



## U. S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney  
Northern District of Illinois

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### **STATEMENT OF UNITED STATES ATTORNEY PATRICK J. FITZGERALD**

CHICAGO – Patrick J. Fitzgerald, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, today made the following statement confirming the existence of two separate federal criminal investigations:

“The United States Attorney’s Office is conducting an active criminal investigation into allegations of perjury, false statements, and obstruction of justice by officers who served in the Chicago Police Department in the 1980s in relation to currently pending federal civil lawsuits in which persons in Chicago Police Department custody during those years allege they were abused.

The investigation is being conducted together with the Chicago Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.”

Regarding a separate matter, Mr. Fitzgerald said:

“The United States Attorney’s Office, working with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), is conducting an arson/murder investigation into the events surrounding the January 6, 1987, fire at 1121-1123 East 82<sup>nd</sup> St., Chicago, which resulted in seven deaths and numerous injuries.”

Mr. Fitzgerald emphasized that federal authorities will not comment further or prejudge the outcome of either investigation, adding only that both are active and involve serious allegations.

While it is rare for federal authorities to confirm the existence of investigations, in both instances, Mr. Fitzgerald noted the recent comments that have been made indicating the existence of both investigation by interested, non-federal officials and private attorneys. In addition, he noted that both investigations involve matters of substantial public interest, which have generated widespread publicity, resulting in a need to assure the public that investigations have been undertaken by appropriate law enforcement agencies.

It is especially important, Mr. Fitzgerald said, in confirming investigations in which no federal charges have been filed, that the public be reminded that the investigations involve mere allegations and that no specific individuals stand accused of any criminal wrongdoing.

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