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April 3, 2015

The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr.
Attorney General of the United States
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Holder:

The facts that have begun to emerge around the January 28, 2015, arrest of an unarmed African American man, Floyd Dent, in Inkster, Michigan, have raised a series of issues which I believe are worthy of review by the Department of Justice. As the Member of Congress who represents the 13th Congressional District, which includes the City of Inkster, and as Ranking Member of the House Committee on the Judiciary, I am requesting that Department of Justice initiate an investigation into this matter.

The City of Inkster is an inner-ring suburb of Detroit, with a majority African-American population. Because it arises from a traffic stop, the Dent incident has touched a nerve throughout the Detroit metro area, in a community where brutality within the police department has been alleged and widely reported in the news media. Dash camera video shows the apprehension of Mr. Floyd Dent, a 57 year-old longtime auto worker with no criminal history, incidental to an alleged rolling stop observed from a distance, through binoculars. In the video, one of the officers involved is shown beating Mr. Dent and placing him in a choke hold, while other officers immobilized him with a Taser. As *New York Times* columnist Charles Blow stated earlier this week, "The overwhelming majority of African-Americans believe the police in most communities are more likely to use deadly force against blacks."

I would request that the Department consider providing technical and other assistance to both state and local officials in their own investigation of the Dent incident. While I appreciate that these local and state investigations are ongoing, I also believe that given the history of concerns involving the officers involved in the arrest as well as the Inkster Police Department, direct federal review is warranted in this case.

Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration, and I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest possible convenience.

Sincerely,

John Conyers, Jr.
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Bob Goodlatte, Chairman, House Committee on the Judiciary