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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

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August 27, 2014

The Honorable Eric Holder
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Room 1145
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

On Tuesday, September 9, 2014, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs will hold a hearing to examine the numerous programs that have allowed local law enforcement agencies to acquire military-grade equipment. To assist us in preparing for the hearing, we are writing to request information and documents regarding the role of the Department of Justice (DOJ). Specifically, we request that you provide the following:

- (1) A complete inventory of any items transferred by DOJ to law enforcement agencies for FY2011-2014. Please include the name of each transfer program, the number of items transferred, the original cost of each item, whether the item was new or used at the time of transfer, the agency and location that received the property initially, details of any subsequent inter-agency transfers of the item, and the name of the state agency that the transfer went through;
- (2) A list of DOJ grant programs providing funding to state and local law enforcement agencies for the purposes of equipment procurement, including the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program. Please include a description of each grant program's purpose, the amount of money allotted to each grant program for FY2011-FY2014, a list of the recipients of funding through each grant, the amount of grant money given to each recipient, and any information submitted by the recipient organization that explains their need for funding or intended use of the funding;
- (3) A description of any oversight procedures in place to ensure that grant funding is being used properly;
- (4) For the DOJ offices responsible for awarding and overseeing grants, the number of DOJ full time employees, the number of contractors (if any) and the contract number under which they are employed, and a description of any disciplinary actions taken against DOJ employees or contractors for improper administration of grants, for FY2011, FY2012, and FY2013.
- (5) An explanation of what data DOJ collects regarding misconduct and allegations of misconduct by state and local law enforcement officers, including but not limited to data collected pursuant to 42 USC § 14142, and information gathered by the Civil Rights Division including alleged violations of civil rights by law enforcement officers, lawsuits filed by DOJ

alleging misconduct by state and local law enforcement, and settlements, consent decrees and other court orders obtained by DOJ as a result of such lawsuits;

- (6) An explanation of how DOJ officials use information described in its response to question 4 to inform their award decisions in grant and equipment programs identified in its responses to questions 1 and 2; and
- (7) The annual summaries of the data acquired under 42 USC § 14142 from FY 2010 to present.

We request you provide this information as soon as possible, but no later than Wednesday, September 3, 2014. If the best available responsive document to any request above is available online, please provide URLs to those documents. If you determine that you will be unable to make a complete production by this date, please contact the staff named below to discuss possible modifications to this schedule. An attachment to this letter provides additional information about how to respond to the request.

The jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Financial and Contracting Oversight is set forth in Senate Rule XXV clause 1(k); Senate Resolution 445 section 101 (108th Congress); and Senate Resolution 64 (113th Congress).

We appreciate your assistance. Please contact Cathy Yu with Senator McCaskill's staff at (202) 224-9383 or Justin Rood with Dr. Coburn's staff at (202) 224-0609 with any questions. Please send any official correspondence relating to this request to Kelsey_Stroud@hsgac.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Claire McCaskill
Chairman
Subcommittee on Financial and
Contracting Oversight



Dr. Tom Coburn
Ranking Member

cc: Thomas R. Carper
Chairman

Ron Johnson
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Financial and
Contracting Oversight

Attachment