



**U.S. Department of Justice**

**Civil Rights Division**

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

April 30, 2012

President Royce C. Engstrom  
Office of the President  
The University of Montana  
Missoula, MT 59812-3324

Re: Pattern or Practice Investigation of University of Montana, Office of Public Safety

Dear President Engstrom:

We are writing about a subject that we know is of considerable concern to you: the allegations of sexual assault and harassment on the campus of the University of Montana (the University) and the University's response to those allegations. We appreciate your efforts to take initial steps to address this deeply troubling situation, and write to alert you to our next steps.

The Civil Rights Division's Special Litigation Section is initiating an investigation of the University of Montana at Missoula's Office of Public Safety (OPS), the Missoula Police Department, and the Missoula County Attorney's Office, pursuant to the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, 42 U.S.C. § 14141, and the pattern or practice provisions of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, 42 U.S.C. § 3789d. The Special Litigation Section will work closely with the Educational Opportunities Section in its Title IV and IX investigation, which is being noticed separately. We assure you that we will seek to minimize any potential disruption that our investigations may have on the operations of the University.

At the outset, we wish to emphasize that we have not reached any conclusions about the subject matter of the investigation. We will conduct a comprehensive review of the University's policies and practices related to sexual assault and harassment, including OPS policies. We will consider all relevant information, including steps the University has publicly announced it is taking to address sexual assaults of its students, and any other efforts the University has undertaken to ensure compliance with federal law. In the near future, we will be sending you a request for documents and other information, and may have follow-up requests of this nature during our review and investigation. We also will seek to interview University officials, other University personnel, students who have allegedly been sexually assaulted and/or harassed,

representatives of relevant community-based organizations, and others with pertinent information about this matter.

Once the Department completes its investigation, we will notify you of our conclusions. If we conclude that the University has not violated the Constitution or laws of the United States, we will close the investigation. If, on the other hand, we find a violation, we will inform you of our findings and seek to reach agreement regarding how the University can best come into compliance with the law. The Department's goal is to work in close collaboration with the University throughout the investigation and to resolve any concerns in an expeditious manner, without resorting to contested litigation.

We will contact you soon to discuss the next steps of our investigation. The Special Litigation Section may be reached by contacting Chief Jonathan Smith, Deputy Chief Christy Lopez, or Trial Attorney Jennifer Mondino at (202) 514-6255. The United States Attorney's Office may be reached by contacting United States Attorney Michael Cotter at (406) 457-5120.

We appreciate your cooperation with our investigation, look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with you and others at the University, and are confident that our joint efforts will ensure a safe environment for the University's students.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Perez  
Assistant Attorney General

Michael W. Cotter  
United States Attorney

cc: Gary Taylor  
Chief of Office of Public Safety  
The University of Montana