
Associate Attorney General Gupta,

We are writing this letter to urge your U.S. Attorney's office into action but make no mistake: this is more than just a cry for help from the middle of America.

The police and eyewitness reports of criminal behavior perpetrated by members of the Kansas City, Kansas police department, over the past several decades, are staggering. They detail graphic accounts of rape, murder, sex trafficking and corruption so rampant and so blatant, it would be shocking if even a single allegation were true.

And yet your department refuses to act.

Witnesses and other evidence available to the FBI from its own multi-year investigation into the department — evidence which persistent criminal justice advocates, civil trial attorneys and courageous journalists are fighting to bring to light — show that we all can acknowledge many of these allegations are true.

And yet you refuse to act.

Racism and corruption have led to one of the worst examples of abuse of power in U.S. history. That should come as no surprise to a law enforcement official of your stature and experience. You better than most understand the “blue wall of silence” will prevent cops from turning on other cops. And asking a state to investigate itself is the quickest way to not discover the truth.

The Kansas City Star continues to unravel the horrors that have been inflicted upon society's most vulnerable — and the abuse appears to be widespread and systematic. The current police officials, including new Police Chief Karl Oakman, are anxious to turn the page, but until the perpetrators are brought to justice, there can be no peace, and no page turning.

We've all seen the cover-up unfold right before our eyes. And yet here we are having to plead with you to ensure the Justice Department allows the U.S. Attorney's Office to do the right thing. Because after years of denial and avoidance by the U.S. Attorney's office, your department, and despite the lives that have been broken and ruined by their criminal actions and your inaction, there's still time for you, as a leader in the department, to lift this city and these people up and out of the hell that has been their constant companion.

Sincerely,

TEAM ROC

TRICIA ROJO-BUSHNELL
MIDWEST INNOCENCE PROJECT