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Dear Attorney General Garland:

The Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus hereby requests a full-scale pattern or practice investigation of the Louisiana State Police. As a caucus, we work to improve the quality of life for African Americans in Louisiana through legislation, education, and economic development. Unfortunately, the topic of police brutality and unequal treatment toward African Americans across the country is finally at the forefront of public interest, and the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus would like to take this time and opportunity to point out the injustices still occurring in Louisiana.

This letter highlights two 2019 instances involving gross misconduct by the Louisiana State Police toward Aaron Bowman and Ronald Greene. However, these examples are only the tip of the iceberg. The Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus believes that an in-depth investigation will reveal common practices and patterns of the department that will enlighten everyone to much more corruption that is taking place in Louisiana.

In 2019, Louisiana State Police viciously beat Aaron Bowman during an arrest. During the incident, a Louisiana State Trooper used excessive and unnecessary force. Although the trooper involved in this incident has since resigned from the department, his resignation took nearly 19 months to be enforced. However, until that time, Mr. Bowman was required to re-tell and re-live his traumatic story. This is just one example of a consistent pattern of cruel and excessive brutality that Louisiana State Police has used.

The next instance was the tragic murder of Ronald Greene, where Mr. Greene was apprehended after crashed a car and was placed into custody. Body camera footage showed Mr. Greene making statements such as "I'm sorry" and "I'm scared" as he was being detained. Although Louisiana State Police had previously suggested Mr. Greene died from injuries sustained from the motor vehicle accident, hidden body camera footage later revealed that Mr. Greene was alive at the time he was taken into custody by State Police. Moreover, body camera footage indicates his death resulted from the beating inflicted upon him by State Troopers. Additionally, there are reports of leaked audio of one trooper stating that he had beaten Mr. Greene.

To date Louisiana State Police has done nothing about the death of Ronald Greene. In fact, recently demoted attorney Faye Morrison is currently under investigation for her attempts to divert the incident away from Louisiana State Police and completely cover up the event. Emails from Faye Morrison document police officials discussing options to spin liability for the death of Ronald Greene. Other emails even show Morrison suggesting that guilty pleas for resisting arrest were essential to deter future suspects from filing excessive force complaints. The simple fact that Mr. Greene was killed in police custody is a tragedy; the attempts to cover it up and place blame on the victim are shameful.

The Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus requests the Department of Justice to investigate the Louisiana State Police and unearth the true roots of these issues so that we may commit to our citizens some measures of safety and protection. Additionally, the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus asks for assistance and resources for the Louisiana State Police as they continue to provide investigative oversight to local police departments throughout the state. Our citizens look to the Louisiana State Police as the standard in fair policing, and this request demonstrates a step forward in accountability for those tasked to protect and serve.

Sincerely,



Edward "Ted" James. II
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Chairman, House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice
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cc: The Honorable Kristen Clarke
All members of the Louisiana Congressional Delegation