

March 31, 2009

Mayor John Hickenlooper
City and County Building
1437 Bannock Street, Room 350
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Mayor Hickenlooper,

The Denver Latino Commission writes you regarding the criminal case against Officer Charles Porter and the internal affairs investigation which can now commence. Regarding the criminal matter, a verdict of "not guilty" does not mean justice has been served. In fact, the foreperson of the jury said as much when he articulated that a "not guilty verdict does not mean Officer Porter was innocent."¹

The Commission feels that the Mayor's office, along with the Manager of Safety, are the last bastions for justice in this matter. We are confident that both entities will serve that end, especially since the Mayor's office was quick to accept a meeting with the Executive Committee of the Commission when this case emerged, and the City and County of Denver worked in a commendable manner in settling Mr. Juan Vasquez's civil lawsuit.

However, the Commission wants to emphasize that the end of the criminal matter does not end the Latino/a Community's interest. The Community is still very affected by what happened to Mr. Vasquez, as well as what has happened to other members of our community, such as Mr. Frank Lobato. It is imperative to bring Officer Porter and other officers who may have been involved to justice so that this discussion does not take place again in a year, two years, or ideally, ever.

The City and County of Denver has a wonderful opportunity to address the issue on its own turf and to be at the forefront of combating police brutality in the future. We look forward to the results of the internal investigation and to working with the Mayor's office to prevent this issue from arising in the future.

Sincerely,



Derek Blass, Co-Chair



Jim Chavez, Co-Chair

CC: Mr. Al Lacabe

¹ See "Juror: 'Not guilty' verdict does not mean officer was 'innocent'", <http://www.kdvr.com/news/kdvr-porter-021309,0,1867895>