Montgomery County Lodge 35, Inc.



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By First-Class mail and by email to: Bonnie.Greenberg@us.doj.gov

Rod J. Rosenstein U.S. Attorney, District of Maryland 36 South Charles Street, 4th Floor Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Bonnie S. Greenberg Assistant U.S. Attorney District of Maryland

Re: Request for Criminal Investigation of the Montgomery County Executive

and Montgomery County Council for Violation of Federal Law As Grantee of Federal Funds Using Public Monies to Pay for Political

Activities

Dear Mr. Rosenstein and Ms. Greenberg:

I am writing on behalf of the, Fraternal Order of Police, Montgomery County Lodge 35, Inc. ("FOP").

The Montgomery County Government appears to have authorized the expenditure of hundreds of thousands of dollars to support a Ballot Question that would repeal an ordinance that has benefitted Montgomery County police officers for 30 years — an ordinance protecting the right of the police union, the FOP, to engage in "effects bargaining" — collective bargaining over the effects of police management policies on employees. In the last several days, the County Government authorized the expenditure of considerable public funds to pay for a mass mailing, we believe to most county registered voters, advocating for this question.

"Question B" is a ballot question listed on the ballot, to be voted on November 6, which if it passes, would repeal this effects bargaining ordinance. The Maryland State Prosecutor has recently advised the Montgomery County Executive that Maryland election law requires that all solicitation and expenditures of funds to support or oppose a ballot question at an election must be conducted by a ballot issue committee. As far as we know, the Montgomery County Government has not established a ballot issue committee to raise and spend funds to advocate for Question B.

We believe that the Montgomery County Government receives Federal funds under various Federal programs. We are asking your office to investigate whether Montgomery County has merged any of the funds it has received from various Federal programs in accounts with funds from local taxes and from the State, whether it has expended any funds from such accounts to advocate for Ballot Question B, and whether the expenditure of public funds from such account(s) to advocate on behalf of the Ballot Question B, is lawful under Federal law, regulations or grant restrictions.

We would appreciate your immediate initiation of an inquiry to address these two questions as soon as possible, since we believe, as the FOP representing Montgomery County's police, that the Montgomery County Government's expenditure of these considerable amounts of public funds to support Question B have been contrary, in our opinion, to the interests of the police and their families and to all Montgomery County citizens.

Thank you for your prompt reply.

Very truly yours,

Jane A. Milne Secretary