numerous scandals which were "resolved" questionably. In 2006, three BPD officers conspired to escort cocaine, heroin and oxycodone from Miami to Boston.² In 2008, it was revealed that almost 1,000 cases were affected due to the theft of approximately 700 bags of drugs including Marijuana, Cocaine, Heroin and Oxycontin stored in the BPD's central drug depository which is a secured facility only police have access to.³ This investigation resulted in no charges or disciplinary actions. Recently, in October 2014, a BPD officer was charged with lying to the FBI after being accused of providing information to an associate in a suspected gang under surveillance.⁴

The Boston Police Department has also weathered several high profile cases of police brutality. In 1995, Michael Cox, an undercover Black police officer was beaten brutally after being mistaken for a suspect.⁵ In 2008, Black firefighter Wayne Abron was severely beaten by Boston Police officers and currently has a pending case.⁶ In 2010, a 16 yr. old was a victim of police brutality on the campus of Roxbury Community College. This incident was captured on video⁷ and prompted community protest when the DA again found no wrong doing.⁸

The most extreme form of police brutality is when police officers shoot and kill citizens. These cases are always the ones under the most scrutiny and the ones where the families of the victims are least likely to receive answers and justice. In the City of Boston there have been at least 3 people shot & killed by Boston police officers since 2013. Since 1988 there have been at least 29 people shot & killed by Boston police officers⁹ which equals just over one person killed per year.

The Boston Police Department has undergone many investigations, internally, at the federal level, as well as numerous civil matters. Somehow, despite all attempts, there is no comprehensive solution to persistent problems no matter how well documented or publicized. In January of 2013, several officers involved in some of these high-profile cases were honored and awarded¹⁰ by the BPD, which served to further erode public trust. The City of Boston needs the Department of Justice to not only conduct an investigatory review but also assistance in shaping policies for the future to ensure justice and hold law enforcement agencies accountable to the laws they uphold.

The cases highlighted here are just a few examples representing a small sampling of issues facing the communities of color which the Boston Police Department serves. The latest example occurred while this letter was being written. A 16 year veteran of the BPD was charged with assaulting a Latino Uber driver after calling him "Spic." When a Good Samaritan intervened he was called "Nigger" by the officer who then stole the Uber driver's car and drove away attempting to escape to his nearby home. At the time of this incident the officer, who has now been identified as Michael Doherty, was already on administrative leave for a November domestic violence incident with his girlfriend and facing two pending IA investigations.¹¹

Recently, the ACLU of Massachusetts released an analysis which highlighted racial profiling in Boston through the use of "stop & frisk" policies.¹² This recent report, combined with reports for decades from both government and independent agencies and in addition to the information noted above illustrates the urgent need for the Department of Justice's intervention in order to take a step towards restoring public faith in the Black and Brown communities of Boston.

(please see next page for foot note references)

Sincerely,

Jamarhl Crawford (Lead Organizer)
MassPoliceReform.com
THE UNDER SIGNED

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- 11 Jamarhl Crawford, *16 yr. BPD Veteran Assaults Uber Driver, Yells Racial Slurs & Steals Car*, Blackstonian, January 6, 2015, available at <http://blackstonian.com/info/2015/01/16-yr-bpd-veteran-assaults-uber-driver-yells-racial-slurs-steals-car/>
- 12 ACLU of MA, *Black, Brown and Targeted*, October, 2014, available at <https://www.aclum.org/stopandfrisk>

THE UNDER SIGNED

We, the undersigned, request that the Department of Justice conduct a thorough investigation and assist in reforming the Boston Police Department.

Carla Sheffield (Mother of Burrell 'Bo' Ramsey, killed by BPD 8/21/12) Better Opportunities Inc
Nikia Ramsey (Family of Burrell 'Bo' Ramsey, killed by BPD 8/21/12) Better Opportunities Inc
Paul Prater (Step Father of Burrell 'Bo' Ramsey, killed by BPD 8/21/12) Better Opportunities Inc
Brenda Ramsey (Family of Burrell 'Bo' Ramsey, killed by BPD 8/21/12) Better Opportunities Inc
Angella Henry (Mother of Danroy "DJ" Henry jr., killed by PPD 10/17/10) DJ Dream Fund
Anzel Ransom (Step Father of Darryl Dookhran, killed by BPD 12/7/13)
Danielle Dookhran (Sister of Darryl Dookhran, killed by BPD 12/7/13)
Devon Dookhran (Brother of Darryl Dookhran, killed by BPD 12/7/13)
Yvette Dookhran (Mother of Darryl Dookhran, killed by BPD 12/7/13)
Stephona Stokes (Niece of James Bowden, killed by BPD 1/29/75)
Christopher McMullen (Brother of Mark McMullen, killed by BPD 9/7/11) WhyWasMarkShot.org
Karen McMullen (Sister of Mark McMullen, killed by BPD 9/7/11) WhyWasMarkShot.org
Kin Moy (victim of Excessive Force)
Wayne E. Abron (victim of Police Brutality)
Doris Bunte (former State Representative)
Bill Owens (former State Senator)
Dianne Wilkerson (former State Senator)

Sister Re Leigh	Amon Re, Inc
Dev M Luthra	And Still We Rise
Rev. Jason M. Lydon	Black and Pink
Brother Lo	Black Economic Justice Institute
Priscilla Flint-Banks	Black Economic Justice Institute
David Barkley	Black Indian Inn
Nicole Sullivan	Boston Feminists for Liberation
Jason Lowenthal	Boston Homeless Solidarity Committee
Gabrielle Mainiero	Boston Knapsack Anti-Racism Group
Chloe Green	Boston Medical Center
Shekia Scott	Boston Police Camera Action Team
Octavius Salih Rowe	Boston Society of Vulcans
Curtis Rollins	Boston Workers Alliance
Sidni Frederick	Brookline resident/Harvard University student
Alexander E. Marthews	Campaign for Digital Fourth Amendment Rights
Adam Friedman	Civica
Nick Giannone	Communist Party of Boston & Boilermakers Local 29
Hakim Cunningham	Board of Trustees (personal capacity)
Jannie Dorsey	Community Contractor Advocacy Project
Casey Doyle	Conscious Aware WOC
Emily Berg	CPUSA
Justin Fernandes	Criminal Justice Policy Commission
Daniel Alan (DanO)	CVWorld Enterprise
Bishop Filipe Teixeira, OFSJC	DanoradiO/True Indeed.
Aaron Bray	Diocese Saint Francis of Assisi, CCA
Peter Brown	Dorchester Native/Harvard Law School Student
Melinda Stewart	ECHO Training
Mariel Godard	Evolution Academy
Daniel Kontoff	FACES Organization at Boston College
Leslie Epps	Food Not Bombs
Jason Lowenthal	Fresh LemonAid, Inc.
Lynn A. Currier	Green Party
Lauren Chaleff	Haitkaah Social Justice Project
Zerahiah Israel	Harvard College alumni
Casey Aviva Jobin-Leeds	I Am The Movement
Fernando Ribeiro Delgado	Immigrant Solidarity Network
Joel Wool	International Human Rights Clinic, Harvard Law School
Rahsaan Hall	Jewish Voice for Peace
Jordana Monteiro	Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights
	Live4BO

Noah McKenna	Lucy Parsons Center
Norma Wassel	Massachusetts Bail Fund
Hon. Melvin C. Poindexter	Massachusetts Democratic Black Caucus
Shiela Estelle Record-Stanley	Member of Peoples Baptist Church
Judea Beatrice	MGH Institute of Health Professions
Sam Dreyfus	Moishe Kavod Jewish Social Justice House
Renaye Clay	NAACP
Bobby C Price	New Black Panther Party
Robertha Barnes	Northeastern University
Sonia Banaszczyk	Northeastern University
Deric Quest	Now Chapter
Abraham Lateiner	Resource Generation
Romilda Pereira	Rose from Concrete
Tillyruth Teixeira	SEII, MA Sr Action Council
Christopher Persampieri	SEIU 509
Joseph Johnson	Teens Against Gang Violence
Nancy Lowrey	The Movement for Peace
Lois Ahrens	The Real Cost of Prisons Project
Hayyim Feldman	Tikkun Community
Laura Wagner	Unitarian Universalist Mass Action Network
Angela Childs	United Sisters of Color
Steven Gillis	VP, USW Local 8751
Vivian A Phillips	WAITT HOUSE
Sylvia Edwards	Women Survivors of Homicide Movement
Armani White	Youth Against Mass Incarceration
Ena Kantardzic	Youth Against Mass Incarceration
Ivan Richiez	Youth Against Mass Incarceration
Lucas Turner-Owens	Youth Against Mass Incarceration
William Seth Woody	Youth Jobs Coalition

A. Foster	Benjamin Rukavina	Denise Reed	Hilary Hebert
A. Johnson	Beth Reagan	Denyse Allen	Hiro Tanaka
Aaron Herman	Bianca Blakesley	Derecka Purnell	Hope Haff
Aaron Mendelson	Brandi Artez	Diana Taylor	Iroupa S Keinkede
Aginah Akbar	Brandon Ransom	Dianne Zimbabwe	Jackson Chan
Aida Manduley	Britni De La Cretaz	Doug Hornstein	Jacob Leidolf
Akhi Begum	Brooke D. Coleman	Drew Curtis	Jacque Cummings-Furtado
Akunna Eneh	Bryce Turner	Edgar Howe	Jamarion Oliver
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Amanda Lee	Cheryl Lynn Owens	Eliza Ono	Jason Lowenthal
Amanda Mason	Chris Buttimer	Elizabeth DiDi Delgado	Jason Weeden
Aminata Kaba	Christlene DeJean	Eloho Akpovi	Jay Munroe
Andre Sparrow	Christina Barretti-Sigal	Emma Clare Maxwell	Jeff Durham
Andre Thomas	Christopher Conroy	Emma O'Brien	Jennifer Dowdell
Andrew Curtis	Cleon Robert Springer	Enisoto A. Ekunsirinde	Jennifer Lewis
Andrew Donnelly	Corin P McGee	Eric Esteves	Jennifer Quevedo
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Angel Harris	Crystal Beck	Erica White	Jeremy Hanson
Angel Shelton	Crystal Johnson	Erick Sanchez	Jesse Tombari
Angelica Xavier Ribeiro	Curtis Rollins	Esha Pillay	Jocelyn Schur
Anne Phillips	Dana Ruff	Gabrielle Mainiero	Jodiann Wise
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Aparna Das	Daniel Janey	Georgia Skeadas	Joely Barrios
Arafat Akbar	Daniel Kontoff	Gerard Hill	Joey Killian
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Ayana Mack	David Corbie	Gilbert White	Jonathan Barry
Bailey Ray	David Shelton	Hannah Banks	Jonathan Knight
Barbara A Gibbs	Deborah Sabin	Hannah Gordon Brown	Jonathan Kolodziej
Becca Miller	Deema Faisal	Henry Nelson	Jonathan Mande
Benjamin Pittman-Polletta	Deneen McGhee	Henry Osime	Joshua Prudhomme

Josie Snider
Joyce Lewis
Julee Vitello
Justin Bishop
Jwahir Sundai
Kaileigh Callender
Kaleigh O'Keefe Heinhold
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Stephenson Crawford
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Zulma Acosta