

LAUREN LEE MARTEL
ATTORNEY AT LAW
POST OFFICE DRAWER 23101
HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA 29925

Aug 29, 2015

CEASE AND DESIST DEMAND LETTER

Anne Richards (Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, US Dept. of State)
2025 E Street NW
Washington DC 20520
VIA Regular US Mail, Certified Mail and Email

Dear Assistant Secretary Richards:

After the August 25, 2015 meeting, which was private, limited to a few people, and a limited to one hour, we are demanding that you immediately cease and desist any further implementation of the refugee resettlement program in South Carolina. You indicated the State Department would not send refugees to counties where the residents do not welcome the program or had serious concerns. A Court Reporter transcribed the meeting, so that record will speak for itself. A majority of Spartanburg residents I have met with absolutely resist this program the way it is represented and want it stopped immediately. Furthermore, the jurisdiction and authority that has been unilaterally asserted is not proper due process. The contract between the State Department and World Relief has never been disclosed to interested parties or via Public Notice. We asked for it numerous times. Apparently, Trey Gowdy's office does not have the proto-type you referred and many of his questions and concerns have not been addressed, we included copies of his questions in the transcript. We understand other elected officials have not been provided a copy of the "contract" or "agreement" and what terms bind which entities. Your answers to the questions that were asked during the meeting did not clarify these questions.

The Federal State Department of Refugee Resettlement cannot bind individual sovereigns or the State as a sovereign, in the manner attempted in this particular program, under these circumstances. We are telling you to stop setting up and implementing and embedding refugees in the community. As of today, no meaningful follow up has occurred, including forwarding to the interested parties the contract or "agreement" or proto- type, as it has been referred. You indicated you would forward it to us, after the meeting. This is unacceptable. You must cease and desist for lack of proper authorization. You must cease acting unilaterally outside of due process of law in South Carolina, particularly, Spartanburg and Greenville as of July 1, 2015. We seek to have any previous misuse of taxpayer money and resident safety for this program rescinded, particularly where proper vetting for SC residents security has been ignored. This is based on many of the same reasons the cease and desist is urgent. These actions and omissions have and are continuing to place South Carolina taxpayers and residents in a position to suffer damages. Presently the most urgent relief is Injunctive. However, this letter places you on notice of potential actual and future damages.

There were a number of concerns with the manner in which this program has been unilaterally implemented against the sovereignty of the State and Local County as well as individual SC residents. We are seeking further investigation into the protocol used to get to the point where 25 refugees are already in SC DSS custody. Please be advised, I

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represent Ms. Michelle Wiles, a resident of upstate South Carolina. We assert she is seeking Injunctive relief and has already suffered potential damages as a result of this unilateral premature action on part of State Department and World Relief and other local individuals and other entities. This program apparently includes DSS in South Carolina funded program by placing the "refugees" in the system. We are seeking more information on how that works as well. Until that information is produced, a CEASE AND DESIST on this Program is required.

We have serious concerns about the vetting process. FBI agents have testified before congress raising serious concerns about "resettlement programs" in the United States this year. It appears that the expert recommendations of the 9/11 commission report have not been used in the vetting standards. The answers given in the 8/25 meeting were inadequate under the totality of the circumstances and do not take into account the actual burden on the residents and negative effects financially, physically, safety-wise and also the complete breach of the SC residents constitutional rights of First Amendment, which is being willfully disregarded.

The overwhelming prejudice to South Carolina residents is far greater than any small benefit, if any, this program may argue. You admitted the "refugees" are vetted overseas for 18-24 months. If that is true, then they are not in crises over there. There is no immediacy of secretly bringing them to South Carolina. That is an emotional spin on something that should not be rushed. There are many other options compassionate people can choose. Choose is the operative word.

A Public Hearing must occur before September 15 and no further refugees should be sent. FBI approved oversight standard vetting must occur and proper due process of law between the Federal government, States rights, and individual rights, before this program should be re-evaluated in South Carolina. Many other issues that must be thoroughly investigated before any more refugees are placed anywhere in South Carolina.

The charitable arm, including the local lobbyists, and Southern Baptist leadership and others must be fully transparent. The apparent misrepresentation that is "evangelical" or true "charity" is not being completely open. Government cannot mandate charity. Your answers in the meeting (Transcript forthcoming) indicated that by taking Federal money for the program, the non-proselytizing and LGTB mandate is required, as well as other mandates. This is a material misrepresentation of fact asserted by lobbyists to promote this as "evangelicals" or that this program is scripturally based. The stateside oversight within the Department of Social Services has not been thoroughly investigated either, which may lead to other foreseeable problems.

By copy of this letter, we are serving Trey Gowdy, Mark Sanford, Tom Rice, Mick Mulvaney, Joe Wilson, James Clyburn, Jeff Duncan, Tim Scott, Lindsey Graham, Nikki Haley, all local county council, all applicable upstate SC State legislators, and the mayor of Spartanburg. We will copy a representative of World Relief as well.

We expect each person who has been involved in allowing this to be implemented either as a signatory to a binding contract or some other means to immediately seek a substantial bond on the refugees that are already here in SC since July 1 of 2015 against any actual and future damages this causes the SC taxpayer, particularly my client. We also expect that each do their proper role to make sure this program stops in South Carolina until it is more fully investigated. If funding to World Relief comes from sources that are in conflict with South Carolina's best interests that will be a factor as well. We understand vetting is done by DHS appointees that once worked for World Relief and may not use the same standards the FBI would practice in such a serious



situation. These are material facts that must be noticed to those making decisions and the Public have not been properly disclosed to South Carolina Taxpayers. The failure to have ready answers to these questions is a dereliction of duty to those forcing this program as of July 1, 2015.

We expect to be treated respectfully in this process and not have any negative ramifications for standing up for legal rights, due process of law and common sense concerning the serious problems with this program.

We are a loving, charitable people, as you graciously acknowledged at the meeting on Tuesday. This program is not acceptable according to any decent or legal standard. I assert again, I have not heard of anyone seeing or reading any contract or agreement with terms of consideration between state, non-profits and binding individuals in accordance with the law. Material additions have been unilaterally forced into a program operating without true Authority. Please respond in writing in five business days with your official position. I invite those copied on this letter to send respective official positions on the state of this program and the legal authority by which it operates, all funding sources and a full safety /vetting report on what has been done to protect South Carolina Residents, financially and otherwise. Please confirm that you have called for a Cease and Desist immediately.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "Lauren Martel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "L".

Lauren Martel

Attorney for Michelle Wiles, SC resident

CC: Governor Nikki Haley, Congressman Trey Gowdy, SC Delegation, and Spartanburg County Council, Alan Wilson

BYRD INVESTIGATIONS

Henry Dukes

1924 Barnwell St.
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 741-5001 Office
(803) 727-9648 Mobile
henry@byrdpi.com





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