

Scott A. Craig
sacraig913@gmail.com

March 29, 2017

President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President;

Sir, I would first like to congratulate you on your Presidential victory. As a military veteran and retired law enforcement officer I'm confident in your promise and ability to make our country great again.

I am writing to familiarize you with a particular injustice carried out in 2011 by the United States Justice Department, under then Attorney General Eric Holder, against six Los Angeles Sheriff's deputies, myself included. To summarize, the Assistant United States Attorneys assigned to this case along with several Federal Bureau of Investigation agents acted recklessly, unethically, and in a manner which suggested they were above the law. Statements, evidence and facts were manipulated and misrepresented to the media, a Grand Jury and subsequently a jury during a criminal trial.

I will give you a brief description concerning my background and character. Between August of 1983 and August 1987, I served honorably as a decorated member of the United States Air Force, both overseas and at home, defending our country. Between December 1987 and December 2013, I continued serving our country, specifically the citizens of Los Angeles County, as a deputy sheriff. I have been married for 31 years and have three children. In May of 2005, following the loss of our 14 year old daughter to suicide, my wife and I established *With Hope, the Amber Craig Memorial Foundation* a non-profit suicide awareness, prevention and education foundation. To date, With Hope has saved countless lives through interventions and has reached over 250,000 students, teachers, and community members throughout Southern California.

President of the United States

March 29, 2017

Page Two

I have dedicated my entire adult life as a law abiding citizen in the service and defense of our country.

In August of 2011, I was a sergeant with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department assigned to the Internal Criminal Investigations Bureau, investigating allegations of criminal misconduct committed by deputies, police officers and other public employees within Los Angeles County. Earlier that month agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) smuggled a cellular telephone into the Los Angeles County Jail for the use by an inmate. The FBI agents later claimed they were conducting a covert investigation into allegations inmates were being abused at the hands of deputies. The dangers associated with allowing an inmate unfettered access to an unmonitored and uncontrolled cellular telephone are too great and lengthy to innumerate. In short this egregious act was illegal, irresponsible and reckless, as it not only endangered jail security, but also the citizens of Los Angeles County, untold victims and witnesses of pending criminal cases and every employee at the facility. In fact, months prior to this incident the FBI had published a training bulletin outlining the dangers posed by inmates possessing cellular telephones in jails.

The selection of the inmate (Anthony Brown) to serve as an informant was also dubious. At the time, Mr. Brown, a violent career criminal, had just been convicted of committing a series of well publicized armed robberies, in which he discharged a firearm. As a result of Mr. Brown's lengthy criminal history and his actions during the robberies he was sentenced to 455 years in state prison.

In early August 2011, deputies at the jail searched Mr. Brown's person and discovered the cellular telephone hidden inside amongst his personal belongings. Subsequent investigation by jail investigators determined the telephone belonged to the FBI. In interviews that followed, Mr. Brown disclosed he was an FBI informant and had been given the phone to document and report acts of brutality he witnessed. As a result of Mr. Brown's statements, my partner, Maricela Long and I, under the direction of our supervisor, Steven Leavins, were ordered to investigate this possible criminal act committed by the FBI agents. Under California law it is illegal to bring or furnish a cellular telephone to an inmate in a county jail. In subsequent interviews, Mr. Brown claimed the FBI had not only given him the phone *but also had furnished him with narcotics*. Mr. Brown explained he had identified and compromised a deputy susceptible to corruption at the jail and undercover FBI agents then bribed that deputy to smuggle the contraband into the facility.

President of the United States

March 29, 2017

Page Three

As a result of the discovery of the cellular telephone and Mr. Brown's subsequent statements, then Sheriff Leroy Baca ordered a full investigation. The focus of our investigation was to determine if one or more FBI agents were corrupt or at the very least conducting a judicially unauthorized and dangerous investigation by the illegal introduction of contraband into the Los Angeles County Jail system. The fact the FBI had chosen Mr. Brown as an informant caused me further concern and skepticism as to the validity of the agents' investigation. Mr. Brown's violent criminal history and obvious credibility issues made him ineligible to act as an informant to most law enforcement agencies, ours included. The cavalier manner in which this alleged investigation was being conducted was eerily similar to the then recently disclosed Justice Department's scandal concerning the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms agents allowing assault weapons to be sold and furnished to known Mexican drug cartel members (Operation Fast and Furious). As a result, a significant number of these weapons were linked to the deaths and/or maiming of 150 Mexican citizens.

In September of 2011, Sheriff Baca ordered Maricela Long and I to contact one of the FBI agents at her home after numerous attempts to contact her at the FBI offices had failed. A surveillance of the FBI agent was conducted and the subsequent in-person contact was well-documented by audio and video recordings. This FBI agent (Leah Marx) was not acting in the capacity of a FBI agent at the time of our contact nor was she attempting to question us at that. Ms. Marx was uncooperative with my partner and I and refused to answer any of our questions. She only directed us to contact her supervisor at the FBI. I informed Ms. Marx that my investigation would continue and I would seek an arrest warrant for her, as we had no evidence that indicated her actions were lawful and judicially approved. This incident and our further investigation into the FBI's actions would later be misrepresented by the US Attorney's Office to a Grand Jury, the news media and finally to a jury as an elaborate conspiracy by the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department to obstruct a federal investigation, including making false statements to a federal agent. *The Los Angeles Times*, after reviewing the video, described the videotaped encounter as "a surprisingly polite encounter". The Special Agent in Charge of this FBI investigation would later testify during our trial that the investigation conducted by my partner and I had no influence on the FBI's investigation.

I, along with my partner, believed that our actions were lawful in light of the information that we had regarding the smuggling of contraband into the jail. We had no evidence that it was lawfully done, and clearly needed to investigate any possible corruption or other illegal activity, especially if it was perpetrated by someone who was sworn to uphold the laws of this country. We believed that we would be vindicated at trial, as we

President of the United States

March 29, 2017

Page Four

had an obligation to perform this duty and the public's safety was endangered by these reckless actions. Unfortunately, at a trial played out in the media, I was found guilty and subsequently sentenced to serve 33 months in federal prison, pay a fine of \$300.00, and upon my release remain on probation for a period of two years. As a result of the FBI's unchecked, reckless and fruitless investigation into alleged jail brutality and the unethical actions of the US Attorney's Office my co-workers, Maricela Long, Steven Leavins, Gregory Thompson, Gerard Smith, and Mickey Manzo were all sentenced to similar prison terms. All of us, with previously unblemished records and decorated careers as professional law enforcement officers, were forced to either retire or resign in lieu of being terminated by the Sheriff's Department. Additionally, under a newly enacted California law all of our retirement pensions were financially penalized retroactively, causing us serious financial hardships.

The conduct and behavior of the Justice Department, specifically a small number of clearly unprofessional personnel from the FBI, and the United States Attorney's Office was despicable and potentially illegal. These two entities' combined actions clearly echoed Eric Holder's lack of respect for law enforcement officers and their sworn duties. Their flagrant violations of constitutional rights, misrepresentation of facts and suppression of exculpatory evidence is a textbook example of abuse of their power. During our trial the Judge (Honorable Percy Anderson) repeatedly blocked all defense efforts to introduce evidence outlining the illegal actions of the FBI, continually opining that the FBI was not on trial.

An appeal was filed with the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. The court summarily upheld the convictions. The Judges of the Ninth Circuit believed that I had been conducting a lawful investigation while simultaneously conspiring to obstruct the FBI's investigation, citing "dual purpose". My attorney argued that a dual purpose ruling would then require law enforcement officers to consult with their own attorneys prior to taking action in the scope of their duties. This illogical ruling led us to further petition the Ninth Circuit for an en Banc hearing. They denied our request to be heard en Banc.

We then petitioned the United States Supreme Court to hear our case regarding these issues. On March 6, 2017, the United States Supreme Court declined to hear our case.

I have now been ordered to surrender to the Federal Bureau of Prisons on April 24, 2017, to begin serving the 33 month prison sentence.

Since being indicted in December of 2013, my family and I have been subjected to public humiliation, undue stress, and financial hardship. All as a result of what I still believe was lawful conduct.

President of the United States

March 29, 2017

Page Five

I am pleading that the Office of the President of the United States review this case and our harsh prison sentences for consideration of commutation under Executive Clemency. I do this for my sake, and also for my family and fellow officers, and also for police officers throughout these United States, who could end up in the same position if they get in the way of any future reckless investigation conducted by the FBI.

Respectfully,

Scott A. Craig