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Letter to Civil Action Participants from Todd Johnson, 1984 July 2

Houseal, Willi, H.

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2 July 1984

Dear Participant:

This letter is an update to our recent conversations. When I talked with you, I tried to find out what your preferences were concerning settlements. My sense is, that many of you were concerned with getting a black in office fairly quickly and all of you were concerned with getting a fair plan. At the point I spoke with you last, we talked about a 6-district plan or a 5-district plan with one at-large seat. Since that time, the offers have changed.

Through some strategy, it may be possible for us to get the City to go to a 6-0 plan that is very well drawn. After talking with Willie Houseal about this strategy, he agreed that it might be worth giving up an earlier election so that we could have such good lines. Although we may be able to get both the good lines and an earlier election, this is not certain.

Please call me if you have any objections to going for a plan that will serve Valdosta better in the future but delay black representation one year.

In line with your feelings, we have offered the settlement if the City would go to a plan which is 6 or 8 districts with 50% of the representation in districts coming from over 65% black population. From what you have said, I understand that a plan with less black representation may be a possible settlement, but at this point, it may be possible for us to succeed in getting that very high percent of black representation.

Please call me if you have questions or comments about the election issue.

Best regards,



Todd Johnson
Staff Attorney

TJ:hw1

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