



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

KC:JM:SHR:RLR:MJ:SS
DJ No. 204-60-119

Assistant Attorney General
950 Pennsylvania Ave, NW - RFK
Washington, DC 20530

November 17, 2022

The Honorable David Holt
Mayor of Oklahoma City
200 N Walker Ave., Third Floor
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

Dear Mayor Holt:

The United States Department of Justice is opening an investigation into the City of Oklahoma City and the Oklahoma City Police Department (OKCPD) pursuant to Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), 42 U.S.C. § 12101 *et seq.*, and the pattern or practice provision of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, 24 U.S.C. § 12601 (Section 12601).

Title II prohibits public entities from discriminating against individuals with disabilities by excluding such individuals from participation in, or denying them the benefits of, a public entity's services, programs, and activities. Section 12601 prohibits state and local governments from engaging in a pattern or practice of conduct by law enforcement officers that deprives individuals of rights protected by the Constitution or federal law. This investigation will assess whether the City and OKCPD's response to behavioral health crisis results in discrimination against people with behavioral health disabilities, violating Section 12601 and specifically Title II of the ADA. The investigation will include examination of the City's operation of the 911 Communication Center, dispatch operations, and other crisis response services and response by OKCPD to people in behavioral health crisis.

We will seek to minimize any potential disruption our investigation may have on the City's operations. We have not reached any conclusions about the subject matter of the investigation. If we conclude that there are violations of law, we will provide written notice of the results of our investigation and identify the minimum measures that we believe are necessary to remedy the violations. We will also notify you in writing if we close the investigation. The opening of this investigation is public information.

The United States is also conducting a parallel investigation of the State of Oklahoma to assess whether the State unnecessarily institutionalizes, or puts at risk of institutionalization, adults with behavioral health disabilities who reside in the Oklahoma County area, in violation of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), 42 U.S.C. § 12101 *et seq.*, and the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Olmstead v. L.C.*, 527 U.S. 581 (1999).

The investigation will be conducted by the Civil Rights Division's Special Litigation Section. Please feel free to contact Steven H. Rosenbaum, Chief of the Special Litigation Section, at (202) 616-7157.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

/s/ Kristen Clarke

Kristen Clarke
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

cc: Chief Wade Gourley
Oklahoma City Police Department

Craig Freeman
Oklahoma City City Manager

Kenneth Jordan
Oklahoma City Municipal Counselor

Robert J. Troester
United States Attorney, Western District of Oklahoma