

February 27, 2013

Honorable Lance Affrick
(Clerk)
Attn. Jones v. Gusman
500 Poydras
New Orleans, LA 70130

Dear Honorable Lance Affrick:

I care about human dignity and human rights. For this reason, I have been paying attention to the situation with OPP, the lawsuit, and the consent decree.

I have ministered to dozens of men and women who have been incarcerated at Orleans Parish Prison and have been active in trying to create reform and descent standards in the prison.

I respectfully invite you to compel the sheriff and the city to comply with the consent decree, make sure there is independent monitoring of conditions in the jail, and ask for community input and monitoring throughout the consent decree process as there was in the NOPD consent decree. I hope that the issues of medical care, mental health treatment, cleanliness, fire safety, violence, immigration holds, classifications of prisoners, language access and appropriate translation services, food quality, treatment of inmates who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgendered, and sexual abuse inside the facility are addressed.

Thank you for your time and consideration to this matter of great urgency.

Sincerely,

S. Alison McCary, CSJ
Sister Alison McCary, CSJ

Sister Alison McCary, CSJ
1515 W. Ogden Ave.
LaGrange Park, IL 60526

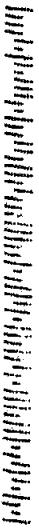
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Honorable Judge Lance Affrick
(Clerk)

500 Poydras

New Orleans, LA 70130



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U.S. DISTRICT COURT
Eastern District of Louisiana
Deputy Clerk

Mr. Derrick Woodberry
#355771 Eagle-1
Louisiana State Prison
Angola, La. 70712

February 26, 2013

Clerk of the United States District Court
Attn: Jones v. Gusman
500 Poydras St.
New Orleans, La. 70130

cc: Katie Schwartzmann-So. Poverty Law Ctr.
Corey Sanders-U.S.D.O.J.
Blake Arcuri-Usry, Weeks, Matthews

Re: Objections and Comments for Fairness Hearing
2:12-CV-00859, Section I

Dear Clerk:

Please lodge this as my objections and comments to the proposed settlement-Consent Decree in the above captioned matter.

Although I understand the need to expedite this matter in the interest of judicial economy, I object to the timing as premature. Whereas, despite the pending legal action (OPSCO) the "defendants" have failed to take minimal steps to correct "any" of the constitutional violations of the suit. Violence still runs rampant at (OPP), and its other facilities. (ex. Jeremy Cameron was stabbed multiple times on December 29, 2012, sustaining severe injuries. Many of these : safety, medical and suicide prevention are still treated with a lackadaisical attitude. Why? Due to the fact (OPSCO) staff has extremely "low moral", no accountability, and treat the job as a pastime place to socialize with homeboy/homegirl offenders, browse Facebook or a per se dating service for deputies.

Nothing, I mean nothing has changed. Policies have long been in place at (OPCSO). However, enforcement is the deficiency. The top brass (e.g. Chief(s): Weaver, Lombard, Bordelon, etc.) Are

1 of 4

the root source of the problems at OPCSO. These officer's have (30-40) years of service. They know how to manipulate the system, and necessary paperwork to evade Monitors of the agency. These officer's do not exemplify the attitude of great leadership starts upward and leads down. Ultimately, these officers don't give a damn. No liability is at stake, their retirements are secured and any awards fall on the citizens (e.g. cost of this litigation).

Moreover, the Consent Decree fails to address thoroughly, and with consummate force and effect of any of the following:

1. Accountability for officers performance deficiencies.
2. Due process for disciplinary hearings (i.e recording of hearings in it's entirety assistance of counsel/counsel substitute), currently inmates or subjected to impulsive placement in Adm/Disciplinary Segregation.
3. The use of the "tank" (holding cell), still exist for inmates with safety concerns
4. Classification procedures are a joke...and merely perfunctory, not uniformal and adhered to by watch commander's after (IPC) completes it's initial
5. All tiers need a time clock at the end of the tiers,(similiar to those used at Angola to quell the violatile atmosphere. These clocks monitor in real time If not, the officer's will continue to employ the "skate" tactic of centralizing The logbooks location on one tier for entries, while they cover multiple tiers on days the facility is understaffed.
6. Medical request are still at least a month for processing, and psychothropic meds continue to go unissued timely.
7. Prisoner mail is still not delivered or picked up timely; affecting inmates Access to the courts, and attorneys.
8. No system exist for the secure storing of inmates property or compensation

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for loss or confiscation.

9. Food portions and dispensing is still controlled by inmates without supervision.

10. Sanitation "only" exist on policies, not really being done. The tiers are cluttered with debris, mold, rust, rodents, etc.

Sadly put, too many blacks run (OPCSO). It needs diversification at all levels. I have been a pretrial detainee no fewer than (5) times since (2010). I am always retaliated upon for filing grievances, communicating with attorney(s) for the plaintiff's and to prevent me for obtaining info relevant to the continued deficiencies. As such, I am returned to (LOUISIANA STATE PRISON) , despite the court's order of remand for the pending charges against me. (See folder no.s 2295764,2323137,2337678,2347296)

Unless strict enforcement ensues, this Consent Decree must/will fail. Federal officer's need to be posted inside the jails. Please don't subject us to further injustice.

OPSCO and it's jails affect the entire New Orleans Community. IT IS A BREEDING GROUND for the violence that spills over into the streets of New Orleans upon release through RETALITORY KILLINGS!!!!!! If you fail to take stricter steps nowthe blood of innocent kids, tourist and ordinary citizens as bystander's will be on your hands!

Simply because the 17th ward had a beef with the 9th ward, or the 3rd ward has beef with the 10th ward, or the " Byrd Gang" members beat up (1) "Suwu" bloodgang member because he rolled in on the wrong tier due to poor classification procedures or Watch Commanders like Lt. Ruiz sanctioned the hit , or Watch Commander Sgt D. Washington simply didn't give a damn about the inmates pleas for help not to be housed on that tier.

That's the cruel reality of (OPP) that's going unnoticed until the city's latest murder is broadcast via news reports.

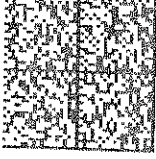
Please take action now!

Sincerely,

Derrick Woodberry
Derrick Woodberry

David Woodberry
#355771 Engle
Louisiana State Prison
Angola, LA 70712

Clerk of the United States Dist. Court
ATTN: Jones v. Gussman
500 Poydras St.
New Orleans, LA 70130



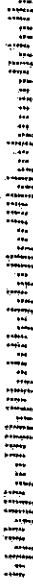
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Legal Mail

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March 3, 2013

Honorable Lance Africk
U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana
500 Poydras Street,
New Orleans, LA 70130

Re: Jones v. Gusman
USDC 12-859, Sec. I

My wife and I are the parents of Michael Hitzman, who died of suicide in Orleans Parish Prison on April 16, 2010. I was a resident of New Orleans but now live in Covington, Louisiana. My wife and I are currently retired. We worked in the medical field in and around New Orleans for 45 years.

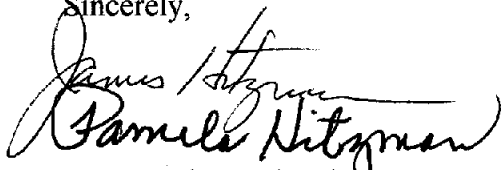
My son died in OPP in the holding and processing area before he was actually booked. He was only there for approximately two hours before his suicide. During his intake and processing he told OPP staff members of his suicidal thoughts and his ingesting of a large amount of narcotics prior to being picked up by the bail bondsman. Unfortunately, the failure of OPP staff to address Michael's dire medical needs or to monitor his condition, led to his demise, leaving a wife, two children and many family and friends feeling the ripple effect of this terrible loss for generations to come. The pain of losing a son is indescribable.

My son is gone and there is nothing that can bring him back, but the future can change. Mr. Gusman has been unable to make the required changes. He has been given the opportunity since the Department of Justice issued its first report on the jail in 2009, but has not achieved the required improvements. There appears to be a serious lack of care, training, process improvement and proper supervision at the jail.

As you are aware, the Justice Department has made many findings and recommendations concerning the improvements necessary to bring the facility and staff up to recognized standards with no noticeable improvement.

My wife and I feel that the Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office is not capable of making the upgrades recommended by the Justice Department without the implementation of this Consent Decree. We are respectfully asking you that you press the City and the Sheriff into adhering to the Consent Decree.

Sincerely,



James and Pamela Hitzman



Mr. James Hitzman
803 Woodsprings Ct.
Covington, LA 70433

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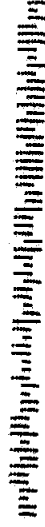


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U.S. MARSHALS
Honorable Lance ~~Al~~
U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana
500 Poydras Street
New Orleans, Louisiana
70130

U.S. MARSHALS

70130991705



Lou Furman

*7719 Cohn Street
New Orleans, LA 70118*

4 March 2013

Honorable Lance Affrick
(Clerk)
Attn. Jones v. Gusman
500 Poydras Street
New Orleans, LA 70130

Dear Mr. Affrick:


I am Lou Furman. I work with a small nonprofit organization in New Orleans whose clients are primarily those who are in the lower social-economic level of our community. I know a number of people who have been in Orleans Parish Prison and have heard more than a few horror stories. Indeed, you do not need to know anyone who has been in the prison to be familiar with some of the inhumane acts that occur; they can be found in our local and national newspapers.

I love my city. However, I am tired of the rest of the country seeing us as a backward, uneducated, and violent community. The consent decree would go a long way to letting people in our city and nationally know that we care about the human beings who are in our custody; that we protect them; that we give them the medical care necessary; and that we strive to rehabilitate them. What we do now is the opposite. We destroy lives and turn a number of citizens with minor offenses into criminals.

Our citizens do not respect our criminal justice system. We are attempting to correct that with the consent decree against the New Orleans Police Department. If we can mirror that effort with the prison, it may be possible that citizens will come to see the justice system as a support for creating a safe and caring community.

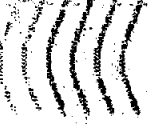
I ask that you search your conscience and have OPP enter into the Consent Decree.

Most respectfully,



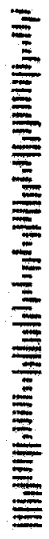
Lou Furman

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7719 Cohn
NOX A 70118



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Honorable Lance Appick
Attn: Jones V Susman
500 Poydras Street
New Orleans LA 70130

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BREAK

March 4, 2013

Honorable Lance Affrick
(Clerk)
Attn. Jones v. Gusman
500 Poydras
New Orleans, LA 70130

Dear Honorable Judge Affrick,

My name is Milan Nicole and I am a Founding Member and Youth Organizer Staff Member at *BreakOUT!* We, as an organization, fight against the criminalization of LGBTQ youth in New Orleans, LA. I write to you on behalf of *BreakOUT!* in support of the Orleans Parish Prison (OPP) Consent Decree.

As a transgender woman who lives in New Orleans myself and has experienced harassment by the NOPD, I wanted to say that "Walking While Transgender Is Not a Crime" and it's not probable cause for a stop. However, because the police often targets and harasses young poor Black transgender females simply walking down the street, we are often disproportionately represented in OPP.

Young Black transwomen who are arrested after their encounter with the NOPD are then transported to Central Lock-Up where they experience more harassment and disrespect- not only from the inmates but from the Sheriff's Deputies themselves. Being a transgender woman housed in OPP means that you are liable to experience high physical violence and sexual assaults. Can you imagine being a woman housed in an all-male unit? Can you only imagine what goes on in that unit once that gate closes behind that female?

For example, I know of a few transgender women who have experienced high violence and being sexually assaulted. One individual I know was tied to the bars and set on fire while she was being housed in HOD because she was transgender and had altercation with a fellow inmate. Another transgender woman I know was charged with simple escape after yelling for 20 to 30 minutes for a deputy to come to her aid while she was being sexually assaulted. The third transgender woman who I know is also a *BreakOUT!* member and had her jaw broken while she was in OPP by an inmate after refusing him sexual favors.

The reason I feel that OPP most definitely needs the Consent Decree regardless of the cost is because it is their responsibility to keep those inmates that are housed in OPP safe and if they are not going to do that then they should be held responsible for all those lives that are in their hands. But not only do I feel that OPP needs the consent decree, I also think that NOPD does as well because they go hand-in-hand. In order for the jailhouse or the Sheriff's department to make any money, they need NOPD's help. Without the officers on the street there would be no arrests. No

arrests means no inmates and with no inmates, the city can't make any money. Please hold the Sheriff accountable to the residents of New Orleans and LGBTQ youth in our City by supporting the OPP Consent Decree.

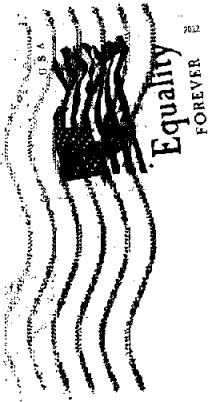
Sincerely,

Milan Nicole

Milan Nicole on behalf of *BreakOUT!*

BREK
1001 S. Broad St. #217
New Orleans, LA 70125

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HONORABLE JUDGE AFFRICK
(CLERK)
ATTN: JONES V. GUSMAN
500 Poydras St.
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70130

SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

SCLC

Reverend Norwood Thompson, Jr. President New Orleans SCLC Chapter

1808 Gen. Ogden Street New Orleans, LA 70118 Phone# 504-494-9774

Monday, March 04, 2013

Honorable Lance Africk
U.S. Eastern District Court of Louisiana
500 Poydras Street
New Orleans, LA 70130

Re: Jones v. Gusman
USDC 12-859, Sec.1

Dear Judge Africk,

I'm writing to you in my capacity as President of the New Orleans Chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) about the proposed Consent Decree between the United States Department of Justice and the Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office regarding the Orleans Parish Jail.

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference was founded in the City of New Orleans, Louisiana on February 14, 1957. The organization has dedicated itself to the struggle for human rights, based upon the principle of non-violent mass action as the cornerstone of strategy...It is a nationwide organization made up of chapters and affiliates with programs that affect the lives of all Americans. The SCLC's sphere of influence and interest has become international in scope because the Human rights Movement transcends national boundaries.

From the beginning, the SCLC has been involved in efforts to reform the Orleans Parish Jail. Our organization has been at the forefront of efforts to insist upon equal and fair treatment for all citizens. Unfortunately, our community has experienced many devastating events and conflicts as a result of profound problems with the jail. This has left us in a situation where there is a long history of abuse, violence, and even death at the jail and no trust within the community that loved ones who are presumed innocent of any crime are being treated in a humane manner.

I'm writing to support the Consent Decree. Our organization has been active for years in requesting intervention by the federal government to address the serious problems at the Orleans Parish Jail and calling for justice for our many citizens who have been mistreated. We are thankful that the U.S. Department of justice has undertaken such serious efforts to support the constitutional and civil rights of our community. We can only hope that the City will see the necessity of joining with the Department of Justice to end the abhorrent and unconstitutional practices within the jail, and we welcome the federal court's intervention and oversight in helping to institute meaningful and hopefully long-lasting reforms.

Thank you for your assistance in helping to guide our City to a better place.

Sincerely,

REV. Norwood Thompson, Jr.
Reverend Norwood Thompson, Jr.

Greater New Orleans/SCLC
1808 Gen. Ogden St.
New Orleans, LA 70118



NEW ORLEANS, LA 700

05 MAR 2013 PM 4 1



HONORABLE Lance Hieck
U.S. Eastern Dist. Court of Louisiana
500 Poydras St.
New Orleans LA 70130

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