

STEVE COHEN
9TH DISTRICT, TENNESSEE

2404 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

TELEPHONE: (202) 225-3265
FAX: (202) 225-5663

CLIFFORD DAVIS/ODELL HORTON
FEDERAL BUILDING
167 NORTH MAIN STREET
SUITE 369
MEMPHIS, TN 38103

TELEPHONE: (901) 544-4131
FAX: (901) 544-4329
www.cohen.house.gov

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4209

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
SUBCOMMITTEES:
REGULATORY REFORM, COMMERCIAL
AND ANTITRUST LAW - RANKING MEMBER
CONSTITUTION AND CIVIL JUSTICE

COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE

SUBCOMMITTEES:
AVIATION
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT
WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND
COOPERATION IN EUROPE
(U.S. HELSINKI COMMISSION)

April 2, 2014

The Honorable Eric H. Holder Jr.
Attorney General
United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

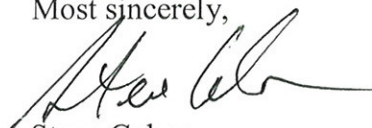
Dear Attorney General Holder:

As I have written to you on numerous occasions, the Shelby County Election Commission has demonstrated a troubling pattern of incompetence that threatens the rights of Shelby County voters to have their voices heard. I am enclosing a letter that Dr. Kenneth T. Whalum, Jr., a respected leader in the Memphis community, recently wrote to Acting Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Jocelyn Samuels expressing his concerns about the Commission and I respectfully ask that you give it your attention.

Dr. Whalum, a former commissioner on the Shelby County School Board, successfully sued the Election Commission after an election riddled with errors that the court ordered to be set aside. Given that no changes have occurred at the Commission despite many documented errors over the last several years, he requests that the Department of Justice examine and monitor the Commission in advance of the upcoming elections. I hope that you will give his request all due consideration. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

As always, I remain,

Most sincerely,


Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

The New Olivet Baptist Church

3084 Southern Avenue - Memphis, TN 38111 - (901) 454-7777 pl/(901) 454-4990 fax - www.olivetbc.com

Dr. Kenneth Twigg Whalum, Jr., Pastor

April 2, 2014

Honorable Acting Assistant Attorney General Jocelyn Samuels
% Voting Section Civil Rights Division
Department Of Justice
Room 7254-NWB
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear General Samuels:

It is with anxious yet hopeful trepidation that I write this missive requesting your intervention, supervision, and/or assistance regarding a troubling pattern of errors and documented incompetency at the Shelby County Tennessee Election Commission in Memphis, Tennessee (9th U.S. Congressional District).

As a result of a school board election I "lost" in August 2012, I filed a lawsuit in Chancery Court against the election commission, and won. Said ruling is on appeal presently, but the importance of your attention is crucial because we are on the precipice of one of the largest primary elections in the history of our county. Moreover, the following agencies of the State of Tennessee reviewed the August 2012 election, and determined that it revealed a troubling pattern of errors which led to an election "so fraught with error and poor judgment as to have caused the State to conclude that the Shelby County Election Commission lacks the ability to conduct elections without significant inaccuracies" - Comptroller of the Treasury, Office of Local Government, State of Tennessee Division of Investigations, and Tennessee Secretary of State Division of Elections.

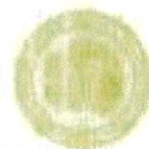
The Voting Section Civil Rights Division's unbiased examination and monitoring is needed, not just because of the aforementioned official findings, but because of two additional "red flag" developments: (1) Shelby County Election Commission has a history of such problems, and (2) No changes in personnel have been made in the administration of the Shelby County Election Commission. In other words, the leadership responsible for the myriad negative findings is still in charge.

United States Representative Steve Cohen suggested that I contact you immediately to seek redress. Having done so, I await your direction.

Sincerely,


Dr. Kenneth T. Whalum, Jr.
Pastor, The New Olivet Baptist Church

"In Him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to The Plan of Him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of His will in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of His glory." Ephesians 1:11-12 (NIV)



KEEPING IT REAL MINISTRIES INC.