



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

SYC:LEM:db

*Special Litigation Section - PHB  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530*

November 24, 2009

Mr. Art Rocker, Sr.  
Florida Southern Christian Leadership  
Conference State Unit  
6919 Pensacola Boulevard  
Pensacola, Florida 32050

Dear Mr. Rocker:

This responds to your letter, dated November 6, 2009, concerning the use of Tasers by law enforcement agencies in the State of Florida. We will carefully review the information you provided regarding incidents in the cities of Bradenton, Pensacola, and Starke, Florida.

The Special Litigation Section of the United States Department of Justice is responsible for enforcing the provision of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, 42 U.S.C. § 14141, that allows the Department to seek equitable relief to remedy a pattern or practice of misconduct by law enforcement agencies, such as police departments. When a systemic pattern or practice of misconduct is determined to exist, we have the authority to initiate civil action against the jurisdiction (city, county or state) in order to remedy the misconduct. The Department also has authority with regard to the anti-discrimination provisions of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, 42 U.S.C. § 3789d, and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d, which together prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex or national origin by police departments receiving federal funds.

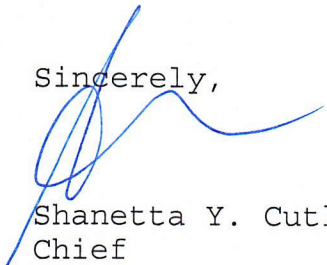
The Section's authority does not extend to investigating the personal grievances of a single individual. The Section is not authorized to represent individual citizens in legal matters or to give legal advice. The Section also does not have the authority to seek criminal punishment or monetary damages for misconduct. Therefore, we are unable to provide you with legal opinions or assistance with personal lawsuits or legal matters.

We will consider your letter carefully along with other information we may receive to determine whether a pattern or practice investigation is warranted. We will also review the information provided on your web site. If you have additional details that you believe may be relevant to our review, we would appreciate it if you would forward that information to us. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 202-514-0195, or Lawrence Mitchell at 202-353-0793, should you have any questions.

We hope that this information is helpful to you. For additional information, you may want to review our website:

<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/split/index.html>

Sincerely,



Shanetta Y. Cutlar  
Chief  
Special Litigation Section