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March 21, 2024

William A. Brewer III
c/o Malvina Palloj
Brewer Storefront, PLLC
1717 Main Street, Suite 5900
Dallas, Texas 75201

Sent Via Email: mpalloj@brewerattorneys.com
NO HARD COPY TO FOLLOW

Re: Complaint Regarding Texarkana Independent School District's Violation of the Voting Rights Act and the Use of Off-Cycle Elections

Dear Mr. Brewer:

Please be advised that the Texarkana Independent School District ("District" or "TISD") has requested this firm's assistance regarding the above referenced matter. Please forward any future communications to me at the above listed contact information.

The District has evaluated the claims made in your letter. Please note that the TISD Board of Trustees has consisted of five single-member districts and two at-large districts for at least the last three decades. Also please note that in 2021, TISD considered the results of the 2020 Federal Census and determined that their single-member districts were sufficiently out of population balance. They determined that redistricting was required in order to comply with the "one person, one vote" principle established by the United States Constitution.

On September 29, 2021, the Board of Trustees adopted redistricting criteria to assist the District and the public in developing a redistricting plan which complied with Federal and State laws. This adopted redistricting criteria was applied in the development of the District's new redistricting plan. It is important to note that according to 2020 Census figures, 37.05% of the voting age population in TISD is African American, and 8.84% of the voting age population is Hispanic. It is also important to note that TISD consists of five single-member districts and two at-large districts.

On December 6, 2021, the Board of Trustees considered the proposed redistricting plan with a public meeting after providing notice to the public of its proposed discussions. The Board considered oral testimony, written comments, reports from the District's redistricting consultant, and proposed plans regarding the appropriate reconfiguration of the trustee districts. There was no participation from the audience. On December 15, 2021, the Board of Trustees again considered the proposed redistricting plan with a public meeting after providing notice to the public. The existing single-member trustee district boundary lines for the District were amended. An emphasis was placed on preserving the African American majority that existed in two of the

five single-member trustee districts. Spreading the existing 37.05% of African American voting age population across three districts would have led to all three districts having less than a 50% African American voting age population in all three districts.

In the upcoming 2024 trustee election, it is important to note that no citizens filed to run against the current incumbents. Incumbent Bill Kimbro is running unopposed in single-member District 1, which was reconfigured by the 2021 Board to have an African American majority. Incumbent Paul Miller is running unopposed in at-large District 6.

The TISD Board of Trustees consists of five single-member districts and two at-large districts, just as Lewisville ISD and Richardson ISD agreed to transition to in order to settle their Voting Rights Act lawsuits. Interestingly, Lewisville ISD and Richardson ISD were allowed in their settlements to continue their practice of holding their Board elections in May of each year, in accordance with the Texas Secretary of State Uniform General Election Date and Board Policy BBB(LOCAL).

Grand Prairie ISD has five single-member districts and two at-large districts and holds their Board elections in May of each year, in accordance with the Texas Secretary of State Uniform General Election Date and Board Policy BBB(LOCAL).

Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD continues to hold at-large district elections, using a cumulative system. They hold their Board Elections in May of each year, in accordance with the Texas Secretary of State Uniform General Election Date and Board Policy BBB(LOCAL).

Irving ISD continues to hold at-large district elections. They hold their Board Elections in May of each year, in accordance with the Texas Secretary of State Uniform General Election Date and Board Policy BBB(LOCAL).

Under the totality of the circumstances, TISD's electoral system does not deny African American, Hispanic, or any minority voting populations an equal opportunity to participate in the electoral process or to elect representatives of their choice.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Stu Madison

Cc: Dr. Doug Brubaker, Superintendent

