



COUNTY OF YOLO
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
JEFF W. REISIG, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

301 SECOND STREET - WOODLAND, CALIFORNIA 95695 - 530.666.8180 - FAX 530.666.8185

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: December 14, 2011 **Contact:** Jonathan Raven, Chief Deputy District Attorney
Jonathan.raven@yolocounty.org

**ATTORNEY GENERAL DECLINES REQUEST
TO INVESTIGATE UCD PEPPER SPRAY INCIDENT**

(Woodland, CA) On December 9, 2011, the California Attorney General's Office declined a request to investigate the events surrounding police officers' use of pepper spray against protesters on the campus of the University of California at Davis last month. Both the District Attorney and the Sheriff had requested the Attorney General's assistance based on the significant and statewide issues involved, as well as other factors.

Based on the Attorney General's decision, the District Attorney and the Sheriff will continue their collaborative review of the incident.

*Attached – (1) Attorney General's Denial Letter and (2) Request from DA & Sheriff

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DEC 12 2011

KAMALA D. HARRIS
Attorney General

Yolo County District Attorney

State of California
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



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December 9, 2011

The Honorable Jeffrey W. Reisig
District Attorney, County of Yolo
301 Second Street
Woodland, California 95695

The Honorable Edward Prieto
Sheriff, County of Yolo
2500 East Gibson Road
Woodland, California 95776

RE: University of California-Davis Pepper-Spray Incident

Dear District Attorney Reisig and Sheriff Prieto:

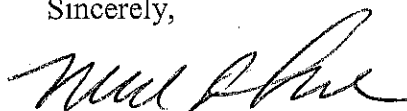
This Office has received your letter dated November 29, 2011, which requests the Attorney General's involvement regarding the November 18, 2011, events on the campus of the University of California at Davis. As you have mentioned, none of the traditional criteria warranting this Office's assumption of the primary law-enforcement role in this matter -- including a conflict of interest or inadequate resources -- are present. This Office justifiably maintains great confidence in the commitment of your office, and that of local law enforcement generally, to discharge its duties, and we therefore decline your request.

We also note that the Governor has directed the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training to review its guidelines for law enforcement on the proper use of non-lethal force, particularly pepper spray, in the context of civil disobedience and other forms of public protest. This Office is closely monitoring the efforts of the Commission to fulfill the Governor's directive, as its work is important to the development and adherence to appropriate policies by law enforcement, both on and off university campuses.

The Honorable Jeffrey W. Reisig
The Honorable Edward Prieto
December 9, 2011
Page 2

As always, this Office is available to provide supplemental or specialized assistance to local law enforcement as it fulfills its role as the primary law enforcement safeguard. Moreover, we will honor any request you might make to review your investigation and its conclusions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael P. Farrell".

MICHAEL P. FARRELL
Senior Assistant Attorney General

For KAMALA D. HARRIS
Attorney General

MPF:drb

ED PRIETO



SHERIFF
COUNTY OF YOLO

JEFF REISIG



DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF YOLO

November 29, 2011

The Honorable Kamala D. Harris
Attorney General
State of California
1300 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-2919

Re: University of California Pepper Spray Incident

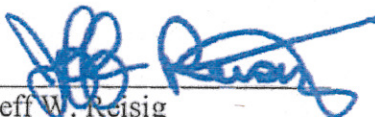
Dear Attorney General Harris:

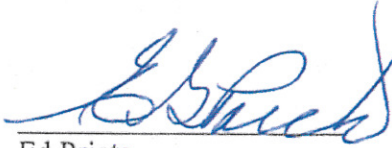
After conducting a brief review of the issues surrounding the November 18, 2011, events on the campus of the University of California at Davis it is our conclusion that this is an incident that mandates the involvement of the Office of the Attorney General at the earliest of stages. While the traditional indicia requiring the Attorney General's involvement, conflict or lack of resources, may not be present in this matter these events are not traditional in nature and call for an examination of events that have statewide ramifications. In the absence of such action it is our belief that the public's confidence in the conclusions reached may be significantly undermined

While the issues involved occurred in Yolo County, they were also on a University of California campus, and the results of an examination into these events will impact all ten (10) University of California campuses. It has also become apparent that neither the Yolo County Sheriff's Department, nor the Yolo County District Attorney's Office possess the resources necessary to conduct the "quick" review that both you and the public are expecting. Furthermore, because the Yolo County legal and law enforcement communities are relatively small, there are multiple perceived and/or possible legal conflicts that are likely to arise and undermine the effectiveness of any findings.

In light of the significant and statewide issues involved in these events we join in asking you to bring the full resources of the State of California to bear on these events so that the public will have full confidence in the outcome.

Very truly yours,


Jeff W. Reisig
District Attorney


Ed Prieto
Sheriff