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March 24, 1989

Officer Gerald Jones
c/o Jackson Police Academy
3000 St. Charles Street
Jackson, Mississippi 39209

Dear Officer Jones:

This firm has been retained to represent Mr. Frank Melton. In this regard it has come to our attention that you allegedly engaged in a recent conversation with one Joseph Staffney. During that alleged encounter Mr. Staffney was an inmate at the Jackson City Jail and was essentially offered "help" with his legal problems if he would testify that Mr. Melton is engaged in the illegal sale and/or distribution of drugs in and about the City of Jackson, Mississippi.

The seriousness of this allegation is, on its face, quite clear. However, I will specifically enumerate my concerns regarding this: *The City's Smart Alternative*

- (1) It is a matter of public record that Mr. Melton has been in the forefront of attempts to quell the rising problems presented by Jackson youth. As such, he has been instrumental in working closely with both Jackson's children as well as Jackson's Police force.

On several occasions he has personally convinced individuals, known to be wanted by the police, to turn themselves over to the authorities; he has returned stolen police property to the department; and most importantly he has, at no small risk to himself and his well-being, sought to open channels of communication between the "gangs" and the police, the courts and other authorities of this city.

Therefore, the notion of a Jackson police officer making such an "offer" is ludicrous at best and counter-productive at worst.

- (2) The credibility and integrity of the entire police force are brought into serious question when inmates are offered such "help".

It is not inconceivable that faced with the prospect of receiving your "help" versus facing the wrath of the criminal-justice system, it is simply a matter of time until a prisoner is found who would be more than willing to say and/or do anything asked of him:

- (3) Perhaps most importantly, whereas your department has already conducted a full and complete investigation of the allegation accusing Mr. Melton of use and distribution of drugs and have found such allegations to be totally false and without any basis in fact whatsoever, it seems that such tactics as described above may expose both the city, its police force, as well as individual officers to potential liability.

Somehow Mr. Melton has managed to maintain an amazing tolerance for what seems to be a rather shallow attempt to protect one's "Turf". Put another way, Mr. Melton's endeavors to assist the Jackson Police Department have met with an unusual amount of resistance.

Nevertheless, please be advised that continued attempts to procure testimony from inmates linking Mr. Melton to drug related activity or any retaliation upon Mr. Staffney for bringing this allegation to our attention will be viewed as harassment and my client will have no alternative other than to exercise any and all legal remedies available.

If this is an issue which you feel merits further discussion, please feel free to contact me.

created on 5/22/08

Very truly yours,

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MVP/kt