



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

June 9, 2016

The Honorable Loretta Lynch  
United States Attorney General  
United States Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Lynch:

At the request of many Pitt County, North Carolina constituents, I respectfully request that the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice determine if the evidence in the ongoing criminal cases of State of North Carolina vs. Mack Humbles, Mark Privette, Jesse Wilbourn, Christopher Hill, Chase Montanye, and Theresa Lee suggests that the conduct was racially motivated thereby granting possible federal jurisdiction pursuant to the Hate Crime Acts (18 U.S. Code §249). These cases involve a brutal assault of Mr. Patrick Myrick, a United States citizen, on March 17, 2016.

Patrick Myrick was severely beaten after allegations that he assaulted a woman outside of a downtown establishment, causing her to fall to the ground. Following the alleged assault, several white males and one white female began severely beating him. Patrick was able to escape the initial assault and then ran toward the campus of East Carolina University (ECU). Patrick contends that the group chased him to ECU's campus where the assaults continued. As a result of these assaults, each individual has been charged with two felonies of *Assault Inflicting Serious Bodily Injury* under North Carolina law.

There are many Pitt County citizens who have an interest in the ongoing criminal assault cases. My office has been repeatedly contacted by local elected officials, state legislators, and community based groups who care deeply about the protection of civil rights and the fair administration of justice.

It is my understanding that the multiple assaults of Patrick were captured by a state-of-the-art video system on ECU's campus. I am also informed that ECU authorities have released the video to the Office of the District Attorney but the elected District Attorney refuses to allow the video (and audio) to be seen by the media and the general public.

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There is considerable disapproval in the Pitt County community regarding the refusal to release the video for public viewing. The failure to release the video is weakening public confidence in the Courts and casting doubt as to whether the cases will be fairly and vigorously prosecuted.

I recognize that the video is evidence in these cases and, when released, will engender discussion among citizens regarding their individual opinions. However, the public has an immediate right to know whether possible hate crimes are being perpetuated in their community. In other jurisdictions across the country that have experienced hate-related crimes, videos are immediately made available to the general public as a moral imperative.

I am appalled by this apparent vicious act of violence against Patrick Myrick and remain deeply concerned that the events herein described may be racially motivated.

In order to maintain the public's confidence in the Pitt County Criminal Justice System that these cases are being vigorously investigated for any potential racial motivations, I respectfully request an investigation by the Civil Rights Division to determine if the circumstances surrounding this matter confer federal jurisdiction and prosecution. Please know that the Chief of Police for the Greenville Police Department has requested that the Federal Bureau of Investigation investigate the case in its entirety.

Thank you very much.

Very truly yours,



G. K. Butterfield  
Member of Congress

cc: Ms. Vanita Gupta  
Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General  
United States Department of Justice  
Civil Rights Division  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20530