

April 12, 2016

Re: United States v. City of Ferguson case No. 4:16CV180 CDP

To the Honorable Judge Catherine Perry

My name is Kelly Schlereth. I have been a Ferguson resident for 20+ years. I want to express my concerns about the United States v. City of Ferguson case No. 4:16CV180 CDP.

There are many things wrong with this situation. I believe, first, that the Federal government is over stepping its authority by trying to regulate our small municipality. The things that the federal government are trying to control are clearly the responsibility of the smaller government. I also believe that this entire situation is a farce and vindictive reaction by the Department of Justice (DOJ) as a result of their inability to find fault with Officer Wilson.

The DOJ has consistently been biased in their investigation into the practices of the Ferguson police department. They have refused to speak to anyone with a positive experience with our PD, and have taken statements from nonresidents. People have traveled from all over the country, paid by outsiders, to make statements about people they have likely never met.

The DOJ has insisted on transparency from out officials and officers, yet they refuse to release their findings to the residents of Ferguson. They hold meetings open to the public that have been hijacked by protestors and turned into circus acts. What information was meant to be shared was over shadowed by protestors' rants or the media twisting information into an indecipherable mess.

The DOJ is making costly demands to our city officials that are likely to bankrupt our city. The court amnesty and fine reductions, combined with the restrictions of the percentage of budget from that revenue, our city government is already looking at a huge deficit. The tax proposals on the ballots were meant to make up for those deficits. With the defeat of the property tax proposal, we will lose officers and other city staff, making it even more difficult to follow through with the DOJ demands. The DOJ has offered very minimal support, and has instituted deadlines that are impossible to meet.

The whole thing feels like a witch hunt, and our officers are unable to respond appropriately to the amount of crime that has begun taking over our city.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns. I hope you will consider the concerns of all of the residents when you consider your ruling in this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Kelly Schlereth