



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

CC:CH:CS:RK
DJ 207-33-9

*Special Litigation Section – 4CON
950 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington DC 20530*

June 22, 2022

Via Electronic Mail

Mayor Jennifer Vidrine
City of Ville Platte
126 East Main Street
Ville Platte LA 70586

Chief Neal Lartigue
Ville Platte Police Department
114 Armand Street
Ville Platte, LA 70586

Eric LaFleur
Ville Platte City Attorney
P.O. Box 617
Ville Platte, LA 70586

Re: Settlement Agreement Compliance Assessment

We write to report on the City of Ville Platte and the Ville Platte Police Department's compliance with and implementation of the Settlement Agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), entered on June 4, 2018. Attached to this letter is the June 2022 Compliance Assessment that summarizes VPPD's status with regard to each paragraph of the Agreement. The assessment will be posted on DOJ's website.

As the assessment indicates, VPPD made notable progress during this compliance period with regard to policy and training development, and several officers appeared to demonstrate a professionalism and legal aptitude that we had not observed in prior compliance assessments. We appreciate VPPD's continued efforts and improvement in these areas of the Agreement and note that our review of the limited documentation we received suggests that VPPD's efforts are yielding better policing practices.

We also note that VPPD's failure to provide us with timely access to documentation inhibited our review in many areas of the Agreement and there are some critical issues that VPPD still struggles to address. The lack of appropriate supervisory review and approval of law enforcement activity remains a cause for concern. In addition, it appears that officers are not consistently being held accountable for failing to activate body-worn cameras when policy requires.

We will continue to cooperatively assist the City and VPPD to achieve compliance with the Agreement and appreciate your most recent efforts to address policy development and training. Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions or comments about the assessment. We look forward to discussing its contents in more detail during our visit to Ville Platte next week.

Sincerely,

Charles Hart

Charles Hart
Trial Attorney
Special Litigation Section