

**ROB BONTA**  
**Attorney General**

**State of California**  
**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**



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January 30, 2023

Stephanie R. Dietz  
City Manager  
City of Merced  
678 West 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
Merced, CA 95340

RE: Request for Policy & Practices Review of Merced Police Department

Dear Ms. Dietz:

Our office received your letter dated January 6, 2023, requesting we conduct a review of the policies, trainings, and practices of the Merced Police Department. First and foremost, your City Council is to be commended for its leadership in proactively seeking to address or prevent any systemic issues that serve to undermine the community's trust in law enforcement's solemn duty and commitment to their protection and safety. At this moment in time, it is more critical than ever that those of us in public service listen and respond to the heartfelt concerns about law enforcement that are being expressed by our communities. We are similarly encouraged by your desire to install new leadership within the Merced Police Department who will focus on championing an efficient and supportive environment for your law enforcement officers by ensuring they are properly trained and adequately resourced to engage in effective and safe policing.

The Department of Justice is dedicated to ensuring that policing is achieved through transparency and in a manner that safeguards the community while also representing the best practices for policing in compliance with the United States and California constitutions and laws. While we cannot speak to any potential action we may be considering or undertaking in order to protect the integrity of our work, please know that the Attorney General appreciates your outreach and shared commitment to equal justice under law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Damon M. Brown".

DAMON M. BROWN  
Special Assistant Attorney General

For **ROB BONTA**  
Attorney General