



**UNITED STATES  
COMMISSION ON  
CIVIL RIGHTS**

624 Ninth Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20425

June 22, 2009

Ms. Loretta King  
Acting Assistant Attorney General  
Office of the Assistant Attorney General, Main  
Civil Rights Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Ms. King:

On June 16, 2009 your office was sent a letter signed by four of our colleagues at the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. (Attached.) We are writing today to lend our support for that letter. The letter was sent in relation to the Civil Rights Division's dismissal of a lawsuit against individuals who were caught on video engaging in voter suppression as members of the New Black Panther Party.

We are gravely concerned about the Civil Rights Division's actions in this case and feel strongly that the dismissal of this case weakens the agency's moral obligation to prevent voting rights violations, including acts of voter intimidation or vote suppression. We cannot understand the rationale for this case's dismissal and fear that it will confuse the public on how the Department of Justice will respond to claims of voter intimidation or voter suppression in the future.

We join with our colleagues in requesting further information on the Division's rationale for dismissing this case and the evidentiary and legal standards utilized in dismissing other charges of alleged voter intimidation.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Abigail Thernstrom in black ink.

Abigail Thernstrom  
Vice Chairman

Handwritten signature of Ashley L. Taylor, Jr. in black ink.

Ashley L. Taylor, Jr.  
Commissioner

Cc: Christopher Coates, Chief, Voting Rights Section  
Arlan Melendez, Commissioner  
Michael Yaki, Commissioner  
Representative Lamar Smith (TX)

Attachment: June 16, 2009 Letter to Ms. Loretta King