



OFFICE OF EXTERNAL CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLIANCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

July 19, 2024

In Reply Refer to:

EPA Complaint No: 01R-23-R7

Tom Hockensmith
Supervisor (Chair)
Polk County, Board of Supervisors
111 Court Avenue, Suite 300
Des Moines, Iowa 50309
tom.hockensmith@polkcountyiowa.gov

Re: Referral of Administrative Complaint of Discrimination

Dear Tom Hockensmith:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Environmental Justice & External Civil Rights Compliance, Office of External Civil Rights Compliance (OECRC), received a complaint on August 14, 2023, on behalf of the King Irving Neighborhood Association alleging Polk County, Iowa, discriminated on the basis of race or national origin.

Due to the subject matter of the allegations, OECRC is referring the complaint to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services pursuant to EPA's non-discrimination regulations, 40 CFR 7.120(d), for appropriate handling. Please contact:

Mr. Samuel Bagenstos
General Counsel (OGC)
Department of Health and Human Services
Hubert H. Humphrey Building
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201
Samuel.bagenstos@hhs.gov

Mr. Bagenstos is also being copied on this letter.

Considering these circumstances, OECRC is closing this complaint as of the date of this letter. We have notified Complainant that EPA has referred the complaint to HHS for appropriate action and provided HHS with the Complainant's contact information.

EPA's regulation prohibits applicants, recipients, and other persons from intimidating, threatening, coercing, or engaging in other discriminatory conduct against anyone because they have either taken action or participated in an action to secure rights protected by the civil rights requirements that we enforce. See 40 C.F.R. 7.100. Any individual alleging such harassment or intimidation may file a complaint with OECRC.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Marianne Engelman-Lado by telephone at (202) 565-0012 or by email at engelmanlado.marianne@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Adam Wilson
Acting Deputy Director
Office External Civil Rights Compliance
Office of Environmental Justice &
External Civil Rights

cc: Samuel Bagenstos
General Counsel (OGC)
U.S. Dept. HHS
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