



National Asian Peace Officers Association

1776 I Street, NW, Suite 900
Washington, DC 20006

www.NAPOAonline.org

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June 16, 2012

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Darrell E. Issa
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and
Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lamar Smith
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Elijah Cummings
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Oversight and
Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Leahy, Chairman Issa, Chairman Smith, Senator Grassley,
Congressman Cummings, and Congressman Conyers:

The National Asian Peace Officers Association (NAPOA) is aware of reports that the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the House of Representatives is attempting to hold U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder in contempt for his activities surrounding the alleged withholding of information in the "Fast and Furious" program. We are troubled by these reports and strongly recommend that a contempt citation not be issued.

We have worked actively with AG Holder on a number of issues, most recently in May of this year to discuss our nation's judicial vacancy crisis. AG Holder talked about President Obama's priority regarding diversity in judicial appointments. AG Holder cited the problems in the Senate and the delays in the judicial appointment of qualified nominees. He recommended that home state Senators take an active role in nominating judicial candidates and called upon organizations, including NAPOA, to direct our members to address this issue with their home Senators.

The Department of Justice (DOJ), under the guidance of AG Holder, has been vigorous in its enforcement of our civil rights laws. The Civil Rights Division has achieved a record of success, including: voting rights related to affirmative and defensive cases and amicus participation; defending the Voting Rights Act (VRA) in constitutional challenges; review of redistricting plans under Section 5 of the VRA; and, ensuring that citizens receive the language assistance they need to cast informed votes by resolving violations of the VRA's language minority provisions to protect language minority citizens around the country.



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Of particular significance to NAPOA and our membership, the Civil Rights Division, under AG Holder's stewardship, has filed more criminal civil rights cases than ever before, including a record number of law enforcement misconduct and human trafficking cases, including: review of actions by five New Orleans police officers involved in shootings of civilians, and an extensive cover-up that occurred in the wake of Hurricane Katrina; reviews of the Puerto Rico Police Department, the Seattle Police Department, and the East Haven (CT) Police Department; and, a complaint against the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office (MCSO), and Sheriff Joseph M. Arpaio, alleging a pattern or practice of unconstitutional conduct of federal law affecting Latino inmates and those with limited English proficiency, by punishing them and denying them critical services.

NAPOA, representing 22 member chapters and over 5,000 Asian American Pacific Islander law enforcement officers and federal agents around the country, is proud of our positive association and working relationship with AG Holder and the DOJ. Efforts by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform to hold AG Holder in contempt, before the release of the Inspector General's report on the "Fast and Furious" program, appears pre-mature and only serves to delay the DOJ's on-going investigation of this matter.

Therefore, we would request that the Committee hold in abeyance any action for contempt until AG Holder and the DOJ releases evidence clearly documenting its role in the "Fast and Furious" program.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or NAPOA's president, Rudy Tai, at our Washington, DC office.

Sincerely,

Thomas G. Masters
Executive Director