

DOCUMENT OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE CITY OF LONGMONT,
COLORADO, EL COMITE, AND THE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
JUSTICE.

THIS DOCUMENT is made and entered into by and between the City of Longmont, a Colorado municipality, El Comite, an organization of concerned citizens of said City, and the United States Department of Justice, through its Community Relations Service, this 23rd day of September, 1980.

BACKGROUND

In the late evening hours of August 14, 1980, during a confrontation between police officers of the City of Longmont and youths on Main Street, two young Hispanic men were shot and killed. This tragic event has caused the broader concerns of the Longmont Hispanic Community to come into focus. A group of concerned citizens has organized as "El Comite" to consider the special needs and problems facing the Hispanic Community generally and particularly in the face of the relationship with the Longmont Police Department. The Community Relations Service of the United States Department of Justice has extended its good offices, and the individual members of the City Council of Longmont have attended meetings open to the public with El Comite and the Community Relations Service on August 20, 1980 and August 27, 1980, to hear the grievances presented, and on September 3, 1980, the Council, meeting in Special Session, addressed said issues formally. By the execution of this Document of Understanding, the parties respectively pledge the good faith and vigorous implementation of the herein stated Agreement in order to foster the greater trust between the citizens of the Longmont Hispanic Community, the elected representatives and employees of the City, particularly those serving as police officers, and generally the entire populace of the City. It is the solemn recognition of the parties that such implementation and perfection is in the best interests of all parties concerned. In an effort to encourage the improvement

of relationships between members of the City Police Department and Hispanic Community, and to foster greater trust and understanding mutually, it was agreed as follows upon the unanimous affirmative vote of the City Council.

1. RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM

The City agrees to establish a ride-along program for members of the Community with officers of the Longmont Police Department, under the direction of the City Manager of Longmont.

2. HOTLINE PROGRAM

The City agrees to establish a Hotline program to provide immediate access to the presentation of concerns and grievances involving the conduct of officers of the Longmont Police Department. Such hotline program shall initially and temporarily be established using the services of members of El Comite or members of Council, and shall ultimately be placed in the jurisdiction of a bicultural ombudsman or other person employed by the City to serve as a liaison between the City and members of the Hispanic Community.

3. POLYGRAPH PROGRAM

The City agrees to provide a polygraph test to assist in the verification of claims of police misconduct in the event that insufficient independent corroborative evidence of the circumstances is not available to establish the factual basis of the charge. The City agrees to pay for the test and the costs of mileage and incidental expenses associated therewith.

4. ASSESSMENT TEAM

The City agrees to the selection of an Assessment Team through the City Manager in conjunction with El Comite, to assess the Longmont Police Department. The travel expenses and per diem living allowance shall be paid by the United States Department of Justice, and the City Agrees to pay the other fees of members of the Team.

5. OMBUDSMAN

The City agrees to establish the position of Ombudsman, or such other position as recommended by the Assessment Team, as is developed through negotiations and review between the City Manager and El Comite, which position shall reflect for the best interests of the city of Longmont.

THE CITY OF LONGMONT, COLORADO
A municipal corporation

Robert J. Askey
MAYOR

ATTEST:

William E. Sweney
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

EL COMITE

Victor J. Vela
Amador Benavides
Francis Garcia

COMMUNITY RELATIONS SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT
OF JUSTICE

William J. Sweney