



Rosemary Lehmburg ★ Travis County District Attorney

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April 20, 2015

Steven McCraw
Texas Department of Public Safety
5805 North Lamar
Austin, TX 78773

Director McCraw,

I understand and appreciate your desire for the Public Integrity Unit to reopen and complete an investigation that was closed almost two years ago, but I am sorry to report that we are unable to do what you have requested.

When state funding for the Public Integrity Unit (PIU) was eliminated in 2013, the PIU suffered a reduction in force that eliminated almost half of its staff. Many difficult decisions had to be made regarding pending cases, and a number of important matters were closed due to the shortage of staff and resources. The PIU is continuing to operate under those same conditions, and we do not have sufficient staff or resources to accommodate your request at this time.

While I appreciate you mentioning in your letter that you could seek a determination of whether DPS funds could be used to cover the expenses of the investigation, that does not appear to be a viable solution to this situation. The PIU's limited staff is working hard to handle its current caseload, and we cannot set other cases aside to take this matter on at this time.

In your letter, you referenced my comments to the media back in January. I assume then that you are aware that I told that reporter, at the time, that the Public Integrity Unit ordinarily relies on other agencies to conduct investigations and bring cases to us. The Texas Tribune quoted me as saying in January that we would be willing to take another look at this matter if another agency would do the investigation. I stand by those words, but the problem is: What agency?

It is very timely that you should choose now to write me a letter pointing out that there is no other agency in state government that is equipped to investigate allegations concerning your department. Thank you for highlighting this very important issue in such a public way. Hopefully the Texas Legislature will keep this in mind as they work to make important decisions about the future of these very issues.

Sincerely,

Gregg Cox
Director, Special Prosecutions Division