

October 31, 2024

Mr. President and Madam Vice President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500



Dear Mr. President Joseph Biden and Madam Vice President Kamala Harris,

I, Brian K. Rice, watched the September 26, 2024, White House remarks presented by President Biden, V.P. Harris, and Birmingham, AL, Mayor Randall Woodfin on gun violence, and I was extremely concerned knowing of the economic and violent conditions we live under here in Birmingham. I have filed hundreds of pages of complaints with the DOJ, FBI, and other federal agencies seeking corrective actions regarding Woodfin intentionally harming Black areas in Birmingham through former President Donald Trump's number one economic development program. Black communities are facing severe inequity / misuse of office under Woodfin involving misrepresentations of federal programs under both **Trump** and **Biden** administrations.

Presidential Candidate V.P. Harris, your '[Opportunity Economy](#)' message released on 10/14/24 to Black men states, "Donald Trump spent four years making Black men's lives harder." It wasn't former **President Donald Trump or Alabama Governor Kay Ivey** who grossly misrepresented the assets in super majority Black communities and business districts in Birmingham regarding President Trump's number one economic development tool, called Federal Opportunity Zones which was passed by only Republican votes. Woodfin and his former economic development director, Josh Carpenter (a former President Barack Obama intern), grossly misrepresented the assets in our Black communities so already developing areas could benefit from 2018 – 2028. We have seen well over \$600 million in investments go to these areas related to this federal program while \$0.00 has come to our misrepresented areas. When we asked what happened to our areas, Woodfin blamed Governor Ivey and Carpenter blamed a "clerical error," showing inconsistent statements. Eventually, I found the letter Woodfin wrote to Gov. Ivey showing misrepresentations of Downtown Ensley, which consists of the largest concentration of Black commercial property owners in the city and state. The Woodfin administration needs to be investigated for steering / rigging federal programs with known misrepresentations affecting nearly 1/3 of Birmingham's Black population. This act, bolstered by known misrepresentations, recreates "**redlining**" practices backed by a federal program. Our communities deserve a fair chance too. More concise details have been sent to the local U.S. Attorney Prim F. Escalona, FBI, and are also shown in *Brian K. Rice vs. Governor Ivey, et al.* I have done my best to stand for my economic rights. There has been no accountability for Woodfin involving hundreds of millions of dollars related to a federal program. The case is now in U.S. Court of Appeals. The central document of the federal lawsuit is Woodfin's alleged false report sent to Gov. Ivey that showed gross misrepresentations for Downtown Ensley, Wylam, Pratt, Fairview, Bush Hills, and other super majority Black business districts and neighborhoods here.

When our economies are intentionally destroyed, it creates a breeding ground for whatever comes out of despair and imbalance. Birmingham under Woodfin far exceeds the most homicides under any leadership. I invite federal investigators to the west side of Birmingham to view the areas that were intentionally left out of this needed federal program.

Me and my neighbors hear the **barrage of gunfire** every 1 to 3 days, and sometimes multiple times per day or night. We are around a lot of hurt, damaged, and traumatized people. The wealth disparities are widening to extreme levels, and our underserved communities are the epicenters of repeated examples of inequality, inequity, gross negligence, and economic collapse in America. I honestly don't advise anyone to live under these conditions unless they are committed to its progress. You can see the street muggings and street shootouts from my ring cameras and you also can see my concern relating to alleged white-collar crimes that are creating economic challenges in our most challenging communities in the attached video, called 'Economic Crimes vs Street Crimes' in Birmingham, AL: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=2ktBXnhKxW8>

Unfortunately, there are other federal program concerns here under the Woodfin administration related to Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. ARPA funds were passed with only Democrat votes and signed off by President Biden and locally Woodfin has been given a pass to spend as he chooses. It appears as long as the local government has a pass to operate without law, more and more misrepresentations related to public dollars and properties continue to take place. Instead of federal funds being used in our truly needed areas, they are used to support abuse and misuse of office. Please view actual city hall footage under the Woodfin administration involving millions of federal dollars: https://youtu.be/BRpFXTACH_I.

On 6/3/24, I submitted a new letter to the local U.S. Attorney Prim F. Escalona, DOJ and FBI regarding self-dealing and intentional destruction of property values in Black business districts here. You will see a city-owned property appraising for \$245,000 being sold to benefit City of Birmingham finance department employees for \$1000 next door to my \$0.00 appraised buildings. There appear to be no respected oaths of office or economic rights here. Please have your team view the DOJ/ FBI letter. A black / white version of the full DOJ/ FBI letter is also shown as new evidence in Doc. 81 starting at page 25 in *Rice vs. Ivey et al.* federal lawsuit.

V.P. Harris, portions of your opportunity economy message to Black men can be implemented now to protect people like me who face the heavy hands of the government, banks, and the appraisal industry. Your message states: "She knows that Black men have long felt that too often their voice in our political process **has gone unheard** and that there is so much untapped ambition and leadership within the Black male community." "Black men and boys deserve a president who will provide the opportunity to **unleash this talent and potential by removing historic barriers to wealth creation**, education, employment, earnings, health, and improving the criminal justice system." "Vice President Harris will also work with the private sector to **expand access to affordable banking options** that will allow Black men and others who are **locked out of the banking system**—and the wealth building that comes with it—because of high fees to save, invest, and build credit. **She will also go after banks**"

No other American knows what it is like to receive a **\$0.00 appraisal** on multiple commercial properties with tenants in them, which removes 100% of my equity, valuing my property less than a **penny**. I've filed complaints with the Alabama Real Estate Appraisal Board, Federal Reserve Board of Governors, Federal Appraisal Subcommittee and other agencies only to be disregarded just as my community is disregarded. No other American knows what it is like to then have their **right to protest taxation removed** by the County on \$0.00 appraised properties. I invite federal investigators to Downtown Ensley to investigate the redlining of Black owned commercial spaces. I ask the investigators to count the Black owned properties and count the loan originations over the last 40 or more years for us to properly develop our commercial properties. Your team will learn that we own or have owned 50 or more buildings, and you may find 1 or 2 loans from a local bank related to commercial development. That is not a coincidence. It doesn't matter if we are majority Black men or Black women; we are faced with another America that affects our families and our communities.

When property owners cannot restore commercial spaces, then businesses cannot occupy them, then new jobs cannot be created to support our families and communities. This is how you destroy Black citizens investing in underserved black communities. Destroy our income, property values, and our hope that the American system will equally protect us as the U.S. Constitution says. I documented as much as I could in my book, '[Inclusive Systemic Economic Injustice.](#)'

When the system destroys our hope in one instance, that is one thing; when the system destroys hope for our entire lives and the lives of our neighbors and those who came before us, that is another. We need an American government to work for us too.

We who live and invest in America's violent hotbeds need public leaders who will uphold fiduciary duties and their oaths of office. Please have the appropriate federal agency and staff review my letters filed with various agencies of the DOJ seeking corrective action for what the local Democratic leadership has done here, as the Woodfin Administration will take no corrective actions. With economic rights protected, our communities can thrive. When our fundamental freedoms and economic rights are not protected, our communities will forever be the breeding grounds for destructive outcomes. HELP!!!

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