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April 6, 2006

New Orleans Police Department
Attn. Chief Warren Riley
415 N. Lopez Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70119

Via U.S. Mail and Facsimile to (504) 658-2309

Dear Chief Riley:

We have been advised by members of your office that the above-provided address and facsimile number are the best way to reach you at present. Please advise if this is not the case.

We are sure that you are troubled by recent reports of the use of excessive force by members of the NOPD. We are aware that there are many good, hardworking officers on the police force, and we applaud their work. However, we write to follow up on recent complaints and media reports that raise civil liberties issues with regard to some of the officers in the Department.

Therefore, pursuant to the Louisiana public records act, La. Rev. Stat. § 44:1 et seq., and Louisiana Constitution Art. 12, § 3, I request that you produce copies of the following documents:

1. All documents pertaining to any lesson plan on biased-based profiling and the associated legal aspects formulated by the Education and Training Division of the New Orleans Police Department or any other Division of the Department;
2. All documents pertaining to whether the class is taught to each recruit class and to each commissioned employee during his/her yearly in-service training by the Education and Training Division of the New Orleans Police Department or any other Division of the Department;
3. All documents pertaining to statistical summaries of all profiling complaints submitted by the Public Integrity Division to the Assistant Superintendent and Superintendent of Police, which are due annually on February 1st;
4. All documents pertaining to recommended changes to agency procedures, agency practices, in-service instruction, and disciplinary procedures made by the Assistant Superintendent of Police, Operations Bureau, using the summary of citizen concerns and the information received from the summary of profiling complaints received, which are to be forwarded to the Superintendent of Police on May 1st of each year;

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5. All documents pertaining to incidents involving officer use of force from April 15, 2005 to April 15, 2006, specifically including but not limited to all "incident reports" or "use of force records" from that time period;

6. All documents pertaining to disciplinary records of NOPD officers for excessive use of force or similar problems, including specifically all documents pertaining to the number of NOPD officers arrested or prosecuted criminally for such incidents, and relevant internal affairs documents and reports;

7. All documents pertaining to any amount paid by the City of New Orleans in settlement of lawsuits alleging excessive force by NOPD officers.

If you choose to deny this request in whole or in part, please provide a written explanation for that denial, including reference to the specific statutory exemptions upon which you rely. Also, please provide all segregable portions of otherwise exempt material.

Because disclosure of these documents is in the public interest, I request that any fees for copying and postage be waived. If this request for a waiver is denied, please advise me if fees for complying with this request are expected to exceed \$100.00.

As required by state law, please respond to this request within three business days. If more time is needed, please feel free to contact me to discuss an amended time frame.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Very truly yours,

Katie Schwartzmann
Staff Attorney
ACLU Foundation of Louisiana