

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-1802

The Honorable Jeff Sessions  
Attorney General of the United States  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Sessions,

I am writing to follow up on my previous letter, dated April 5, 2017, about the status of the investigation into the death of Alton Sterling in Baton Rouge, Louisiana on July 5, 2016. As you are no doubt aware, the Department of Justice under the previous Administration opened a civil rights investigation the very next day on July 6. I spoke on the phone yesterday with Acting Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs Samuel Ramer, and came away from the conversation frustrated. Quite frankly, it does not seem like your office is taking this investigation seriously enough.

I am following up because persistent rumors are circulating in the Baton Rouge area that local law enforcement has been informed of a specific timeline for an announcement. These rumors have risen to the point that local schools and other organizations are expending funds to prepare for a Tuesday announcement. The Department of Justice's failure to communicate with the community has created angst and nervousness, and I fear this carries the potential for increased tension between the community and law enforcement.

As I wrote in my previous letter, I believe that transparency is critical to rebuild and maintain trust between the community and law enforcement. It is inappropriate and against the interests of public safety for the Department of Justice to allow this level of uncertainty to continue. Mr. Sterling's family and the broader community deserve a fair, open, and transparent process, not an opaque and unaccountable investigation. I fear that without this transparency, concerned citizens will be left with no choice but to lose faith in your Department's ability to conduct a fair, unbiased investigation.

Thank you, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Cedric L. Richmond