

Dear Judge Perry,

Below is a status report on key activities of the Ferguson Civilian Review Board and a few ongoing concerns.

Accomplishments

The board is proud of several accomplishments during 2020, even while restricted from meeting for large parts of the year due to COVID-19 protocols.

1. Released the annual report. An electronic copy is available on the Ferguson City website.
2. Completed review and made recommendations to the FPD Chief on two complaints submitted by citizens in 2020. There is still one outstanding complaint from 2019 and three outstanding reports from 2020.
3. Completed a survey form that it will be sending out to complainants thirty (30) days after recommendations are forwarded to the FPD chief.
4. Scheduled two town halls. One for 12 April were summaries of four sessions from the NACOLE annual conference will be presented and one hosted by Proud scheduled for 18 May where the CRB will present its annual report.

FCRB/FPD Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

The DOJ hosted one additional session for the MOU. The only outstanding item from that meeting was the FCRB reviewing/attending FPD led in-service training. A statement for the agreement was approved by the FCRB and forwarded to the DOJ, City and FPD for review.

Reporting on Complaints

In August 2019, the FCRB submitted a Sunshine law request 19-128 for the FPD to perform the work. The city's response was that the FPD lacked the manpower to complete the report and that in order for the FPD chief to complete the work the FCRB would be required to pay \$4,000 for the man hours required to compile the data. The issue was presented to the City Council by the FCRB, and the Council voted 5-2 to allow the FCRB to review the files and compile the data at no cost to the City. The agreement also noted that any files for complaints prior to 2017 would first be redacted prior to the FCRB reviewing them.

On April 5, the FPD chief compiled the first list of investigative files. It included all complaints filed between 2015 to 2018. After reviewing the list, the FCRB noted that four of the complaints from 2017 and 2018 were never forwarded to the FCRB for review. A request was then made to the FPD chief for a copy of the complete files and any discipline assigned. The FCRB also passed a motion to request a date when the investigative files for complaints filed between 2015 and 2016 would be available for the FCRB to review.

Respectfully,

Eugene N. Franks
CDR (Ret.), USN, PMP Chairman FCRB



April 5, 2021

To: The Consent Decree Status Hearing

Currently we are in the process of redeveloping the arrangement with the Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis for the hiring of a Social Worker to work in the Ferguson city government and the placement of social work practicum students within the Ferguson city government. Our contact with Washington University (the Brown School) is Prof. Jack Kirkland.

Several years ago, when the initial conversation about the Social Worker arose, the Brown School of Social Work (at Washington University), as represented by Prof. Jack Kirkland, and Dean Mary McKay, was in agreement with the need for a Social Worker on the Ferguson city staff along with contributing toward the funding the Social Worker position. Proposed funding for the position would have come from the Brown School (1/3 of salary), the United Way (1/3 of salary), and Ferguson (1/3 of salary). However, the Ferguson City Council did not approve the proposal.

Now there is a renewed interest in Ferguson to pursue the Social Worker position again. We have had additional conversations about the matter with Prof. Kirkland and we are recommending that he also speak with Nicolle Barton. Discussion centering on the hiring of the Social Worker and the original proposal to fund the position is still very much alive.

In addition, however, the current dialogue has been expanded to include discussion about the Brown School facilitating arrangements with other schools under Washington University, including the Olin Business School and the Washington University School of Law, in order to obtain teams of practicum students from the various disciplines serving in the Ferguson city government.

Sincerely,

Mayor Ella Jones

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901 Ferguson Ave.
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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 3:19 PM

To: Ferguson Monitor <FergusonMonitor@hoganlovells.com>

Subject: Ferguson Consent Decree

[EXTERNAL]

In response to your request for comments for the quarterly status hearing:

This decree has accomplished nothing if not to break the back of Ferguson. Law enforcement is virtually non-existent. The flight of responsible citizens that supported and made Ferguson work is not reversible. Our city administration is in shambles. We are losing our businesses one by one. The very people that this intended to help are being hurt the most as absentee landlords have invested heavily, renting out slum-lord class properties, depressing property values, depriving Ferguson residents of the opportunity to be stake holders. The financial burden on a city our size is unthinkable.

There were multiple facts supporting the actions of Ferguson police including citizen surveys indicating overall satisfaction, but the dissenting voices, voices not even proven to have actually been in Ferguson or suffered the allegations, were built into an indictment. No actual proof was ever given nor was a single FOIA answered.

As I approach retirement, I sincerely doubt that I will remain in this shell of city, doomed to continuing decline, and as I sell and move out, 3 more well maintained properties will most likely join the list of buildings that used to be nice. Bullets, guns, speeding cars, and drug deals on every corner are now the rule of law. Entire blocks are at great risk of complete decline.

This decree has been instrumental in dismantling a once upon a time hub city of St Louis metropolitan area, all on the basis of never proven facts. It's time for the federal government to get out of Ferguson's affairs and let those of us that are left try to rebuild. This decree has done it's damage. For the love of God, let it be done. Take your government takeover of our lives somewhere else. We have had our fill of it.

Thomas M. Claffy

[REDACTED]

---- Original Message ----

From:

Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 2:27 PM

To: Ferguson Monitor <FergusonMonitor@hoganlovells.com>

Subject: When will the consent decree end and quit stripping our community of desperate funding necessary to resolve basic and critical needs

[EXTERNAL]

To whom it may concern:

Please let us know when the consent decree will end? Ferguson is going broke due to the astronomical cost to maintain the consent decree which in turn is only hurting the disenfranchised residents of Ferguson, whom the consent decree is claiming to help.

Our roads, our parks, our crime, and enforcement of the law is broken.

Thank you for taking this plea into consideration.

Dara Ashby

Ferguson resident x 21 years

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Ferguson Monitor](#)
Subject: April 2021 Ferguson Consent Decree comment
Date: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 5:54:11 PM

[EXTERNAL]

April 7, 2021

Dear Judge Perry,

I just want to advise and alert you to the unsteadiness and lack of leadership at the helm of the City of Ferguson, currently.

The 2 YEAR, INTERIM, City Manager has been suspended and the Ferguson City Council has had a rushed search for a permanent City Manager (after being so unbothered for two years). I am unaware of what led to the urgent suspension of the current Interim City Manager. But I AM aware of the rushed search that led to an inadequate pool of candidates, based on the final four candidates that were presented to the public at a citizen town hall a few weeks ago (only two were acceptable candidates).

This lack of sincerity is reminiscent of how the former City Council “searched” for a new Police Chief, and preferred the OTHER candidate rather than the best candidate who was ALREADY in its midst and doing the job.

My point is that the Ferguson City Council seems not to value hiring the most qualified persons for these very important positions, which greatly impacts the City of Ferguson’s ability to implement this Consent Degree. Although I know that the City’s practices in hiring a City Manager (or Police Chief) may not fall directly under the purview this Court, it MIGHT help explain some of the “drag” in its implementation of the Consent Decree.

Thanks for this opportunity to communicate with you.

Sincerely,

Cassandra Butler