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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

November 16, 2015

The Honorable Loretta Lynch
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

Mr. James Comey
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Lynch and Director Comey:

I am writing to you in connection with the recent officer-involved shooting of Jamar Clark, a 24-year-old Minneapolis resident. It is not disputed that Mr. Clark was shot by a Minneapolis police officer on Sunday, November 15th.

Constituents and community representatives from my Congressional District (MN-05) have asked me to formally request a federal investigation by the Department of Justice. I believe federal intervention is necessary to restore trust. The police and witnesses have provided different accounts about the facts surrounding Mr. Clark's shooting—thereby underscoring the need for an independent review. For example, witnesses say Mr. Clark was handcuffed at the time he was shot, while police statements say he was not handcuffed. Already community members have begun demonstrating outside the 4th precinct police headquarters to protest the police shooting of Mr. Clark.

When a member of our community is severely wounded, the circumstances must be investigated. At a time when the relationship between law enforcement and the people they protect has reached a crisis point, a federal investigation has the potential to instill a level of trust and confidence people expect when they give authority to government. A Department of Justice inquiry would send an important message to the people of Minneapolis and the country: our top law enforcement agency is committed to the transparency and accountability that justice requires.

I respectfully ask you to direct the federal investigators of the Department of Justice and the FBI to investigate whether any civil rights or criminal violations took place during Mr. Clark's arrest and to instruct the Federal Bureau of Investigation to investigate the circumstances surrounding the shooting of Mr. Clark.

Sincerely,



Keith Ellison

Member of Congress

CC: Mayor Betsy Hodges
U.S. Attorney Andrew Luger