



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

JUN 15 2011

In Reply Refer To: HCR-40
DOT #2010-0201

(b) (6)

Dear **(b) (6)**:

This is in reference to your complaint of discrimination, dated April 8, 2010, filed on behalf of the Freedman's Town Association, Incorporated (FTA) against the City of Houston (City) and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). In your complaint, you alleged violations of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI) based on race, African American.

The allegations raised in your complaint pertain to a contractual relationship that allegedly exists between the FTA, the City, and the TxDOT regarding the Freedman's Town Trolley Project. The evidence obtained during the investigation shows that the City and the TxDOT have a project for the repair and reconstruction of brick streets on Andrews and Wilson Streets in the Freedman's Town Historic District. The project also includes funds for a trolley car and funds for business redevelopment.

The City and TxDOT are completing the project under an "Agreement for the Development of a Texas Statewide Transportation Enhancement Project" (Agreement) signed by both parties. The FTA is not a signatory to the Agreement.

The specific issues raised in your complaint are outlined and addressed below:

Issue #1: Whether the City failed to invite the FTA to project meetings.

- Records show that the City held numerous public meetings where the FTA was invited and has been working with the community to address concerns raised.

Issue #2: Whether the City hired a landscape architect without FTA's input.

- The FTA does not have the authority to direct the City concerning hiring contractors for the project.



Issue #3: Whether the City failed to follow the Texas Historical Commission's Section 106 Reviews for determination of impacts to historical sites. Specifically, you alleged that the FTA is a historical district and bricks from the streets in the project area are being transported to other areas of the Town.

- There is no evidence to support your claim that the City transported bricks from the project area to other areas of the Town.

Issue #4: Whether the City paid a contractor (b) (6) approximately \$1.5 million for work that had already been completed.

- The payment of contractors is the responsibility of the parties of the Agreement and does not require approval by the FTA.

Issue #5: Whether the TxDOT was aware of the above-referenced allegations and allowed the City to violate State laws and regulations.

- There is no evidence to show that the City and TxDOT violated State laws and regulations.

The evidence obtained during the investigation does not support your allegations that the City and the TxDOT violated Title VI. This concludes processing of this matter and no further action will be taken by the FHWA.

Sincerely yours,



Brenda F. Armstead
Director, Investigation and Adjudications



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of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

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1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

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Mr. Daniel W. Krueger
Director
Department of Public Works and Engineering
611 Walker
Houston, Texas 77002

Dear Mr. Krueger:

This is in reference to the complaint of discrimination, dated April 8, 2010, by (b) (6) filed on behalf of the Freedman's Town Association, Incorporated (FTA) against the City of Houston (City) and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). In the complaint, (b) (6) alleged violations of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI) based on race, African American.

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Issue #3: Whether the City failed to follow the Texas Historical Commission's Section 106 Reviews for determination of impacts to historical sites. Specifically, (b) (6) alleged that the FTA is a historical district and bricks from the streets in the project area are being transported to other areas of the Town.

- There is no evidence to support the claim that the City transported bricks from the project area to other areas of the Town.

Issue #4: Whether the City paid a contractor ((b) (6)) approximately \$1.5 million for work that had already been completed.

- The payment of contractors is the responsibility of the parties of the Agreement and does not require approval by the FTA.

Issue #5: Whether the TxDOT was aware of the above-referenced allegations and allowed the City to violate State laws and regulations.

- There is no evidence to show that the City and TxDOT violated State laws and regulations.

The evidence obtained during the investigation does not support (b) (6)'s allegations that the City and the TxDOT violated Title VI. This concludes processing of this matter and no further action will be taken by the FHWA.

Sincerely yours,



Brenda F. Armstead
Director, Investigation and Adjudications

cc:

Mr. George A. Ebert, Interim Director, Office of Civil Rights, TxDOT
Mr. Dave Tovar, Contract Compliance Section Director, Office of Civil Rights, TxDOT
Ms. Janice W. Brown, Division Administrator, FHWA (HDA-TX)
Mr. Mark Arrington, Equal Opportunity Specialist, FHWA (HDA-TX)



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DOT #2010-0201

Mr. George A. Ebert
Interim Director
Office of Civil Rights
Texas Department of Transportation
125 E. 11th Street
Austin, Texas 78701-2483

Dear Mr. Ebert:

This is in reference to the complaint of discrimination, dated April 8, 2010, by (b) (6) filed on behalf of the Freedman's Town Association, Incorporated (FTA) against the City of Houston (City) and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). In the complaint, (b) (6) alleged violations of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI) based on race, African American.

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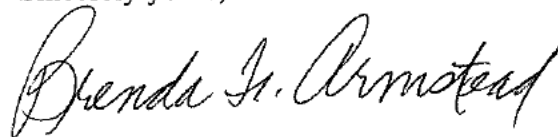
- The payment of contractors is the responsibility of the parties of the Agreement and does not require approval by the FTA.

Issue #5: Whether the TxDOT was aware of the above-referenced allegations and allowed the City to violate State laws and regulations.

- There is no evidence to show that the City and TxDOT violated State laws and regulations.

The evidence obtained during the investigation does not support (b) (6)'s allegations that the City and the TxDOT violated Title VI. This concludes processing of this matter and no further action will be taken by the FHWA.

Sincerely yours,



Brenda F. Armstead
Director, Investigation and Adjudications

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Mr. Dave Tovar, Contract Compliance Section Director, Office of Civil Rights, TxDOT
Mr. Daniel W. Krueger, Director, Department of Public Works and Engineering
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