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Letter Regarding Non-Discrimination by Contractors Working on UTK Construction Projects

Commission for Blacks

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Dr. Betty Cleckley
2014 Lake Avenue
CAMPUS

Dear Betty:

We have consulted with the Office of the General Counsel in order to obtain a full answer to the query raised at the last meeting of the Commission for Blacks concerning responsibility for ensuring non-discrimination by contractors working on UTK construction projects.

Contractors are subject to various federal regulations, laws, and guidelines concerning non-discrimination. They must assure the responsible federal agencies of compliance.

Construction throughout the UT system is overseen by the University-wide Office of Facilities Planning, but this office is not required or equipped to monitor employment practices of contractors. The employees of firms engaged in construction are, also, not University employees.

If an appropriate agency or court found that a contractor was in violation of applicable non-discrimination requirements, the University would be prohibited from doing business with the firm until the condition was rectified. It is not within the University's sphere of responsibility to investigate possible discrimination; this would be done by the appropriate federal agency.

In the case of construction which is funded wholly or partially by federal funds, the University does include a non-discrimination clause in the contracts it lets. Again, however, the University does not monitor the firm.

If the Commission would like to inform itself more thoroughly about the role of the Office of Facilities Planning and UT policy regarding construction contracts, we feel sure that Mr. Clayton Dekle would be glad to discuss these matters with the Commission.

Sincerely,

Jack E. Reese
Chancellor

cc Dr. Luke Ebersole
Mr. Ron Leadbetter
Mr. Clayton Dekle