

Tuesday, December 5, 2017

Leah C. Aden  
Senior Counsel  
NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund, Inc.  
40 Rector Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10006

Dear Ms. Aden,

Thank you for your November 17, 2017 letter, written at the urging of Everyday People for Positive Change, regarding the City of Columbus' seven-member, at-large city council. Let me first begin by stating that I am proud that our City Council is diverse and represents the inclusive spirit of Columbus.

The Columbus City Attorney's office has reviewed your letter and has advised that the cases you have cited where violations of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act are found are based on facts totally dissimilar to Columbus' strong record of electing minority candidates to City Council. The Columbus City Attorney's office also indicated that you have provided no further factual or legal basis to support the conclusion that the method in which Columbus elects council members fails to comply with federal law.

Thank you for your correspondence.

Regards,



Zach Klein  
President  
Columbus City Council

Cc: Hon. Andrew J. Ginther, Mayor of Columbus  
Hon. Elizabeth C. Brown, Member, Columbus City Council  
Hon. Mitchell J. Brown, Member, Columbus City Council  
Hon. Shannon G. Hardin, Member, Columbus City Council  
Hon. Jaiza Page, Member, Columbus City Council  
Hon. Michael Stinziano, Member, Columbus City Council  
Hon. Priscilla R. Tyson, Member, Columbus City Council  
Stefanie L. Coe, Chair, 2016 Charter Review Committee  
Tom Roberts, President, Ohio Conference of the NAACP  
Nana Watson, President, Columbus Branch of the NAACP  
Jonathan Beard, Treasurer, Everyday People for Positive Change



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