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March 6, 2015

The Honorable Eric Holder  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Holder:

On behalf of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the nation's oldest and largest Latino civil rights organization, I am writing to support the requests of Consejo Latino, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Washington, and community leaders in Pasco, Washington for the U.S. Department of Justice to intervene in the investigation of the Pasco Police Department's shooting of Mr. Antonio Zambrano-Montes.

According to NBC News, on February 10, 2015, officers Ryan Flanagan, Adam Wright, and Adrian Alaniz fired 17 shots at Zambrano-Montes for allegedly throwing rocks at police and into traffic. Zambrano-Montes spoke and understood limited English and was unable to comprehend the officers' commands. Cell phone videos captured by bystanders of the incident have emerged that conflict with initial Pasco Police reports, sparking outrage and demonstrations nationwide. Additionally, an independent autopsy revealed that Zambrano-Montes was hit in the back of the arm and rear-end with two bullets, which directly conflicts with the police autopsy report stating that there were no shots in the back, as reported by CNN and The Seattle Times.

Markedly, this is the fourth deadly police shooting in Pasco in the last six months according to the Tri-City Herald. In each case, local law enforcement was assigned to the Tri-City Special Investigative Unit (SIU) to investigate. In three of the completed cases, police were exonerated. Yet, once again in Mr. Zambrano-Montes' case, the SIU has been tasked with the investigation. This severely hinders the prospect of a fair, credible, and unbiased investigation for Mr. Zambrano-Montes.

As both Consejo Latino and the ACLU have noted, the Zambrano-Montes case seems to have taken more of an interest in his background than in the events that actually occurred. If this is the route that the Pasco Police Department would like to take, then the 2009 accusations against officer Flanagan for racial profiling and the use of excessive force must also be taken into consideration.

The city of Pasco is home to 68,000 residents, more than half of whom identify as Latino. An additional recent CNN report found that of the 71 officers sworn into the city's police department only 12 are certified as fluent in Spanish. Events in Ferguson and New York City have demonstrated that there is much progress to be made between communities of color and police forces across the country. We are deeply concerned over the continued unwarranted use of lethal force towards these communities and believe that Mr.

Zambrano-Montes' case necessitates a balanced and thorough investigation conducted by the Department of Justice.

For more information, please feel free to have your staff contact Luis Torres, LULAC Director of Policy and Legislation, at [Latorres@LULAC.org](mailto:Latorres@LULAC.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margaret Moran".

Margaret Moran  
LULAC National President