



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20035

MAY 3 1991

REGISTERED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Ray Boswell  
President  
Lauderdale County Board of Supervisors  
410 21st Avenue  
Eleventh Floor  
Meridian, MS 39301

Re: Investigation of the Lauderdale County Jail  
in Meridian, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Boswell:

I am writing to inform you of our intention to investigate conditions at the Lauderdale County Jail ("LCJ") in Meridian, Mississippi. The investigation is pursuant to the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act, 42 U.S.C. §1997-1997j (1982).

The purpose of the investigation will be to determine whether LCJ violates the constitutional rights of its inmates. The investigation will focus on, among other things, allegations concerning (1) abuse of inmates by guards, (2) conditions of confinement, (3) various structural deficiencies, and (4) medical and mental health services. Initiating this investigation in no way evidences any prejudgment that LCJ violates its inmates' constitutional rights. If any violations are found, however, we will confer with you and your staff concerning appropriate corrective actions.

As a means of commencing this investigation, we wish to arrange for our attorneys, consultants, and perhaps agents of the

CRIPA Investigation

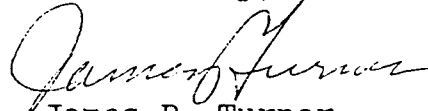


JC-MS-003-001

Federal Bureau of Investigation to visit and tour LCJ. We shall be in touch with your staff to work out the specifics of our initial investigation.

Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



James P. Turner  
Acting Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

cc: Mr. Gannis Hill  
Lauderdale County Sheriff

Robert Compton, Esquire  
Lauderdale County Attorney

George L. Phillips, Esquire  
United States Attorney  
Southern District  
State of Mississippi