



U.S. Department of Justice  
Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

February 25, 2010

The Honorable Lamar S. Smith  
Ranking Minority Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Smith:

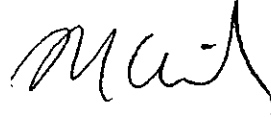
This responds to your letter, dated February 3, 2010, to Associate Attorney General Thomas J. Perrelli regarding the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania voter intimidation case, *United States v. New Black Panther Party for Self Defense*, Civil Action No. 2:09-cv-0065 (E.D. Pa.). In that case, the Department obtained an injunction against the only defendant known to have held a weapon in front of a Philadelphia polling place during voting hours in November 2008. The court's order will be fully enforced. Protecting the right to vote is one of the Department's top priorities, and we will continue to vigorously enforce the voting rights laws.

With respect to your specific questions about meetings Mr. Perrelli attended at the White House, the Associate Attorney General has not discussed the status of this litigation, the merits of specific litigation steps, the ultimate resolution of the case, or any other aspect of the litigation with anyone in the Executive Office of the White House. Your letter apparently draws from an Internet posting that sought to connect public records of certain appointments Mr. Perrelli had at the White House with dates of filings and other events in the Philadelphia case, suggesting a connection between the two and making unsupported allegations of inappropriate conduct. There is, however, no such connection, and there was no inappropriate conduct. The speculation that there is a relationship between these unrelated facts is baseless.

The Honorable Lamar S. Smith  
Page Two

Please do not hesitate to contact this office if we may be of further assistance regarding this, or any other matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ronald Weich', written in a cursive style.

Ronald Weich  
Assistant Attorney General

cc: The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.  
Chairman