



U.S. Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division

SJ:RO:RG:JC:NP:MW
207-41-7

Special Litigation Section - PHB
950 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington DC 20530

September 12, 2018

VIA E-MAIL AND U.S. MAIL

Ronnie Walton
City Attorney
Glover, Young, Walton & Simmons, PLLC
P.O. Box 5514
Meridian, MS 39302

Re: United States' First Assessment of the City of Meridian's Compliance with the Settlement Agreement

Dear Mr. Walton:

We write to provide you with the Department of Justice's ("DOJ") assessment of the City of Meridian's ("City") progress in complying with the terms of the Settlement Agreement ("Agreement") entered in *U.S. v. Meridian*, Civ. Act. No. CV-978 (filed Sept. 18, 2015).

As you know, in January 2018, the Independent Police Auditor filed a final report with the Court assessing the City's compliance with the terms of the Settlement Agreement. The Auditor determined, and the City and DOJ agreed, that the City was in substantial compliance with all provisions of the Agreement. Pursuant to Section V.F. of the Settlement Agreement, the parties agreed to transition this case to monitoring by the United States.

This is the first assessment issued by DOJ since the case transitioned to United States' monitoring. The assessment measures the progress made by the City during the first six months of 2018. Since the beginning of Settlement Agreement implementation, the City has maintained a collaborative approach to the compliance process. We value the effort the City and Meridian Police Department chief and staff have put into addressing the requirements of the Settlement Agreement, preparing self-assessment compliance reports evaluating the City's compliance with the Agreement, and cooperatively providing supporting documentation and information to DOJ staff and consultants.

In the enclosed assessment table, and similar to reports filed by the former Independent Police Auditor, we provide a compliance rating and comments for each provision of the Settlement Agreement. The definition of each rating type is as follows:

- “Substantial compliance” means that the City has achieved all or nearly all of the components of a particular provision.
- “Partial compliance” means that the City has made notable progress in achieving compliance with key components of the provision, but substantial work remains.
- “Beginning compliance” means that the City has made notable progress in achieving compliance with a few, but less than half, of the key components of the provision.
- Non-compliance” means that the City has made no notable progress in achieving compliance on any of the key components of the provision.

DOJ reports that for the January-June 2018 assessment period, the City has remained in substantial compliance with the provisions of the Settlement Agreement.

We appreciate the strides the City has made thus far towards ensuring sustainable reform. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions about this letter. We look forward to continuing to work with you.

Sincerely,



Nicole Porter
Trial Attorney
Special Litigation Section