

**Harrison, Brenda**

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**Subject:** Civil Rights Complaint re: St. Johns County Commissioners deleting 40 acres of workforce affordable housing from Nocatee Development of Regional Impact (DRI)

Dear Assistant Attorney General Gupta:

A. Thank you for promptly referring my March 22, 2016 civil rights complaint against Governor RICHARD LYNN SCOTT'S invidiously discriminatory veto of \$200,000 in matching grant funds for West Augustine sewers to the United States Attorney for the Middle District of Florida (which promptly called and wrote me on the morning of March 31, 2016).

B. I write today about another critical St. Johns County, Florida civil rights issue, this one under the Fair Housing Act and Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VI.

1. Please begin a civil, criminal and administrative investigation -- in conjunction with the FBI and a federal grand jury -- of St. Johns County Commissioners PRISCILLA "RACHAEL" BENNETT, WILLIAM McCLURE, JAMES JOHNS AND JEB SMITH today voting unanimously, 4-0, to allow the influential PARC Group to delete 40 acres of affordable workforce housing from their Nocatee Development of Regional Impact (DRI), following the developer-driven recommendations of County Attorney PATRICK McCORMACK and County Administrator MICHAEL WANCHICK, part of a corrupt political machine headed by developer-funded and directed St. Johns County Sheriff DAVID BERNERD SHOAR, f/k/a "HOAR." See documents on deleting Nocatee DRI's 40 acres of workforce affordable housing here:

DRI MOD 2015-05 Nocatee <http://www.sjccoc.us/minrec/agendas/2016/051716cd/05-17-16REG04.pdf>

MAJ MOD 2015-18 Nocatee <http://www.sjccoc.us/minrec/agendas/2016/051716cd/05-17-16REG05.pdf>

See video archive starting later today here: <http://www.sjcfi.us/GTV/watchgtv.aspx>

2. St. Augustine, Florida is where the first African-Americans lived, free and slave. This is where the Underground Railroad first ran, starting in 1671, with the Spanish freeing British slaves, leading to the British burning down our town. This is where the first American community founded by freed slaves was founded after the Civil War (Little Africa, now known as Lincolnville, 1866).

3. This is where segregationist city and county law enforcement officers arrested Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1964, the only place where Dr. King was arrested in Florida and the very last place he was arrested before the 1964 Civil Rights Act was enacted. History teaches that President Lyndon Baines Johnson was able to break a formidable Senate filibuster as a result of the KKK and law enforcement racist violence on our streets, seen on national and international news, with 180 accredited reporters here covering the events of June, 1964.

4. On June 11, 1964, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. called this "the most lawless" place in America., writing Rabbi Israel Dressner about the segregationist bullies who ran this place, to include Sheriff LAWRENCE O. DAVIS, a KKK member who deputized KKK members and incarcerated Dr. King and other civil rights activists.

5. The current corrupt Sheriff, DAVID BERNARD SHOAR, f/k/a "HOAR, who is under FBI investigation, is the head of the local political machine. Sheriff DAVID SHOAR actually published a paen to Sheriff LAWRENCE O. DAVIS on his website, inter alia falsely stating that Sheriff DAVIS was "exonerated" of corruption charges (he was removed by the Florida State Senate by vote of 44-2) and falsely stating that Sheriff DAVIS "held the town together" when in fact the KKK and law enforcement officers who were KKK members rioted, requiring relief from United States District Court Judge Bryan Simpson. Sheriff SHOAR's website even said that Dr. King was arrested by "federal agents," but that error was corrected after I wrote him on August 28, 1964, the anniversary of Dr. King's "I have a dream" speech.

6. There were 41 African-American owned businesses in Lincolnville in 1964. None survive.

7. African-American Florida Memorial University was run out of town by the KKK by 1968 because it was a center of desegregation activism.

8. Meanwhile, the then-racist City government here annexed land, resulting in intentional diminution of African-American voting strength in St. Augustine from 25% to 12.5%, 1964-2005, in probable violation of the Fifteenth Amendment.

9. When I publicly objected to this pattern of annexations at a St. Augustine City Commission meeting on April 9, 2005, then-City Manager WILLIAM B. HARRISS threatened me with "arrest" for "disorderly conduct." I presented an affidavit from Ms. Sue Neely, who heard his threats -- the members of the City Commission did nothing about it. HARRISS left office in 2010, going to work for Sheriff SHOAR.

10. Intentionally diminishing minority voting strength and disenfranchising African-Americans who had elected Commissioner Moses "Coach" Floyd, our St. Johns County Commission redistricted itself in 1998, eliminating single member districts, changing from seven elected from districts to five elected by all voters but required to live in districts. Tellingly, the County Commission redistricted itself in this manner -- in probable violation of the Fifteenth Amendment --- without a consultant, without a decennial census and outside the ordinary course of business. Again, it did so for the purpose of eliminating single member districts, which had resulted in election of an African-American.

11. After the very unexpected election of an African-American to County Commission in 2008, Sheriff DAVID BERNARD SHOAR and his henchmen campaigned against him. SHOAR succeeded in defeating J. Kenneth Bryan, an African-American Justice Department retiree, who was our County Commission Chairman, using developer funding and advertisements on Fox News in defeating him in 2012.

12. Sheriff SHOAR and his henchmen also campaigned against Benjamin Rich, Sr., a retired federal agent, whom they defeated in 2008.

13. Sheriff SHOAR and his allies campaigned against both of these ethical, honorable retired federal employees, in 2008 and 2012, at least in part as retaliation for their First Amendment rights and their support of Fifteenth Amendment rights.

14. The result is that African-Americans here still live in fear, in a milieu where voting is discouraged and disempowered.

15. Please investigate the SJC BCC and its deleting 40 acres of workforce affordable housing in Nocatee pursuant to our 14th Amendment, the Ku Klux Klan Act of 1871, 18 U.S.C. 241 and 243, 42 U.S.C. 1983 and 1985, and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI).

16. Please investigate the developer-driven political machine headed by St. Johns County Sheriff DAVID BERNARD SHOAR. For more on SHOAR and his record of violating citizens' constitutional rights, please consult the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals decision in the *Gennusa v. Canova* case: <http://www.ca11.uscourts.gov/opinions/ops/201213871.pdf> , and the 14,000 word New York Times investigation and the PBS Frontline and NBC Dateline investigations at:

<http://www.nytimes.com/projects/2013/two-gunshots/> "Two Gunshots on a Summer Night," by Walt Bogdanich and Glenn Silber

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/death-in-st-augustine/> PBS Frontline documentary, "A Death in St. Augustine"

<http://www.nbcnews.com/datetime/full-episode-two-shots-fired-n84816> NBC News Dateline documentary, "Two Shots Fired"

17. Please empower the DoJ Community Relations Service (CRS) to help persuade SJC BCC to reverse its vote today deleting 40 acres of workforce affordable housing in Nocatee.

18. Otherwise, please investigate and bring a lawsuit or indictment for civil rights violations for deleting 40 acres of workforce affordable housing from Nocatee DRI.

Let justice be done.

Let freedom ring.

Let every vote count.

Thank you for all that you do.

And thank you in advance for helping solve this problem.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

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