

GRIEVANCE AND FORMAL REQUEST FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION

Regarding the Death of Keith Porter

From:

[Insert your name]

Concerned Citizen

To:

Los Angeles County District Attorney

California Attorney General

Los Angeles Police Department –

Professional Standards Bureau

PURPOSE OF THIS LETTER

This correspondence constitutes a formal grievance, civil-rights notice, and demand for renewed, independent investigation into the death of Keith Porter, who was fatally shot by officers of the Los Angeles Police Department on June 16, 2020. This letter places all recipient agencies on notice that unresolved factual, forensic,

and constitutional deficiencies remain and warrant further review.

BACKGROUND

Keith Porter was a 27-year-old man experiencing a mental health crisis when Los Angeles Police Department officers responded to a call for assistance. Mr. Porter was unarmed at the time of the encounter. Officers discharged their weapons multiple times, resulting in his death.

Subsequent disclosures, investigative reporting, and public records have raised serious questions regarding the accuracy of initial officer statements, the object allegedly mistaken for a firearm, the reasonableness of perceived threat, and whether constitutionally required de-escalation measures were meaningfully attempted prior to the use of deadly force.

OUTSTANDING ISSUES REQUIRING

FURTHER INVESTIGATION

The following issues remain unresolved and require renewed scrutiny:

Material inconsistencies between officer statements, physical evidence, and forensic findings.

Whether any object in Mr. Porter's possession could reasonably be mistaken for a firearm under an objective standard.

Whether appropriate de-escalation techniques were employed, particularly in light of Mr. Porter's known or apparent mental health crisis.

Whether the use of deadly force complied with Fourth Amendment standards governing objective reasonableness.

Whether prior internal, prosecutorial, or administrative reviews were sufficiently independent, thorough, and free from bias.

LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

The use of deadly force by law enforcement is governed by the Fourth Amendment's objective-reasonableness standard. Deadly force against an unarmed individual is presumptively unreasonable absent an immediate threat of serious bodily harm.

Relevant controlling authority includes: *Tennessee v. Garner*, 471 U.S. 1 (1985) (deadly force may not be used against an unarmed, non-dangerous suspect).

Graham v. Connor, 490 U.S. 386 (1989) (objective reasonableness standard governs use of force).

When law enforcement encounters an individual experiencing a mental health crisis, constitutional obligations require heightened care, proportionality, and genuine attempts at de-escalation. Failure to adequately investigate potential violations undermines public trust and

risks systemic civil-rights violations.

NOTICE OF CIVIL-RIGHTS LIABILITY AND PATTERN-OR-PRACTICE CONCERNS

This grievance constitutes formal notice of potential violations of federal civil-rights law under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Failure to meaningfully reinvestigate the circumstances surrounding Mr. Porter's death may constitute deliberate indifference and contribute to a pattern or practice of unconstitutional use of force. Such patterns fall within the oversight authority of the U.S. Department of Justice pursuant to 34 U.S.C. § 12601.

DEMAND FOR ACTION

I formally demand the following actions:
A renewed, independent investigation not reliant on prior conclusions or internal findings.

Full public release of all relevant investigative materials, including body-

worn camera footage, forensic reports, and use-of-force analyses.

A written determination addressing each unresolved issue identified in this grievance, including whether any policy, training, or disciplinary actions resulted from this incident.

RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

Nothing in this correspondence shall be construed as a waiver of any rights or remedies available under state or federal law. All rights are expressly reserved.

Respectfully,

[Your name]

Concerned Citizen

