

**BOBBY JINDAL**  
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**MICHAEL D. EDMONSON, COLONEL**  
DEPUTY SECRETARY

**State of Louisiana**  
*Department of Public Safety and Corrections*  
*Public Safety Services*  
January 15, 2011  
HQ-1-1574

**Mr. Dwayne Scheuermann**  
925 Behrman Highway, Suite J  
Gretna, Louisiana 70056

Dear Mr. Scheuermann:

We have reviewed your request for a State Police investigation of New Orleans Police Superintendent Ronal Serpas and others for alleged improprieties. Considering the nature of the allegations, the available evidence and the fact that these matters are mostly local in nature, the following response is offered pursuant to your request.

With respect to the allegations against Chief Serpas, the New Orleans Inspector General has reviewed the matter and found no violation of law or policy.

With respect to the allegations involving the Ruiz matter, we believe that that there is appropriate investigative authority at the local level to conduct an impartial investigation. Moreover, it is our understanding that a civil lawsuit has been filed in this case and any administrative investigation would necessarily be forestalled until that litigation has been resolved

Though you note in your letter that the State Police investigation of former Deputy Superintendent Marlon Defillo should somehow serve as justifying our pursuit of your allegations, such inter-agency administrative investigations are quite rare. Our administrative inquiry of Defillo was only conducted after our services were specifically requested by Chief Serpas and Mayor Mitch Landrieu.

While we appreciate the confidence you have in our agency to investigate improper conduct, we are sensitive to the fact that State Police intervention into local matters is neither appropriate nor wise when existing oversight is available. Absent a specific request from the City of New Orleans, the State Police will defer to the authority and prerogative of local officials to pursue these issues.

Please do not fail to contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Edmonson".

Colonel Michael Edmonson  
Deputy Secretary, Public Safety Services  
Superintendent, Louisiana State Police

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