



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

United States Attorney's Office
District of Massachusetts

*United States Attorney's Office
1 Courthouse Way, Suite 9200
Boston, MA 02210*

*Assistant Attorney General
950 Pennsylvania Ave, NW-RFK
Washington, DC 20530*

July 8, 2020

Via Electronic Mail

Honorable Domenic J. Sarno
Mayor
36 Court Street
Springfield, MA 01103

Re: Springfield Police Department

Dear Mayor Sarno:

The Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice and the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Massachusetts have completed the civil investigation of the Springfield Police Department's ("SPD") Narcotics Bureau, pursuant to the pattern or practice provision of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, 34 U.S.C. § 12601. We conclude that there is reasonable cause to believe that the Springfield Police Department's Narcotics Bureau engages in a pattern or practice of conduct of excessive force that violates the Fourth Amendment of the United States Constitution. Our investigative conclusions are detailed in the accompanying Report.

We thank the City and SPD for cooperating and assisting us throughout our investigation. In the coming weeks, we will seek to work with you toward developing an appropriate settlement to ensure that all necessary reforms are implemented efficiently and effectively. As we stated at the outset of this investigation, our goal in this matter is to improve public safety, protect civil rights, and promote effective policing. Now that our investigation has concluded, we hope to continue to work cooperatively with the City and SPD to remedy the pattern or practice of conduct we identified so that policing in Springfield can indeed be safer, lawful, and more effective.

If you have any questions, please call Steven H. Rosenbaum, Chief of the Civil Rights Division's Special Litigation Section, at (202) 616-3244, or Jennifer Serafyn, Chief of the Civil Rights Unit at the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Massachusetts, at (617) 748-3188.

Sincerely,

/s/ Eric S. Dreiband

Eric S. Dreiband
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

/s/ Andrew E. Lelling

Andrew E. Lelling
United States Attorney
District of Massachusetts

cc: Commissioner Cheryl Clapprood
City Solicitor Edward Pikula