

August 26, 2016

Melinda M. Miguel
Chief Inspector General
State of Florida
Executive Office of the Governor

Dear Ms. Miguel:

Grace and peace be unto you in the name of our Lord and Savior – Jesus Christ.

When Governor Scott reached out to me asking what he could do for the City of Opa-locka, I gladly responded. As a result, I went to the Commission and through resolution we reached out to the State, listing our needs of help to bring our city up to financial stability. A Board and sub-committees were formed giving us the assurance that you as the Chair and the Board understood our dire situation, and was there to **assist the city**.

Then the tide turned. Instead of focusing in on our finances, the focus shifted on to the elected officials. The Board began exerting power that belongs to our City Commission, which is clearly spelled out in our city Charter. Retrieving city issued vehicles from the Elected Officials; requesting financial disclosure reports; taking the seated position on the dais, whereby the Board *“looks down”* on the elected officials; not allowing the elected officials to speak or give input on issues affecting our city; sending an extra person to *“watch us”* from the inside; banning a community activity for our children; and finally, not honoring the Commission’s Charter mandated duty to appoint a City

Manager. These actions have no bearing on our immediate need, and at the very least are just rude and disrespectful.

At this point, we have not seen or heard of any solution to the problem, that at the end of this month October, the city will have depleted our general funds to pay our employees – our most valuable asset. In coming into our city, the Board became aware that our payroll amounts to at least \$1 Million per month that our finances could not provide. We repeatedly asked the Board to express to the Governor that the City desperately needed a low interest Bridge Loan with payback terms, to carry us to January 2017. It is said that the City of Sweetwater was helped – Why not Opa-locka?

To date, all the city has gotten is the flexing of power, a lot of meetings, a lot of conference calls, a lot of requests, a lot of public comments on our “*bad*” situation, insulting remarks – **but no real results!**

On a side note – unlike any other elected official, I am the Mayor representing this city in all aspects. However, the Mayor’s vehicle seem to have become a center of the Board’s concern. Even though the car is paid for and is maintained by the Mayor with no major effect on the city’s budget, but it is still a major concern – Why?? Furthermore, it was voiced that when the Mayor came up to Tallahassee to meet with you, the city’s car was driven by her husband or her son. I would think that if the city’s car was an issue, we would have discussed it face to face at that meeting. The truth is, the Mayor was transported to Tallahassee in her husband’s personal vehicle. However, traveling in or out of town in the city’s car would have been allowable, since the Mayor was on official city business.

Needless to say, as Mayor of the City of Opa-locka, I am highly disappointed in the Board's **non-action** in coming up with viable solutions in a more speedily and professional manner. Sadly, the mission of "**help**" has now become the mission to "**destroy**" through a hidden agenda. My residents are asking me "*Madam Mayor, why are you sitting there and allowing the Board to insult us?*" I have no answer for that question because I feel like them, there is no reason for this behavior.

*"Come now, let us reason together, saith the Lord".
Isaiah 1:18*

Ms. Miguel, you've expressed to me and to the public that "*drastic measures must be taken*" - then I ask and pray that you take that drastic measure to bridge us financially. Then and only then can "*all hands be on deck*" for the needs of many, and for the good of the whole.

In chosen service,

Lady Myra L. Taylor
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