



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20035

February 5, 1995

The Honorable Meyera E. Oberndorf
Mayor, City of Virginia Beach
Office of the Mayor
Municipal Center
City Hall Building
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23456

Dear Mayor Oberndorf:

I am writing to inform you of our intention to investigate conditions at the Virginia Beach City Jail (VBCJ) in Virginia Beach, Virginia. This investigation is authorized and will be conducted pursuant to the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act, 42 U.S.C. Section 1997 et seq.

The purpose of this investigation is to determine whether there exist any violations of the federal constitutional rights of inmates housed at this facility. The investigation will focus on, but not be limited to, allegations that inmates confined at VBCJ are being subjected to unsafe and life-threatening living conditions as a result of lack of protection from harm, inadequate staffing, denial of medical care and denial of religious freedom.

We would like to initiate this investigation as soon as possible. In that regard, staff attorneys from my office will contact your staff within the next week to arrange a meeting between attorneys and representatives of your office, followed by a tour of the Virginia Beach City Jail by our consultants and personnel from the United States Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division. The attorney assigned to this matter is Shanetta Brown ((202) 514-0195).

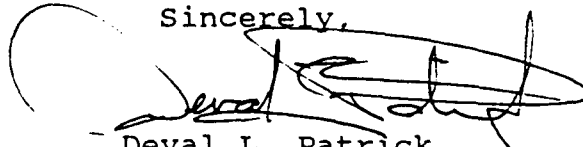
CRIPA Investigation



JC-VA-004-001

I appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deval L. Patrick", written over a horizontal line.

Deval L. Patrick
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

cc: Mr. James K. Spore
Virginia Beach City Manager

Leslie L. Lilley, Esquire
Virginia Beach City Attorney

Mr. Frank Drew, Sheriff
Virginia Beach City Jail

Helen F. Fahey, Esquire
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Virginia