



**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SOLANO**

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July 13, 2020

Shawny Williams
Chief of Police
Vallejo Police Department
111 Amador Street
Vallejo, CA 94590

Dear Chief Williams,

I received your email on Friday July 10th regarding the review of two recent Vallejo Police Department officer involved shootings of Sean Monterrosa and Willie McCoy. As I informed you on July 2nd, I recused our office from the review of these two cases due to the magnitude of the perceived conflict of handling either one of them. I can appreciate your position that our office should conduct the review absent a clear conflict of interest. As New York Governor Andrew Cuomo stated after signing an executive order five years ago appointing the Attorney General as the special prosecutor for ALL officer involved shootings of unarmed civilians and in all Officer Involving Shootings where there was a question of whether the civilian was armed and dangerous, "Any case where conflict may be perceived erodes the trust of the public."

You stated last week the shooting of Sean Monterrosa is still pending investigation so I am unclear as to your statement made in your email that I am holding the citizens across the United States in limbo regarding the review of that case.

You state that the entire nation is watching what our appointed and elected leaders do in these cases. I can tell you that no one is more concerned than myself that the review of these two shootings be done thoroughly, impartially, fairly, independently, and with transparency. As you are aware, there is an overwhelming demand by Californians across the state for an independent, "arms length" investigation. We have seen the tidal wave of opposition towards any review of these shootings being conducted at the local level. Such opposition is not limited to the families of Sean Monterrosa and Willie McCoy; amongst others, it also includes community members, Vallejo City Council, Vallejo Mayor Sampayan, County Supervisors, Senator Bill Dodd, Assemblymembers Tim Grayson and Jim Frazier, Congressman Mike Thompson, advocacy groups, and members of the Bay Area media. No one and no logic supports the Attorney General's position that this review be done at the county level as such stance blatantly ignores the will of the people.

Given the Vallejo Police Department's history of several high-profile uses of force, including a number of officer involved shootings, the number and nature of such incidents has raised the concerns of not only the community but the Attorney General of the State of California. That is why the Attorney General took the unusual step on June 5th to enter an agreement with you and your department to conduct a comprehensive review of your department with the overall goal of increasing

public trust. The agreement specifically states that there will be no limitation on the Attorney General's Investigative or Enforcement Authority over the Vallejo Police Department. Given the resources the Attorney General is deploying to conduct a comprehensive review of your department, it only seems appropriate and logical for any one of his 1100 lawyers to issue the finding of these two shootings as part of that review.

A couple of years ago, Sacramento Police Chief Daniel Hahn asked for an independent review of the officer involved shooting of Stephon Clark by the Attorney General's Office due to the high emotions, anger and hurt in the community. As Attorney General Becerra stated in the Clark press conference, the independent investigation would be a big step toward building trust between the community and members of law enforcement. The current circumstances we are faced with compel an outside review in order to restore public trust, preserve the safety of our community, and provide confidence in the outcome.

Sincerely,



Krishna A. Abrams
District Attorney
County of Solano