



## U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney's Office  
District of New Jersey

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September 7, 2023

### By First-Class Mail

The Honorable Phil Murphy  
Governor of the State of New Jersey  
P.O. Box 001  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Re: Findings Report Regarding the Investigation of the  
Veterans Memorial Homes at Menlo Park and Paramus

Dear Governor Murphy:

We write to report the results of the Department of Justice's investigation into the conditions at the Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park and the Veterans Memorial Home at Paramus (together, the Veterans Homes) pursuant to the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act (CRIPA), 42 U.S.C. § 1997. Consistent with the statutory requirements of CRIPA, we provide the enclosed findings report regarding the conditions that we have reasonable cause to believe violate the Constitution. The report also provides the supporting facts giving rise to, and the minimum measures that we believe may remedy, those alleged conditions.

As you know, Department of Justice attorneys have been in frequent contact with counsel for the State of New Jersey with respect to this investigation. In the course of this investigation, we interviewed dozens of witnesses, including current and former staff, Veterans Homes management, and Department of Military and Veterans Affairs leadership. We and our experts conducted five multiday, onsite visits to the facilities, and reviewed tens of thousands of documents produced by the State. We would like to thank the State for coordinating DOJ's onsite visits and witness interviews.

After carefully reviewing the evidence, we conclude that there is reasonable cause to believe that conditions at the Veterans Homes violate the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution and that these violations are pursuant to a pattern or practice of resistance to the full enjoyment of rights protected by the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. Specifically, we have reasonable cause to believe that New Jersey fails to implement adequate

infection control protocols, provide adequate clinical care, and provide oversight of the facilities in a manner that keeps the residents of the Veterans Homes safe from harm.

We are obligated to advise you that 49 days after issuance of this Notice, the Attorney General may initiate a lawsuit under CRIPA to correct the alleged conditions we have identified if New Jersey officials have not satisfactorily addressed them. 42 U.S.C. § 1997b(a)(1). The Attorney General may also move to intervene in related private suits 15 days after issuance of this letter. 42 U.S.C. § 1997c(b)(1)(A).

We hope, however, to resolve this matter through a more cooperative approach and look forward to working with you to address the alleged violations of law we have identified. The lawyers assigned to this investigation will be contacting the State's counsel for this matter to discuss this matter in further detail. Please also note that this Notice is a public document. It will be posted on the Civil Rights Division's website.

If you have any questions, please call Steven H. Rosenbaum, Chief of the Civil Rights Division's Special Litigation Section, at (202) 616-3244 or Michael E. Campion, Chief of the Civil Rights Division at the United States Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey, at (973) 645-3141.

Sincerely,

s/ Kristen Clarke  
Kristen Clarke  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

s/ Philip R. Sellinger  
Philip R. Sellinger  
United States Attorney  
District of New Jersey

cc: Matthew J. Platkin  
New Jersey Attorney General

Brigadier General Lisa J. Hou  
Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

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