



## Travis County Green Party

Travis County Green Party  
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December 12, 2008

Honorable Rosemary Lehmborg  
Travis County District Attorney  
Office of the District Attorney  
509 West 11th Street Suite # 1.100  
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear District Attorney Lehmborg,

This communication represents referral by the Travis County Green Party (TCGP) to your office of our request for investigation and appropriate action, including possible prosecution under governing federal and state civil and criminal statutes of the issues raised in this letter and our attachments.

Following is a brief chronology:

In the Summer/Fall 2007 the Travis County Green Party (TCGP) responded to the concerns raised by The Gray Panthers of Austin (GP) and Austinites Lobbying for Municipal Accountability (ALMA) on the possible misuse of Federal housing funds by the City of Austin. At that time, in spite of their repeated questions to public officials, and appeals for investigation, GP and ALMA still had received no response or even acknowledgment to their inquiries.

In Summer 2007, TCGP followed up with an inquiry to the Mayor of Austin, Will Wynn to no avail. After having had no response to their inquiries, including ones sent to certain City Council Members and to HousingWorks, ALMA requested an investigation to the US Attorney on September 14, 2007. The Travis County Green Party followed up with a similar appeal to the US Attorney on October 23, 2007 (To date, we have not received a response from the office of the US attorney regarding our referral for investigation of our questions relating to the City of Austin's expenditure of Federal Housing funds.).

On a related matter, this past July - September 2008, Ms. Allissa Chambers, a former client of one of the City's affordable housing loans, requested as a citizen, that the City of Austin refer for outside investigation to the US attorney information resulting from her travails with one of the City's federally-funded housing programs\*, which included a complaint of forgery. Ms. Chambers' cited the following primary reasons for requesting an investigation:

- Forgery: Ms. Chambers' signature was allegedly forged on at least one official municipal document; and
- Unaccounted-for Federal housing grant money: funds reserved in a municipally-managed escrow account and earmarked for Ms. Chambers' home were never applied to her home, although municipal fiscal records appear to imply otherwise.

\* For a more detailed description of Ms. Chambers' experience, you may refer to the ALMA website [www.austinaccountabilityproject.com](http://www.austinaccountabilityproject.com) click on "Allissa Chambers' Story"

Ms. Chambers explains that although there has been some acknowledgment by the new City Manager and Council Member, CM Marc Ott and CM Laura Morrison, there has been no report of the action requested, which was referral to the US attorney's office. Ms. Chambers is alleging criminal activity and her appeal raises additional concerns with regard to financial, fiscal and fiduciary duty and patterns of practice. A recent bond election also resulted in the granting of approximately \$55 million in bond money to the City of Austin for the purposes of improving affordable housing initiatives (Mr. Smith, who may be contacted at 512.445.4129, has emphasized that his resignation from the HousingWorks Board and the position of HousingWorks treasurer, is in large part prompted by its lack of action on the criminal issues and related questions listed in Addendum B.).

Additionally, Mr. Clint Smith of the Gray Panthers and HousingWorks is prepared to provide information as a key witness and has in fact already resigned from the HousingWorks Board of Directors, and the position of treasurer, as an expression of his serious reservations about the improprieties involved – specifically the failure of HousingWorks to pursue effective accountability with the City of Austin on the concerns raised by Ms. Chambers.\*

The Green Party believes that tax dollars constitute a sacred trust between the people and their government – that the government will responsibly use those dollars to serve the citizens with integrity. In the interest of fair and impartial administration of justice for all of us, and these being matters (i.e. public integrity) that fall under the jurisdiction of the Travis County District Attorney's Office, the Travis County Green Party would like to request that

your office initiate an investigation and prosecution, if warranted, in regards to the information provided by Ms. Chambers and all associated issues and questions. Our referral as the Travis County Green Party represents our concerns for the Public with regard to unresponsiveness of public servants who may be failing to comply with the law, rules and regulations that mandate their response in allegations of criminal activity – especially for example Title 18 US code which requires action on such matters.

Respectfully Yours,

William J. Holloway, III  
Co-chair  
Travis County Green Party

cc. Allissa Chambers, Clint Smith

\* Background info reflects extent of Smith's community involvement. Please see the addendums.

**Addendum A:** Letter from Ms. Chambers to Travis County Green Party – 30 of October, 2008

**Addendum B:** Recent Requests for investigation and/or referral 2007/'08 Letters to the U.S. Attorney:

- a. 2007/'08 Letters to the U.S. Attorney
  - i. September 14, 2007, From Austinites Lobbying for Municipal Accountability (ALMA)
  - ii. October 23, 2007, From Travis County Green Party (TCGP)
  - iii. March 19, 2008, From Austinites Lobbying for Municipal Accountability (ALMA)
- b. Requests to the City of Austin for referral of investigation by the DoJ:
  - i. August 22, 2008, From Allissa Chambers
  - ii. August 25, 2008 From Clint Smith
  - iii. September 23, 2008, From Allissa Chambers

**Addendum C:** Correspondence from Clint Smith and /or Gray Panthers to:

- Travis County Judge Sam Biscoe (September 11, 2008 & June 22, 2007);
- City of Austin Auditor Steve Morgan (September 10, 2008);
- City Manager Marc Ott (August 25 - September 10, 2008);
- Council Member Laura Morrison (August 25 - September 10, 2008)

**Attachments:** Refer to Ms. Chambers' October 30, 2008 letter to TCGP for description of other attachments