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December 23, 2014


Attorney General Eric Holder  
United States Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20350-0001

Re: Open Letter From Residents of Ferguson, Missouri

Dear General Holder:

Enclosed please find an open letter from residents and businesses of Ferguson, Missouri, expressing their concerns about the Department of Justice's open investigation into the shooting of Michael Brown. I am certain you will give their request due consideration.

Very truly yours,



Jay L. Kanzler

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## **AN OPEN LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY GENERAL**

December 22, 2014

Attorney General Holder  
United States Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20350-0001

Dear Attorney General Holder:

The undersigned businesses and residents of Ferguson, Missouri, collectively call upon your office to expeditiously complete, and immediately release the findings of, the federal civil rights investigation surrounding the shooting death of Michael Brown.

Our community has suffered greatly over the past months. We are great people who remain committed to this community's future. The unfortunate fact is, however, that despite all that has transpired since August 9, 2014, we cannot truly and fully embrace the rebuilding process – both emotionally and physically – without the closure that will come from the completion of your investigation. The delay of your report leaves this community feeling confused, fearful, anxious, angry and conflicted.

Michael Brown was shot by Officer Darren Wilson on August 9, 2014. The protests in the community took a violent turn the next evening with the burning of the Quick Trip gas station, looting and gun fire. As the community began to clean-up from the protests, on Monday August 11, 2014, Governor Jeremiah Nixon asked the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate the shooting.

On Friday August 15, 2014, looting again occurred along West Florissant Avenue, with many businesses suffering their second round of damage. The next day, the Missouri National Guard was called in to assist law enforcement deal with the ongoing protests.

The Department of Justice was involved in the investigation of the events of August 9 from the very start. Prior to your visit to Ferguson on August 20, you announced that 40 additional FBI agents had been dispatched to Ferguson to interview witnesses and, further, that you had ordered a federal autopsy be performed on the body of Michael Brown.

It has been four months since the actions your office ordered were undertaken. During that same period of time, the St. Louis County Grand Jury completed its responsibility of hearing months of testimony from more than 60 witnesses. It is our understanding that your office has received all of the evidence and testimony presented during the State's investigation and the grand jury proceedings. Yet, your office has not released any findings of its own investigation.

This is terribly important to this community. As you are well aware, following the announcement of the St. Louis Grand Jury's decision, the St. Louis region, and especially Ferguson and surrounding municipalities, suffered through a night of tragic rioting and looting, during which 22 buildings were burned and dozens of businesses were looted. There is a legitimate concern within the community that a similar reaction might follow the Department of Justice report; therefore, delay in releasing the report results in delay in the process of rebuilding. Store owners are unwilling to remove boards from the fronts of their buildings for fear of what might happen next.

The people of this community – all colors, races and religions – wish to unite in the healing process following these tragic events. Everyone recognizes that much needs to be done. We all must meet at a place of mutual respect, dignity and concern for one another. We cannot allow what has happened to drag us backwards.

And we must rebuild the small businesses that have been the economic foundation of Ferguson's renewal. These businesses provide products and services to the residents. They offer jobs to the men and women who live in the community. They pay taxes so desperately needed to fund schools. If we permit the economic foundation to fail, then the neighborhoods, schools, parks, churches, libraries and other integral parts of our great community will quickly follow.

We have been tested through these months. Many of the businesses are at a breaking point. Revenues remain well below what they were prior to August, and the anecdotal evidence is that this will continue to be the norm so long as people remain fearful of returning to Ferguson. Many believe that the violence will again return, and much of that apprehension is because the Department of Justice has not yet issued its findings.

The Department of Justice can alleviate the fear by concluding its investigation and issuing its findings – whatever these findings conclude. It is the issuance of the report that will permit the healing to continue in earnest. It is the issuance of the report that will open the door to the future of Ferguson. It is the continued lack of a report that will keep us mired in the past.

Therefore, the undersigned business and residents respectfully request that the Department of Justice issue the findings of the federal civil rights investigation surrounding the shooting death of Michael Brown.

Respectfully Requested,

Sam's Meat Market

Mohamad Yaacoub

New York Grill

Mohamad Yaacoub

Ferguson Market

Opateh

Mayor City of Ferguson

James S. Mastaglio

STL. Cordless

Sonny Dayan

Cedric J. Thomas

Cedric Thomas

Ferrell Moore

Ynell Moore

Just Insurance Agency

Don't lose

MARANA PHYSICIANS

Dale Lupatkin

Zisser Tire

JMG

Dellwood market

[Signature]

911 Hair Salon/Co.

[Signature]