September 19, 2017

Chief Edward Driggers
North Charleston Police Department
2500 City Hall Lane
North Charleston, SC 29406

Dear Chief Driggers:

In September of 2016, the North Charleston Police Department and the Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for participation in the Collaborative Reform Initiative. As you know from our discussion last week, the Department just announced significant changes to the Collaborative Reform Initiative to better align the program with the Attorney General’s principles set forth in his March 31, 2017, memorandum in support of local law enforcement and the original intent of the authorizing statute. The Attorney General called this change “a course correction to ensure that resources go to agencies that require assistance rather than expensive wide-ranging investigative assessments that go beyond the scope of technical assistance and support.”

The program will now focus on providing real-time technical assistance that best addresses the identified needs of requesting agencies and reduces violent crime. Changes to the program will also fulfill the Attorney General’s commitment to respecting local control and accountability, and allow us to continue to deliver important, tailored technical assistance resources to state, local, and tribal law enforcement. The purpose of Collaborative Reform is to provide technical assistance and support “by the field, for the field.”

The COPS Office remains committed to providing your agency with technical assistance resources related to your Collaborative Reform goals and objectives. To accomplish this, your agency has the option to modify your MOA to reflect this technical assistance focus, in which case we will work with you to design a comprehensive technical assistance plan that best meets your needs. Alternatively, if you choose to terminate the MOA and end your participation in Collaborative Reform, please notify us at your earliest convenience.

Please also be aware that the COPS Office plans to fund the development of a best practices guide that could be useful across the Collaborative Reform sites. When this guide is complete, we will make it available to your agency and the field so that the experiences related to the implementation of best practices may be shared for the benefit of others.
Thank you for your agency’s time, effort, and commitment as a participant in the Collaborative Reform Initiative. The COPS Office remains committed to serving and meeting the needs of the law enforcement field, and we look forward to working with your agency in the future.

Sincerely,

Russell Washington
Acting Director

Cc Mayor R. Keith Summey