



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20035

The Honorable James L. Eason
Mayor, City of Hampton
Office of the Mayor
22 Lincoln Street
Hampton, Virginia 23669

February 8, 1995

Dear Mayor Eason:

I am writing to inform you of our intention to investigate conditions at the Hampton City Jail (HCJ) in Hampton, Virginia. This investigation is authorized and will be conducted pursuant to the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act, 42 U.S.C. Section 1997 et seq.

The purpose of this investigation is to determine whether there exist any violations of the federal constitutional rights of inmates housed at this facility. The investigation will focus on, but not be limited to, allegations that inmates confined at HCJ are being subjected to unsafe and life-threatening living conditions as a result of overcrowding, inadequate staffing, lack of protection from harm, inadequate medical care and access to courts, lack of recreation, inadequate physical plant, inadequate food service and inadequate fire safety.

We would like to initiate this investigation as soon as possible. In that regard, staff attorneys from my office will contact your staff within the next week to arrange a meeting between attorneys and representatives of your office, followed by a tour of the Hampton City Jail by our consultants and personnel from the United States Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division. The attorney assigned to this matter is Shanetta Brown ((202) 514-0195).

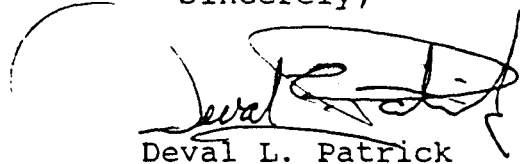
CRIPA Investigation



JC-VA-003-001

I appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deval L. Patrick", is written over a large, faint circular stamp or watermark.

Deval L. Patrick
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

cc: Mr. Robert J. O'Neill, Jr.
Hampton City Manager

A. Paul Burton, Esquire
Hampton City Attorney

Mr. B. J. Roberts, Sheriff
Hampton City Jail

Helen F. Fahey, Esquire
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Virginia