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Letter to Todd Johnson from George
Talley, 1983 July 29

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July 29, 1983

Mr. Todd Johnson
Staff Attorney
Georgia Legal Services Program
P. O. Box 1267
Valdosta, GA 31601

Re: Valdosta System of Elections

Dear Todd:

This will confirm our numerous telephone conferences concerning this matter and your correspondence advising the City of a proposed voting rights suit seeking establishment of a ward system for election of Mayor and Council in the City of Valdosta.

This will confirm also my previous statements to you that the City denies that there is any discrimination in its current voting system but is willing to discuss the possibility of some type of settlement of this matter. I have met with the Council concerning this matter and we have several questions we feel need to be resolved before we proceed to discuss any particular or specific election system for the City of Valdosta.

First, the City feels very strongly that all parties involved in the local election process should possibly be parties to this matter. This would include both school boards and possibly the Board of Commissioners of Lowndes County.

Next, since the City has an independent school board and as stated holds elections for the school board at the same time as City elections I question whether any system for the City of Valdosta can be implemented without including as an absolute necessary party the City school board. I would appreciate you and your staff's thoughts on this issue.

Also, how many wards do you propose and will you consider the possibility of any at large voting seats on the newly constructed Council. Also would the Council maintain its present six member and one Mayor composition or would you propose additional members or less members.

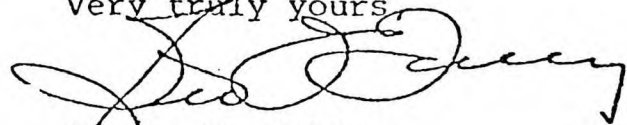
Mr. Todd Johnson
July 29, 1983
Page 2

I feel that a complete list of your actual clients by name and the representation of each of the parties is necessary in order that we can intelligently deal with any proposed compromise of this matter. I have been informed by you that there are several different groups and individuals involved in this proposed litigation. I would appreciate if you could furnish me the name of the various groups and what organization or individual attorney will be representing each individual or group.

Finally, I would appreciate your office supplying me with a list of cities which your office has knowledge of which have recently implemented a ward system.

I realize that I have posed several questions some of which can not easily be answered by you and may require consultation with your clients and various associates. For this reason I suggest that we consider discussing this matter further without the August 15th deadline for conclusion of negotiations.

Very truly yours,



George T. Talley

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