

To: Federal Bureau of Investigation- New Orleans Field Office
Public Corruption Division
2901 Leon C. Simon Boulevard
New Orleans, Louisiana 70126

Date: July 4, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

It has come to our attention that there is an ongoing investigation into rampant police corruption within the ranks of the Street Crimes Unit of the Baton Rouge Police Department. However, due to ongoing pattern and practices and immediate conflicts of interest we believe there are serious concerns into the legitimacy of both the internal and criminal investigation necessary to remove and hold those among us that have been accused accountable for their grave actions. This letter is seeking the transparency, accountability and integrity necessary to conduct an unbiased investigation.

In June 2022, Baton Rouge Police Officer Richmond Barrow was placed on administrative leave and relieved of his official duties as a commissioned police officer for the City of Baton Rouge following an internal investigation into potential breaches of confidential/law enforcement sensitive information. The confidential/law enforcement sensitive information Officer Barrow is alleged to have leaked outside of commissioned law enforcement involve narcotics distribution investigations by the Street Crimes Unit of the Baton Rouge Police Department.

On June 28, 2022, local investigative journalist Kiran Chawla released a news article on the criminal investigation into Officer Barrow. In the investigative article, Ms. Chawla cited several unidentified sources close to the investigation provided information indicating that evidence found on the cellular phone of Officer Barrow confirmed communication between Officer Barrow and a known illegal narcotics distributor where Officer Barrow, "requested thousands of dollars in exchange for confidential intel from police." Furthermore, the investigative article goes on to state that sources close to the investigation provided information indicating that Officer Barrow's cellular phone has since been returned to him.

On June 28, 2022 the Baton Rouge Police Department released a public statement acknowledging the investigation into Officer Barrow. As of this letter, Officer Barrow has not been arrested for any crimes.

This letter is being drafted due to the serious nature of the crimes that Officer Barrow has been accused of and the questionable internal and criminal investigation that is currently being conducted by an unknown party within the Baton Rouge Police Department. Our concerns are as follows;

1. Criminal investigations into police misconduct of this magnitude and nature of the allegation present an immediate conflict of interest between the internal criminal investigators, police administrators, and any potential additional co-conspirators.
2. Senior staff identified as Chief of Police Murphy Paul has been routinely accused both publicly and internally by subordinates within the Baton Rouge Police of providing a disparity in discipline. The disparity is alleged to be motivated primarily on the grounds of lenient discipline for Officers of color and harsh discipline for Officers of non-color.
3. Senior staff identified as Deputy Chief of Police Myron Daniels has been routinely accused both publicly and internally by subordinates within the Baton Rouge Police of shielding investigations from full inquires in his role as both the Chief of Staff and as the former Commander of Internal Affairs. The shielding is alleged to be motivated primarily to minimize investigations into members of the Magnolia Peace Officers association where Daniels is an active member and previously served as the President of that fraternal organization.
4. Senior staff identified as Deputy Chief Troy Lawrence previously served as the Commanding Officer of the Street Crimes Unit, the division where it is alleged that Officer Barrow obtained the confidential/law enforcement sensitive information provided in the leaks.
5. In June of 2022, Chief Murphy Paul abruptly transferred a second Baton Rouge Police Officer assigned to the Street Crimes Unit identified as Ronald Norman Jr. amid internal rumors that he also provided potential breaches of confidential/law enforcement sensitive information involving narcotics distribution investigations.
6. In November 2020, a confidential informant came forward to the Baton Rouge Police Department alleging a similar breach of confidential/law

enforcement sensitive information was being released by former Narcotics Detective Jeremiah Ardoin. This information was allegedly provided by Detective Ardoin in exchange for stolen retail electronics that Detective Ardoin later sold illegally on the black market. Those allegations into breaches of confidential/law enforcement sensitive information were never fully investigated, third party corroborating witnesses were never interviewed, departmental cellular phones belonging Detective Ardoin were never digitally examined, the Department of Justice was never consulted, and the criminal investigation into Detective Ardoin was promptly concluded with the issuance of a misdemeanor summons for his involvement in a retail theft network. It has been internally rumored that unidentified senior staff of the Baton Rouge Police Department shielded Detective Ardoin during this investigation from the full scrutiny necessary for a just criminal investigation.

Based upon these concerns, this letter has been drafted to request an immediate investigation on behalf of the Department of Justice into the allegations of systemic protection racket and criminal conspiracy involving members of the Baton Rouge Police Department Street Crimes Unit.

Every cop in this city understands the serious nature of these allegations. The accused actions do not represent the honest hard work and relentless dedication that we pour into service of the citizens of the City of Baton Rouge daily. We are hopeful that an outside, unbiased, neutral investigative body will conduct the exhaustive uncompromised investigation necessary to hold those responsible for their grave actions and restore the trust we have worked tirelessly to earn from the community we serve.

Respectfully,

An Honest Member of the Baton Rouge Police Department in collaboration with other honest cops, but specifically not purporting to represent the Baton Rouge Police Department.