



**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SOLANO**

**KRISHNA A. ABRAMS
DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

Sharon S. Henry
Chief Deputy

Paul D. Sequeira
Chief Deputy

Andre W. Charles
Chief Investigator

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ATTORNEY GENERAL PLAYING POLITICS

Attorney General Bonta within weeks of being appointed is already playing politics with one of the most critical and divisive issues in our communities today- officer involved fatalities. It is beyond disappointing that we can't trust the statements of the Attorney General.

Today, I spoke to Attorney General Bonta at 10:00 am regarding our newly implemented Major Crimes Task Force and volunteered to work with his office regarding Assembly Bill 1506. Under AB 1506, the Attorney General is required to investigate incidents of an officer-involved shooting resulting in the death of an unarmed civilian. We then spoke about the review of the officer involved shooting of Sean Monterrosa that occurred on June 2, 2020, in the city of Vallejo, and whether the Attorney General was going to review the case in light of the passage of Assembly Bill 1506. Mr. Bonta stated that his department would not be reviewing the case due to funding not being available until July 1st.

Within an hour of my telephone conference this morning with Mr. Bonta, he notified me that his department would be reviewing the case, completely reversing himself, and now suddenly blaming Solano County for failing to do its job by not reviewing the matter. This is a material misrepresentation and could not be further from the truth. Since the shooting, there has been an overwhelming public outcry and sentiment by a broad spectrum of members of our community, Mr. Monterrosa's family, and local, state and federal officials demanding the AG's Office review of this officer involved fatality. Despite DOJ's decision to oversee the Vallejo Police Department, DOJ's decision to review an evidentiary portion of the Monterrosa case, and the newly implemented law giving authority to the AG to review these officer involved shootings, the AG's Office has failed to act over the past year and has failed to listen to the will of the People.

Having been on the job for less than one month, it is of significant concern that Attorney General Bonta would criticize our office for wanting to ensure that the people of Solano County have complete confidence in the integrity of the investigation. In every case, we seek a full, fair, independent and unbiased investigation for all parties, and that a fair, unbiased, independent and objective decision is made. We listen to our community and work diligently to instill public trust in every decision we make. What creates distrust in our communities is allowing politics to interfere with critical decisions that affect our community.