



December 7, 2015

MADIGAN REACTS TO UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION DECISION TO INVESTIGATE CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT PRACTICES

Chicago — Attorney General Lisa Madigan today applauded the U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ) announcement that its Civil Rights Division will launch an investigation to determine whether practices by the Chicago Police Department violate the Constitution and federal law.

Madigan issued the following statement regarding the decision:

"I'm pleased the Department of Justice Civil Rights Division has decided to pursue an investigation of the Chicago Police Department. Serious questions about the use of unlawful and excessive force and accountability for misconduct by Chicago police officers can only be answered by independent experts with the power to enforce real changes in police practices. While this process will take time, it's the best hope we have for a full and fair investigation and the reforms necessary to rebuild trust."

In a letter last week to U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch, Madigan asked for an investigation into the Chicago Police Department's use of force, including deadly force; the adequacy of its review and investigation of officers' use of force and investigation of allegations of misconduct; its provision of training, equipment and supervision of officers to allow them to do their job safely and effectively; and whether there exists a pattern or practice of discriminatory policing.

Madigan had said an investigation by the U.S. DOJ Civil Rights Division is necessary and appropriate, given its experience investigating the practices of police departments across the country and based on its experience prosecuting former Chicago Police Commander Jon Burge. An investigation by the DOJ Civil Rights Division also ensures there is an outside, independent review of CPD practices.

-30-

[Return to December 2015 Press Releases](#)

