



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

Office for Civil Rights

Washington, D.C. 20531

March 8, 2017

CERTIFIED MAIL: RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Sheriff Victor Hill
Clayton County Sherriff's Department
9157 Tara Boulevard
Jonesboro, Georgia 30236

Re: Closing Based on Insufficient Evidence
[REDACTED] v. Clayton County Sherriff's Office (13-OCR-0407)

Dear Chief Hill:

The Office for Civil Rights (OCR), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), U.S. Department of Justice writes to report the findings its investigation involving the Clayton County Sherriff's Department (CCSD) pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI).¹ The OCR initiated an investigation of the CCSD after receiving a complaint from Mr. [REDACTED] who alleged that the CCSD discriminated against him based on his race when it pulled over the vehicle his was driving and conducted a search of his vehicle. The OCR investigated the complaint pursuant to Title VI and found that there was insufficient factual evidence to initiate a full investigation.

In response to the OCR's January 29, 2015, request for information, the CCSD produced through its counsel records of the CCSD's May 2, 2013, stop of [REDACTED]; a record of the CCSD's recent litigation; training records; and the CCSD's policies and procedures. The CCSD did not, however, produce all the information that the OCR requested. In its data response, the CCSD noted that it currently does not have procedures to collect data, including demographic information, on traffic stops.

The OCR strongly encourages the CCSD to consider adopting data collection procedures to assess whether its policies or procedures have a disparate impact on protected groups. The long-term systematic collection of statistics and information regarding law enforcement activities support overall policing efforts by fostering trust and respect for the police in the community.²

The OCR is closing this matter based on insufficient evidence. The CCSD should be mindful that federal law protects the Complainant from retaliation for having filed this Complaint. The OCR will initiate an investigation if it should receive credible evidence of reprisal.

¹ 42 U.S.C. § 2000d (2012).

² Deborah Ramirez, et al. A Resource Guide on Racial Profiling Data Collection Systems, in U.S. Department of Justice Promising Practices and Lessons Learned Series (Nov. 2000), <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/bja/184768.pdf> (last visited Apr. 1, 2016).

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Thank you for your assistance with this Complaint investigation. This Letter of Finding is a public document that the OCR may post on its website. If you need additional information or have any questions, please contact Attorney Advisor Benjamin Hernandez-Stern at [REDACTED].

Sincerely,

X 

Michael L. Alston
Director
Signed by: MICHAEL ALSTON

CC: Mr. Oliver Hunter
Legal Advisor
Clayton County Sherriff's Department
9157 Tara Boulevard
Jonesboro, Georgia 30236