



CITY OF FERGUSON

MISSOURI 63135

December 4, 2015

Special Litigation Section
Civil Rights Division
Department of Justice

Re: City of Ferguson

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Yesterday, a group of Ferguson residents held a press conference and issued a written request to the City concerning the proposed settlement between DOJ and the City. These residents request meaningful community engagement between City leaders and the citizens about the proposed agreement and the opportunity for real community input.

While we disagree with some of the points made in the group's letter, we as a Council wholeheartedly agree that the citizens of Ferguson will be the ones most affected by this agreement and that the citizens deserve to not only know the content of the agreement before it is finalized but also that they *must* have a fair opportunity to share their thoughts with us prior to any agreement being signed. The Council's previous community and town hall meetings have been important, but because of the DOJ's process we have adhered to, the community has not received the level of detail to allow for the type of community input that is envisioned.

City representatives have tried repeatedly to express our concern with unduly rushing this process and not allowing adequate time to include our citizens in this effort, but we believe that our concerns and requests have not been heard or considered.

We strongly believe that our residents need to know the proposed provisions of the agreement including all the costs involved in this agreement such as the annual cost of a monitor which according to you, is estimated to be \$350,000 the first year and \$225,000 every year thereafter. The citizens of Ferguson must bear some responsibility to make community policing and other programs work and must pay all of the costs associated with the agreement. They are entitled to know how the agreement and the associated costs will affect their families, their financial situation, the services they receive from the City and the overall outlook of the City.

Please accept this as the City Council's notice that we have no intention of entering into an agreement until our citizens have had an opportunity to fully read and understand the agreement with plenty of time to provide feedback on any of its provisions.

We will continue to negotiate in good faith and hope that we can reach an agreement. We look forward to our face to face meeting on Monday but felt that you must know that Tuesday's deadline to reach an agreement doesn't afford us the opportunity to engage our citizens.

Sincerely,
The City Council of the City of Ferguson

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