24-04853 DAT ENE



June 15, 2024

Michael S. Regan, Administrator Environmental Protection Agency 1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW Washington, DC 20460

To: Michael S. Regan, Administrator,

Hello, we are the (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

We had tried to become recipients of a HUD grant program but we were lied to manipulated and made bogus claims against to be charged with a third class misdemeanor to come to court while being demonized.

At some point, I(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), was harassed and charged with a 3<sup>rd</sup> class misdemeanor for calling the City to handle my business where at the same time a female was continuously and intentionally slamming down the phone receiver to disconnect the phone call to make disruptions and later to make me the problem.

Because I was lied to and was manipulated on several occasions, I said to the City officials that they needed to put their words in writing. (b) (6), (b) (7)(c) who was an assistant to the office of the City Manager (b) (6), (b) (7)(c) and her support went to the City Manager (b) (6), (b) (7)(c) to request that I would be asked to not come to the Municipal center, don't call, and for my wife to not write letters. This was what they asked of me and my wife. Three police officers came to our residence, marching like military soldiers with 3 separate letters to place one on each of our three doors. My counselor answered to the district attorney on my behalf for \$1,500. We answered to what they asked of us. But then I have done



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Because I was the request to send with mention interest and expensive of the control of the cont

this for five years or more and they need to bury the hatchet. We, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), didn't have to grant their request but we did it to reveal that we were never a problem to them but they hated my intelligence and that I stood-up to them, but they were problems to us and wanted to keep us from superseding by controlling us.

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They made a bogus claim that I was threatening because I was able to see through their crooked deeds where others were unaware and for this cause, they demonized and hate me.

They are extremely mean spirited. We were told that we could send letters where we wanted to send them but then a day later we were told that we could only send letters to the City Manager's office. Awhile after sending letters, the females, surrounding the city manager, were intercepting my letters to keep them from going where I sent them. Years ago they have been throwing my letters into the trash. So now you see that the situation had nothing to do with me being a citizen in violation as they claimed that I was threatening and harassing to them, but they just wanted to control me because I'm aware of a lot of their illegal activities and more. This is a small introduction of the kind of people we are dealing with and that are serving the public at the City of Virginia Beach.

We are recipients of the City's Housing Rehabilitation Program and we have gone through so much that hasn't been handled fairly or professionally and the program could stand quite a bit of improvements because contractors take on the job but subcontractors produce the hands on work performance to notice that they don't know the work which keeps me involved when I don't want to be, especially in this way.

It has been said that the finished work has been checked off of a list without us coming to a conclusion.

To shorten this message, unless you would ask at a later date, I would like to bring to your attention that two of our floors, in our home needed leveling and we agreed with the program contract that they would be removed and re-structured which is the first safety hazard that committed us to the program.

To know the entire story, you would have to ask, but while the program was in progress, our property sustained 2 floods from antiquated storm drain systems and around the surrounding area of the neighborhood. These 2 recent floods took place 12-17-23 through 12-18-23 and 01-09-24. Be it known, during the summer of 1995, the very first flood happened to our home and mold and mildew had taken over in the crawl space and water was a river surrounding the front and sides of our home. One of us was sickly. Actually, (b) (6), (b) (7)(c) was sickly and weak in body while carrying a child that we were waiting for to add to our family after 13 years. That baby depended on the mother to provide healthy nourishment to survive and be healthy.

Now, back to the response of our need, we went through 2 contractors and one contractor was so selfish and controlling to have us listen to him but very often failed to listen to us. The second contractor and his support wanted to pursue a less burdensome method of an approach in their work process, which was ok with me; I just wanted my work done professionally and not sloppy. This contractor and city officials knew about the flooding and mostly there would be one person at our residence working part-time whenever they worked. We couldn't get at least one week of work on our project without several days or weeks passing. There was a lot of talk about improving water flow and the drainage system around our home, but at some point everyone involved in the project became passive and quiet when questions were asked. When the City of Virginia Beach was asked about an hydraulic map, something seemed to be in secret, as a conflict of interest, like it was many years ago when the chief of staff wanted to manipulate his way around a contract that pertained to a ditch that used to be on the North side of our home where the neighborhood down from us, at the next block, were draining their run-off waters, which was causing damage to our home and the City head and Its

directors behaved as if they had no funds to improve our drainage system. The chief of staff wanted the City to have an easement on that North side ditch, adjacent to our home, but wouldn't pipe the entire ditch. Now take note that it's been 41 years. The City officials wanted us to give away of the little that we have and then some day later, another city official and their team would come up with a code or a statue or imminent domain to take more and it is as if we are suppose to disattach ourselves of the little that belongs to us and suffer the rest of our lives while they steal, cheat, lie, mistreat and take from many of us and then to push and force us out of our neighborhood and then they tear down, rebuild and resale to new buyers. That is evil, wicked and unfair. This is done by using the influence of the housing, permit and inspection, code enforcement, real estate and zoning departments.

Don't take my word for it; examine the history of America along with Virginian Pilot archives.

Now for a similar example; consider the City of Virginia Beach's funded housing repair program that was hidden away, out from the usual advertisement and directed by the black fellow (b) (6), (b) (7)(C). The program wasn't supposed to have been uncovered but I found it and then they shut the program down because they didn't want me to share in it. Even black and white senior citizens are being ripped-off, and if like me you show good observations, you are demonized and labeled as a threat. After which you may find yourself in the Courts of Law behind a bogus claim.

When it came time to approach working on the floors, the City spear-headers pulled the program away from us. Before this, the contractor had stayed away for 2 weeks, working elsewhere. We were told that the City didn't know where the money was going to come from to address all of the plans that had developed and were added to the contract. This change had come about after the two back to back floods had taken place. We were told this was being discussed by a management where we wanted to be a part of but was denied. After we waited nearly 30 days or more, City management and team leaders requested to meet with us at our home to discuss certain options and we didn't know if what was agreed to in the contract was intended to be taken away because we weren't Accepted to attend the meeting. We requested a copy of what would be shared with us so that we could have some tossaround thought process before we met, as they denied us to meet with them while discussing their intentions.

Now it is clear as of June 11, 2024, when we met with Deputy City Manager, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) , Director, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) when they revealed their evil plan to swindle away over half of what was agreed to in the contract which was signed to, notarized, sealed and binding.

During the recent floods, we forwarded 2 emails to the City, as URGENT; they failed to respond as yet! We forwarded a certified letter to the mayor to no avail and I am trying to hold on to my respect for all of them!

The Wetland area, in the East of our home, had stopped flowing and taking water during our 2 recent floods. Before we experienced the 2 recent floods, we requested that the City of Virginia Beach support us with requested maintenance for 2 storm drain inlets. One needed to be replaced. The other needed to be cleaned and cleared away of dirt, sand, silt, overgrown vegetation, to be sure that it would give of its full potential. This request was made nearly **2 weeks before Thanksgiving 2023** and they did not even respond to it until too long, which would be explained later. The city manager and the mayor did not communicate with us concerning the 2 recent floods where we sent them 2 emails, even unto this day!

During the early hours on 12-18-23, around 2 am, we called to alert the city about the first flood of the 2 recent floods, but their outgoing, recorded message said that their department was closed. We called and I believe we left a recorded message and the city maintenance employee came about work hours, 8:30 am and was able to vacuum compacted leaves and other debris that washed from all over the neighborhood, from the mouth of the pipe of the West ditch on the South side of our mailbox and driveway, and then left. It took 6 hours for the water to drain from the neighborhood and our property.

January 9, 2024, before midnight, 10:45 pm, we witnessed the second of the recent floods, before bedtime. We tried calling the city's public works department, and again they were closed, so we called the police department and reported an emergency to see if they could reach the city resources that we needed and they said that they would publicize and make a note and they said if it gets worse, call back. City maintenance came during daytime work hours. City maintenance said that he assessed the West area beyond our property and noticed that the Towing Facility was flooded all out, also and came around to the empty lot, between the Towing Facility and our home, and discovered that the empty lot had flooded also and after this he came to (b) (6), (b) (7)(C). where our property exist and he didn't know what to think and didn't know what to do until he went over to the Marsh and Wetland and scoped it out and discovered that it was flooded and then he noticed that it was nothing much he could do. This is what he said to us and then he left. This flood took 6 ½ hours to drain out and was worse than the first of the two.

Now, back to the two curb and gutter storm drain inlets where one had a grill that lay surfaced the road, in front of it, compacted with debris. During the two weeks before Thanksgiving 2023, had the city responded and provided maintenance services, WAY BEFORE THIS TIME, of January 9, 2024, it is likely we could have escaped these two floods, and if not the 2 floods, the damages, that our property sustained, along with the threats and health depreciation that we are suffering now (sores in nose, nose bleeds, vomiting, headaches, coughing and congestion, phlegm, burning eyes, itching skin and nose, nausea and weakness, whoozing at my head, as dizziness and then at bedtime, couldn't sleep through the night and wasn't breathing good and had experienced heart palpitations, as I am a sleep apnea and obstructive air-way patient.

To give a close focus, <u>from 2 weeks of Thanksgiving</u>, as November 2023, <u>to wait until the week</u>
<u>February 25, 2024</u> to replace one busted curb and gutter drain and to clean the second, with heavily matted debris and overgrowth, is what <u>supported the floods</u> along with the <u>CONTINUAL REFUSAL to remove</u> compacted leaves and other <u>debris</u> from the ditch and from <u>OBSTRUCTING the culvert.</u>

We were attacked all kind of ways; we were told that we don't pay enough taxes, but there are people that wasn't paying taxes because they were exempt, but lived in a higher-graded neighborhood and were receiving the same high quality maintenance that their neighbors were receiving but wasn't paying any taxes.

On the subject of homeowners being responsible for cleaning ditches in front of their home; there isn't a ditch in front of our home and when we call for services to support the neighborhood, we shouldn't be neglected. Also, after been given lip-service over and over about cleaning ditches, I really thought there was something wrong about that, and had discovered that after asking for a code to support what they said, the code didn't have any enforcement power in the court of law, which the City of Virginia Beach could not fine or hold anyone or make anyone accountable for providing such a service to ditches in front of their homes, which means citizens or homeowners are not responsible to anyone, not even to the city of Virginia Beach and the claim and the maintenance services should rest on the

SHOULDERS OF THE CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH to be obligated and responsible for providing these services unless the state or authoritative entity grant the city this right and until then if the city shares the citizens property by an easement, then they must resume the responsibility of sharing in the burden of maintaining ditches!

There were funds allocated to pipe ALL THESE DITCHES in these areas, but city officials and higher-ups have been displacing the funds, misappropriating the funds, stealing funds and slicing off funds, so to use it elsewhere. So if you have some say-so or control over multiple pathways, subjects and titles that refer to city resources and funding, you in general and others close to you would have easy access, only if you share. This is what's been going on in our city government for decades. And right now, somebody is stealing!

Now what is really worth something is this. Monies were designated to pipe the surrounding ditches of our neighborhood, but certain authority in our city government chose to reproduce a small grant service, as they claimed that these funds had run out to pipe these ditches when they already knew how many ditches they had to pipe and had already made arrangements to have sufficient funds. They reproduced a new sub program and introduced it to Citizens, stating that if the Citizen would purchase the piping, the City would provide all other necessary materials and man power to make the complete installation. That is what I call SWINDILING!

They will steal your glass eye from its socket while you are looking at them with the good eye and would have you thinking that they are doing you a favor.

We did a research and found out that the City of Virginia Beach has been receiving millions and into the billions but they withheld from black people and sometimes they slice off of it and they inform certain people about grant funds and withheld the information from others. Some of them attack citizens over the phone, verbally, but don't expect them to respond back as to defend themselves. If some of these phone calls were to be recorded, that they claim are for the purposes of training and quality improvement and then if they were researched, you would see that people are not who others think they are. We are black people in a predominately black neighborhood that <u>has not benefited</u> from the millions and billions that have been granted to the City of Virginia Beach in over 41 yrs as they have not repaired or done justice to our drainage system or to us and it is not even designed properly to carry out storm waters.

## Every time this subject comes up, everyone walks away from it (news media, council members and other).

This is the record of some of the millions of dollars that the City of Virginia Beach has received and yet our neighborhood infrastructure has not benefited from any of it.

\$ 25,144,014	From Senator's Tim Kaine and Mark Warner	2019 - 2024
\$ 567,000,000	From Bond Referendum	2021
\$ 14,900,000	Department of Transportation	2021
\$ 19,012,917	Federal Government	2022
\$ 9,900,000	BRIC	2022
\$ 47,500,000	From Pres. Biden	2023
\$ 11,700,000	From Va Dept of Environmental Quality	2023

## Racism and discrimination is still prevalent among us; Don't take our word for it, search the Virginia pilot archives and read the article below.

**UPDATED** 

JUNE 28, 2019

BY CHYE-CHING HUANG AND RODERICK TAYLOR

The nation has large, pressing infrastructure needs, which are often felt most acutely in low-income communities. Decades of policy choices and insufficient public and private investment have made the infrastructure needs of these communities acute, especially in many communities of color where past policy choices affected by racism, combined with continuing racial bias and discrimination, have resulted in a lack of needed economic resources. As federal lawmakers consider investing in infrastructure, a core priority should be to direct substantial resources across a range of areas to low-income communities, which could expand their access to safe living conditions and economic opportunity. Such investments include:

Housing: Preserving and building affordable housing for low-income families, seniors, and people with disabilities should be a priority, as well as renovating and making needed repairs in public housing, which faces large backlogs after decades of underfunding and deferred capital repairs and maintenance.

Water, air, and environmental safety; preventing and mitigating climate change: Upgrading and replacing degraded and substandard infrastructure, such as by replacing lead pipes and improving wastewater treatment, is needed to ensure safe living environments. Low-income children tend to live in areas most exposed to unsafe drinking water, air pollution, and other environmental hazards. In addition, many low-income communities are at high risk of suffering the most damaging effects of climate change and hence could benefit substantially from actions to avert or ameliorate those effects.

In short, financing and investment mechanisms for any infrastructure package should protect low-income households and be designed so the overall package is beneficial to communities most in need. While some lawmakers may be drawn to certain public-private financing mechanisms, such as tax credits or loan subsidies, those approaches tend to be less cost effective than borrowing at the relatively low interest rates available to the Treasury. They also run the risk of delivering windfalls to private investors for projects that would have happened anyway or prioritizing projects with commercial returns over those that deliver public benefits, and in many cases they are likely to bypass communities most in need.

Prioritize Low-Income Communities' Pressing Unmet Needs

• The federal government plays a critical role in funding infrastructure for low-income communities since it can support projects that have multi-state or national benefits and ensure that people who live in areas with limited local resources are treated equitably. It can also ensure reliable funding for long-term investments through both good and bad economic times. States and localities also can address unmet infrastructure needs,

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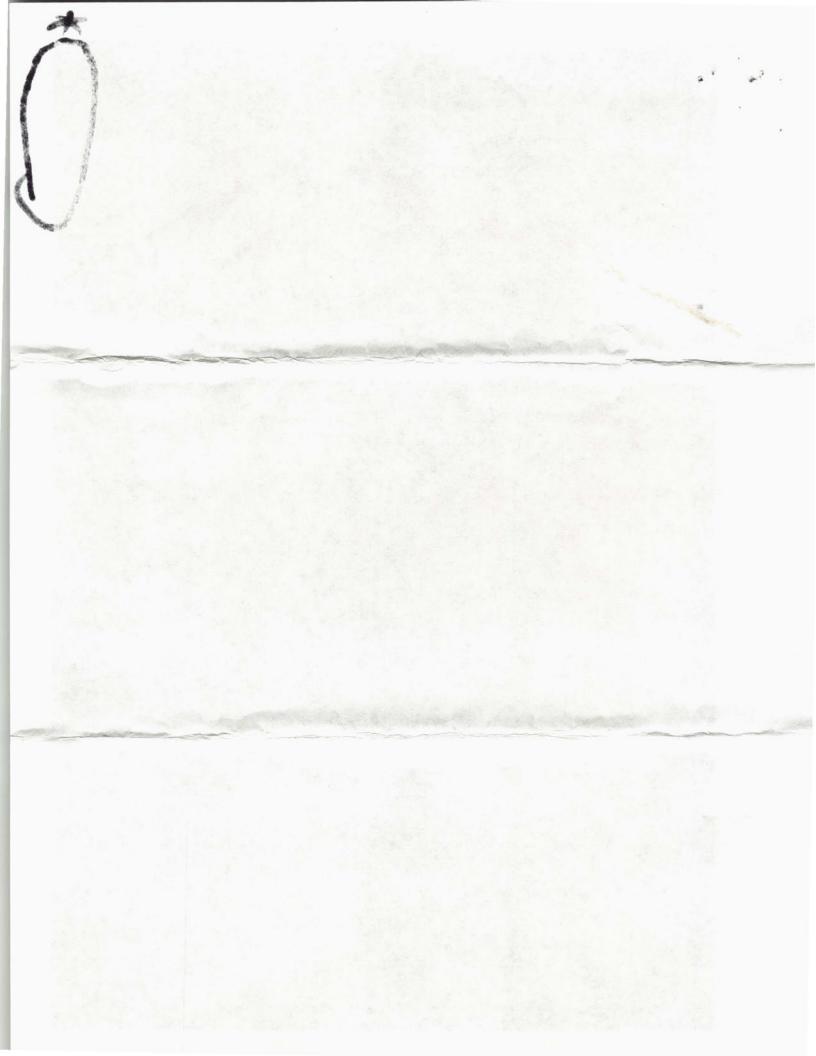
and they have important roles to play in partnering with the federal government. [2] But many projects affect entire regions, not just individual areas, and federal funding is particularly important for ensuring that infrastructure investment serves underserved, low-wealth, and rural areas.

An infrastructure package that prioritizes low-income communities can also help redress racial disparities in access to basic, safe living conditions and economic opportunity. Black and Latino households are more likely than white households to live in poorer neighborhoods and neighborhoods of concentrated disadvantage, even when comparing households of the same income, so ensuring that an infrastructure package meets the needs of low-income communities would especially help households of color. [3]

Many low-income communities of color face these disadvantages and pressing infrastructure needs because of the legacy of past policy choices affected by racism, combined with continuing racial bias and discrimination, which have resulted in such communities often lacking the economic resources they need. For example, the federal Home Owners Loan Corporation in the 1930s drew up maps that disproportionately labeled communities of color as "hazardous." This "redlining" directed private loans and investment away from those communities, making it harder for them to build economic resources and have equal access to opportunity. Often, these communities have also faced artificial state-level policy constraints on raising adequate revenue for public investment within their communities. [6]

Your granted funds have need to be monitored and audited to be sure that they are being used and disbursed for the purposes that they have been requested and distributed fairly, through the City.





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