



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460**

EXTERNAL CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLIANCE OFFICE  
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

July 6, 2022

**In Reply Refer To:**

EPA Complaint No. 01R-22-R4

Vince Evans, Mayor  
City of Conyers  
Conyers City Hall  
90 O'Kelly Street  
Conyers, GA 30012  
vince.evans@conyersga.gov

**Re: Rejection with Referral of Administrative Complaint**

Dear Mayor Evans:

This letter is to notify you that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), External Civil Rights Compliance Office (ECRCO), has completed its review of the complaint filed against the City of Conyers, hereinafter referred to as the (City), that was initially received by ECRCO on October 8, 2021. The complaint alleges that the City discriminated against the Nob Hill community in Conyers, Georgia, on the basis of race in violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 in taking certain actions with respect to the annexation and rezoning of county property. After careful consideration, ECRCO is rejecting and closing this complaint as of the date of this letter because ECRCO does not have jurisdiction to investigate.

Pursuant to EPA's nondiscrimination regulation, ECRCO conducts a preliminary review of administrative complaints to determine acceptance, rejection, or referral to the appropriate Federal agency. *See* 40 Code of Federal Regulation (C.F.R.) § 7.120(d)(1). To be accepted for investigation, a complaint must meet the jurisdictional requirements described in the EPA's nondiscrimination regulation. First, the complaint must be in writing. *See* 40 C.F.R. § 7.120(b)(1). Second, it must describe an alleged discriminatory act that, if true, may violate the EPA's nondiscrimination regulation (i.e., an alleged discriminatory act based on race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability). *Id.* Third, it must be filed within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory act. *See* 40 C.F.R. § 7.120(b)(2). Finally, the complaint must be filed against an applicant for, or recipient of, EPA financial assistance that allegedly committed the discriminatory act. *See* 40 C.F.R. § 7.15.

ECRCO has concluded that it cannot accept this complaint for investigation because it does not meet the jurisdictional requirements described in EPA's nondiscrimination regulation. Specifically, the City of Conyers is not a recipient of, or applicant for EPA financial assistance. Accordingly, ECRCO is rejecting this complaint and closing this case as of the date of this letter.

ECRCO's research shows that the U.S. Department Housing and Urban Development (HUD) may provide financial assistance to the City. As such, ECRCO is referring this complaint to HUD's Region 4 Office for appropriate action. Please reach out to Shea Johnson, Director of Georgia Operations, at Shea.D.Johnson@hud.gov if you have any questions.

If you have any questions, please contact me or ECRCO's Acting Deputy Director, Anhthu Hoang, at hoang.anhthu@epa.gov.

Sincerely,



Lilian S. Dorca, Director  
External Civil Rights Compliance Office  
Office of General Counsel

cc: Ariadne Goerke  
Deputy Associate General Counsel  
Civil Rights & Finance Law Office

Fred Thompson  
Acting Assistant Regional Administrator  
Acting Deputy Civil Rights Official  
U.S. EPA Region 4

Leif Palmer  
Regional Counsel  
U.S. EPA Region 4