

Ferguson TRUTH

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December 21, 2015

The Honorable James Knowles
Mayor, City of Ferguson, Missouri
and Members of the Ferguson City Council
110 Church St., Ferguson, MO 63135

Re: Opportunity to review settlement prior to signing:

Dear Mayor Knowles and Members of the City Council:

This letter is a formal request that the City of Ferguson release any proposed settlement with the Department of Justice BEFORE the settlement is finalized.

At this point, we know almost nothing about what it being agreed to by the City, and by extension, we the residents. And now we learn through the Post-Dispatch that the DOJ wants us to commit to \$350,000 in monitoring costs. We are happy to make investments in our city, however the cost for monitoring is exorbitant. \$350,000 buys a lot of services, and seems to suggest that the Department of Justice is ordering a radical re-engineering of our City.

We know that it is the DOJ that has enforced secrecy on the negotiations, however we the residents have been extremely frustrated by the process. That frustration grew when we picked up the Post-Dispatch and read that a very small group of resident and non-resident protesters has been communicating with the Department of Justice and knew enough about the proposed settlement to be "comfortable that the DOJ has listened to (their) concerns". Frustration grew to anger when we read that this same small group was now pressuring the City to NOT let any other residents have input into the process, instead pushing for a meaningless fairness hearing AFTER a settlement had been agreed to. Can this even be legal? Can a small group of people, including non-residents, be given special input into the settlement process?

By any measure, it is unconscionable, and we demand that the City correct this situation. **We are formally requesting that the City of Ferguson release for public comment, by ALL of the residents and business owners of Ferguson, BEFORE signing anything with the Department of Justice.**

Thank you for your time and attention to this critical issue. The residents of Ferguson deserve transparency, deserve a right for all of us to be heard.

Respectfully,

Ferguson Truth and the Residents and Business Owners of Ferguson