



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

*Assistant Attorney General
950 Pennsylvania Ave, NW - RFK
Washington, DC 20530*

December 9, 2020

City of Kansas City, Missouri
c/o Mayor Quinton Lucas
City Hall, 29th Floor
414 East 12th Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64106
MayorQ@kcmo.org

This is to inform you that the United States Department of Justice is commencing an investigation of the City of Kansas City, Missouri pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d *et seq.* Title VI prohibits a recipient of federal financial assistance from discriminating on the basis of race, color, or national origin. 42 U.S.C. § 2000d. Kansas City currently receives federal financial assistance from the Department of Justice and other federal government sources and accordingly must abide by Title VI's anti-discrimination requirements.

At this time, our investigation will focus on possible race discrimination in Kansas City's contracting and procurement program, including the use of race in dollar and hour goals. *See, e.g.,* KCMO Municipal Code §§ 3-427 & 5-507(d).

In conducting the investigation, we will seek to determine whether Kansas City is violating Title VI. We have not reached any conclusions about the subject matter of the investigation. If we conclude that Kansas City is not violating Title VI, we will notify you that we are closing the investigation. 28 C.F.R. § 42.107. If we conclude that Kansas City is violating Title VI, we will inform you and work with you to secure compliance by informal voluntary means. 28 C.F.R. §§ 42.107 & 42.108. If we cannot secure compliance by voluntary means, we may take formal action to secure compliance. This formal action could include suspending, terminating, or refusing to grant or continue your federal financial assistance, as well as commencing a civil action. 28 C.F.R. § 42.108.

We expect Kansas City to cooperate fully with this investigation. The Department's Title VI implementing regulations require, among other obligations, that recipients of federal financial assistance permit access by the Department to sources of information and facilities as may be pertinent to ascertain compliance with Title VI and the implementing regulations. 28 C.F.R. §§ 42.106 & 42.108. These Title VI implementing regulations also require that every application for federal financial assistance be accompanied by an assurance that the program will be conducted in compliance with all requirements that Title VI and the implementing regulations impose. 28 C.F.R. § 42.105(a)(1). Pursuant to this requirement, Kansas City signed contractual

assurances agreeing to permit the Department to examine records and access other sources of information and facilities.

Pursuant to this authority, we intend to send you a request for information shortly.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact this office at (202) 616-2788. Thank you in advance for your attention to and cooperation in this investigation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric S. Dreiband".

ERIC S. DREIBAND
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

cc via email: City Attorney
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