



October 6, 2009

INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION
OF OFFICIAL
HUMAN RIGHTS
AGENCIES

Honorable Thomas E. Perez
Assistant United States Attorney General
Civil Rights Division
United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Office of the Assistant Attorney General, Main
Washington, DC 20530

REPLY TO:

IAOHRA
C/O Pinellas County OHR
400 S. Ft. Harrison Ave. 5th Floor
Clearwater, Florida 33756

RE: Congratulations

Dear Mr. Perez;

Leon W. Russell
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I write this letter on behalf of the 106 agency members of the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies (IAOHRA). We would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to you on the occasion of your confirmation by the United States Senate as the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights.

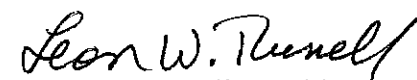
The membership of IAOHRA is agencies which have been created by State and local statutes and ordinances specifically to enforce the nations Civil Rights laws at the local level. We look forward to working with you and the leadership in the Civil Rights Division as you seek to protect and enforce the civil rights protections guaranteed to all the citizens of this great nation.

We know that you will be a strong voice for the enforcement community and we know that you will also be a strong partner for those of us who work in communities all across this country.

We were pleased to have acting Assistant Attorney General Loretta King and the heads of the various units of the Division to meet with us during our recent Board meeting on September 1. We hope to be able to set down with you at your earliest convenience to discuss the ways that you believe that you will be able to work with us as we work to ensure Fair Housing and Fair Employment rights for all citizens. Likewise, we want to work with you on issues involving intergroup tension and human relations across the board. We are excited about your confirmation and look forward to your tenure with the Department of Justice.

Once again, congratulations, and best wishes.

Yours in the struggle,


Leon W. Russell, President

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