



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

JUL 10 2012

Via First Class Mail & Electronic Mail

Ms. Lucy A. Dalglish
Executive Director
The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press
1101 Wilson Blvd, Suite 1100
Arlington, Virginia 22209-2211

Re: Conduct of Public Meetings in Conjunction with the Compliance Review of Consent Decree in United States v. City of Alexandria, et. al

Dear Ms. Dalglish:

This letter is in response to your correspondence seeking information about public meetings that have been held by the Department of Justice in order to monitor compliance with the consent decree entered by the court in *U.S. v. City of Alexandria, et. al*.

The Employment Litigation Section of the Civil Rights Division is responsible for enforcement of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended. To discharge those enforcement responsibilities, attorneys from the department hold many different types of meetings, both public and private, in order to obtain relevant information about employment practices of covered employers, including – as is the case here – their compliance with the terms of a consent decree approved by a federal court.

In fact, the department has held a number of public meetings regarding the *U.S. v. City of Alexandria, et. al* consent decree. All of these meetings have been open to the press, as all future public meetings will be. The division has participated in these meetings in order to answer questions from the public about the consent decree and to determine whether or not the requirements of the decree have been met by a particular jurisdiction. As is our standard practice, attorneys speaking on behalf of the department at public meetings may at times refer reporters to the department's Office of Public Affairs (OPA) for further information and additional statements.

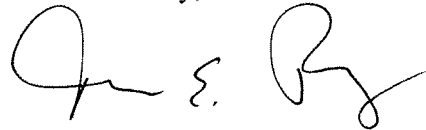
The Daily Iberian both attended and reported on the department's June 12th compliance meeting; as is evidenced by several stories regarding the meeting that were published by the newspaper in subsequent days, the reporter was not prevented from reporting on the statements made in the meeting, including quotes attributed to a department attorney. Additionally, other media outlets have previously attended the other public meetings regarding the Louisiana consent decree, including *The Times Picayune*, the ABC television affiliate in Baton Rouge, and both the CBS and FOX television affiliates in the city of Harahan.

Moreover, we note that OPA has consistently and uniformly been available to press and *The Daily Iberian* to answer inquiries about this case and we will continue to do so. OPA specifically has answered numerous inquiries from *The Daily Iberian* from both the reporter who covered the June 12th meeting and the managing editor of the outlet.

The Department of Justice firmly believes in, and aggressively protects, the freedoms afforded by the United States Constitution, including the First Amendment.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office should you have further questions about this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. E. Perez', written in a cursive style.

Thomas E. Perez
Assistant Attorney General

cc: Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr.