



May 23, 2016

The Honorable Rick Scott
Governor, State of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001

Dear Governor Scott:

As a follow up to a phone conversation regarding the City of Opa-Locka and its current state of affairs between my office and Christine Diaz in your Washington, D.C., office, I am writing to share my grave concerns about the financial health of Opa-Locka, and urge you to declare a state of financial emergency and assume control over the city's operations.

I am aware that you are assessing the city's current financial state and are awaiting a detailed recovery plan from the city. However, this matter is urgent and needs immediate state intervention to avoid a complete operational collapse. The need for state intervention is further exacerbated by multiple public corruption investigations by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and State Attorney's Office.

Prior to the FBI's raid of Opa-Locka's city hall, Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez, and Miami-Dade County Commissioner Barbara Jordan directed the county's internal auditor and several operating departments to review the city's financial operations. The purpose of the review was to assess the city's ability to pay their outstanding debt to the county. The county asserts that it is owed in excess of four million dollars (\$4,000,000), which is disputed by the city. The county's review revealed that the city could not pay its debt and its insolvency is inevitable.

Most importantly, the effects of a financial collapse will have a devastating impact on the residents of Opa-Locka and possibly surrounding communities. More than forty percent (40%) of the residents already live in poverty. Reports indicate that residents face disconnection of water services, city employees may not be paid in the coming weeks, and city vendors will face non-payment. It will be a tragedy for the hardworking residents, dedicated city employees, and the many small businesses to suffer such an insurmountable loss. Furthermore, the city's outstanding debt to Miami-Dade County may also be hindering the creation of new jobs.

As the congressional representative of the City of Opa-Locka, it is my obligation to ensure the city's well-being and ensure that the community is thriving. It is our role to protect and secure the rights of our constituency. The residents of Opa-Locka are now counting on you for relief and to restore stable government to the city.

Your consideration and prompt response to this request is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress

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