

Complainant
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(#EH274215525)

COMPLAINT

RE: Governor Sarah Palin
Violations of the Alaska Executive Branch Ethics Act
Non-Issue of Juneteenth Proclamation 2007

I, Gregory Charles Royal, a private citizen, file this complaint to investigate actions by Governor Sarah Palin pursuant to Alaska Statutes 39.52.310(b) for violations under the Alaska Executive Branch Ethics Act (*AS 39.52.120 Misuse of Official Position- Paragraph (4) take or withhold official action in order to affect a matter in which the public officer has a personal or financial interest*).

Specifically, Governor Palin withheld the official action of issuing a proclamation in the year 2007, to commemorate Juneteenth Day, as required by House Bill 100.

Governor Palin withheld this action consistent with her personal interests, i.e., a demonstrative attitude, agenda

and or ideology which promotes indifference toward African American people and culture in the state of Alaska.

Furthermore, in an effort to quell protests over her failure to issue the proclamation, overall race relations and hiring practices, Governor Palin's office may have falsely claimed to the public in August 2008, that her Press Secretary, Bill McAllister who is arguably visually caucasian , was in fact, an African American or a person who historically identifies himself as African American.

BACKGROUND

1. Complainant held a press conference at the National Press Club on October 7, 2008 regarding now vice-presidential candidate Sarah Palin's record on race relations. At that time, several African Americans voiced their experiences regarding the Governor, including the complainant from an incident which occurred in 1990, and Bishop Dave Thomas and Gwendolyn Alexander from the African-American Historical Society of Alaska, and Reverend Ronald V. Myers, Chairman, National Juneteenth Holiday Campaign. Each commented on Governor Palin's actions regarding the Juneteenth Holiday which was inacted in 2001 and states as follows:

HOUSE BILL NO. 100

"An Act establishing the third Saturday of each June as Juneteenth Day." BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA: * Section 1. AS 44.12 is amended by adding a new section to article 2 to read: Sec. 44.12.090.

Juneteenth Day. Juneteenth Day is established on the third Saturday in June each year to commemorate the abolition of slavery throughout the United States and its territories in 1865 and to remind all Americans of the status and importance of Americans of African descent as American citizens. **The governor shall issue a proclamation to commemorate the day.** Juneteenth Day may be observed by suitable observances and exercises by civic groups and the public, and citizens of the state are urged to reflect on the suffering and sacrifice endured by millions of early African-Americans and to appreciate the unique freedom and equality enjoyed by all state citizens today, today."
[Emphasis Added]

2. In pertinent part Reverend Myers stated:

"As the chairman of the National Juneteenth Holiday Campaign, Alaska became our sixth state to recognize Juneteenth as a state holiday or state holiday observance in 2001. And so, I started to inquire from our Juneteenth director in Alaska, Gwendolyn Alexander, about what the status was and coming to find out some concerns about, not only her [Palin's] lack of support for Juneteenth and acknowledgment of it, but the law that was written in 2001 to make Juneteenth an official state holiday says Alaska

requires the governor to issue an annual proclamation acknowledging Juneteenth in the state of Alaska. She didn't even follow her judiciary responsibilities in 2007 and issue a proclamation.....I wanted to acknowledge the black community's contribution in Alaska building the highway to Alaska, which was put together by 3,000 black Army engineers, which played a significant role in terms of World War II and the attack from Japan.....So blacks in Alaska deserve a lot of respect. And I was quite concerned about the lack of respect we were getting from Governor Palin" SOURCE: CQ Transcriptions, LLC 2008

3. In pertinent part Bishop Thomas stated:

I'm Bishop Dave Thomas. I'm a part of the Juneteenth board here in Anchorage, Alaska. We're just trying to let everyone know in the nation about Governor Palin's non-involvement with the black community. On several occasions we asked Governor Palin to come to Juneteenth festival prior to it happening to come and be a part of Juneteenth festival. And she on several accounts of us requesting that did not come or did not send anyone to either be a part of the festival. She also on several occasions here on the part of the Black Ministerial Alliance -- we were trying to meet with her to try and see where does the minorities stand here in Anchorage as far as jobs, job opportunities as coming on with this gas pipeline. And finally she met with our president, Dr. Patterson. But through his meeting with her, the meeting, what he says, did not go anywhere.

She is not a part of the black community. She is not sensitive to the black community's needs here in Anchorage. Like I said before, I am a part of the Juneteenth

committee. She did not proclaim Juneteenth Day like she was supposed to. And previous governors -- they always came to the Juneteenth festival. They always sent a representative. Governor Palin did not send anyone to even represent her for this festival. So we're just trying to get this out to the nation that she is not sensitive to the black community here in Anchorage, Alaska.

QUESTION FROM NEW YORK TIMES REPORTER: How are you doing, Bishop? I'm fine. I was just going to ask you about Bill -- how much you knew about Bill McAllister since he was an anchor previously for about 30 years in Alaska at KCOO and KCUU. Was there any record before he became Palin's press secretary of him acknowledging that he was of mixed racial heritage or had something to do with African-Americans?

THOMAS: None that I've heard of. I heard that he was on her staff. But as far as him being involved in any type of black leadership or any type of black festivals or any type of black events that go on in the city, I don't have no type of recollection that he was even a part of that. Now, I know that he's on her staff. I believe he got on staff a couple of months ago or when she started running. I know nothing about Mr. McAllister, to tell you the truth, nothing at all. SOURCE: CQ Transcriptions, LLC 2008

4. Complainant on Bill McAllister

Complainant did conduct additional inquiries into Bill McAllister's record because of his statements which have appeared on numerous websites as follows:

"....denies allegations that her
[Palin's] record of hiring and

retaining racial minorities in government posts compares poorly with her predecessors. "I'm African-American and I am a big rebuttal to those charges," said Palin Press Secretary Bill McAllister, a former broadcast journalist."

A colleague from KCOO who worked with McAllister laughed at the assertion and emphatically stated that "the Bill McAllister I knew who used to work here was white". Another colleague at the St Cloud Times who at first stated that she knew McAllister over several years would not confirm that McAllister was an African American. Journalist Brady Gervais who did a feature on McAllister for Twin Cities.com in person and entitled "Palin's spokesman swept up in the story" in September, 2008, did not recall that McAllister was African American nor did he speak of any issues that would infer such. There seem to be no published statements of affiliations corroborating McAllister's claim of racial identity, as set forth by the Governor's office.

5. Gwendolyn Alexander stated:

My name is Gwendolyn Alexander. And I'm the president of the African-American Historical Society of Alaska. And we do each year very community events. We are a non-profit organization. Our main focus is the Juneteenth event. And we have also added last year to this event because people don't really know what Juneteenth is. We've added an Emancipation Proclamation observance day where we do broadcasts on radio and televisions and blogging site in

the newspaper to identify that the Emancipation Proclamation is the reason why we celebrate Juneteenth. Well, my main concern is the fact that we do have the celebration every year. It was put down we were instrumental along with a few other community individuals in instituting the H.B. 100, and that's the House bill 100, which gives the third Saturday in June of every year as the Juneteenth observance day. And as part of that bill that was past there was a portion in there. It's called Senate bill number 71 that dictates that the governor shall issue a proclamation to commemorate the day.

In the past we have had the proclamation come to us from the previous governors. The proclamation is sent to us by the governors, beginning with Murkowski. And we take that bill, and we publish it in our annual official Juneteenth booklet. They also send a representative out to read the bill. And if they can't -- if the governor could not make it himself, then Lieutenant Governor Leman came out to read the proclamation and give his thoughts on the event. And I do have the previous booklet showing this fact. In 2007 we did not get a proclamation at all. We didn't get any recognition from the governor's office in regards to the Juneteenth event. In 2008 we sent requests to the governor's office for the proclamation and to invite the governor or a representative to come out to the event. We did not get an answer to our fax.

There was a proclamation issued, I did see, in the governor's Web site, that there was a proclamation that was issued in June (2008). But it was not given to us. The proclamation was supposed to be made public. If it's not

given to us, then it should have been published in the local newspaper, you know, on that day because it is supposed to be something that is done by the governor on a public basis. SOURCE: CQ Transcriptions, LLC 2008.

6. Further statements which were not present at the National Press Club were included in an October, 2008 article by Linn Washington, Jr columnist for the Philadelphia Tribune entitled "I Don't Mess With Black Men" Palin's Racist Remark:

Eleanor Andrews, board chair of the Anchorage Urban League:, said she is unaware of any programs or outreach to Alaska's black community by Palin. "It's not a disengagement. It's just no connection. She does not have relations with African Americans," said Andrews, a businesswoman and 44-year resident of Alaska.

Attorney Rex Butler:

"People say that when [Palin] took over as governor blacks lost jobs in state government," said attorney Rex Butler. "It seems that the posture of her administration with blacks is: Don't need them - Don't worry about them."

CONCLUSION

I request an investigation into the allegations as set forth and further request that Governor Palin's failure to issue the 2007 Juneteenth Proclamation treated as a

separate matter and failing if such an act cannot be deemed a violation of the Alaska Executive Branch Ethics Act.

Respectfully submitted,

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Verification

STATE OF _____)
COUNTY OF _____)

Subscribed and sworn this ____ day of _____ 2008

Notary Public
My Appointment Expires