

Governor Timothy M. Kaine  
Patrick Henry Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
1111 East Broad Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Re: Minority General Contractors **"Mis-Opportunities"**

Dear Governor Kaine:

I have been a general contractor practically all of my adult life. I chose this field because I receive great satisfaction and fulfillment in seeing completed and superior work of art and skill that began as mere figments of my imagination. In fact, I would not want to do any other line of work.

I am writing you this letter because I have been a resident of Danville, Virginia, for over 10 years. I have sat quietly and with much scrutiny and astonishment witnessed first-hand, the gross ill-treatment and exclusion of minority general contractors in securing jobs that are either fully funded by the Housing and Urban Development and or other similar federal or state-funded programs that attest to and rigorously proclaim practices of equal opportunity employment. Many reputable and well-deserving minority contractors have been ignored, by-passed, and surprisingly, never included in the processes necessary for the procurement of grant/government related jobs in the Danville area.

Presented herein is the prime example of the "Liberty View Project" that contracted out to contractors of various entities to help in the redevelopment and revitalization of an antiquated project-housing complex to that of a modern day housing development. Based on my frequent visitations to the area and also based on conversations with contractors who were present throughout the Herculean operation, not one minority owned business participated in the reconstruction of the development. Again, most of the minorities working were there as mere laborers, an embarrassing representation of the minority owned construction businesses in Danville. In considering operations of this great magnitude that are being funded by both federal and state funds, must there be an

assurance that the distribution of the overall workforce trickles down to the smaller construction businesses that are more than likely, minority owned?

As a minority contractor, I have become very concerned over what appears to be unjust and subtle practices that result in the exclusion of minority ran businesses in this immediate area. I am therefore writing you to voice my discontentment in practices of racial injustices that continue to exist in the Old South, especially those practices that with much vigor and tenacity rule out the inclusion of minority general contractors here in Danville, Virginia. I feel that I am a worthy opponent and my expertise, experience, honesty, and customer relations all warrant me the rightful claim to be considered for future grant/government related programs.

**The question I pose to you is, "What should I do to ensure the opportunity of fair play in securing aforementioned jobs in the Greater Danville, Virginia area?"**

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Richmond, Virginia 23219

**Re: Available funds for Renovation and Procurement**

Dear Governor Kaine:

This letter is being written as a means of requesting information and guidance concerning acquiring funds for the purchase and renovation of an important landmark located in Danville, Virginia. In essence, my primary motive is to acquire the funds needed to renovate and purchase what was once the Winslow Hospital that was located at 509 Betts Street.

The Winslow Hospital, now called the Ashwood Assisted Care Residence, although not slated as an historical site, has within its origins, historical significance that depicts the struggles of the "Negro" during the time of extreme prejudice and discrimination in the Danville area.

The Winslow Hospital represented the only medical treatment facility available to the African American population from its meager emergence during the era of strict segregation until the early 1970's when racial segregation in the city of Danville, Virginia, ended due to Federal laws. Today, many African Americans throughout the city can tout that, "The Winslow Hospital is where I was born!" So many of Danville's African American physicians and nurses and others in the medical field got their careers started by working in the Winslow Hospital. Some of these people continue to excel in their respective fields; others who are now deceased are often spoken of with much love and reverence. This remaining building that will always be remembered as Winslow Hospital represents a legacy that we should never let die.

The Ashwood Assisted Care Residence will soon be vacant. I am very interested in purchasing and renovating this legacy and by doing so, restoring it to the landmark it deserves to be. The Winslow Hospital should never be allowed to falter and or succumb

to root rot and decay. I therefore solicit your help and guidance in the process that is needed to acquire state, federal, and or any other funding available in seeing that the dreams of many come true. I ask that you take measures in guiding me in the right direction so that the acquisition of these funds can be achieved.

**Mr. Tyrone Grove, General Contractor**

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September 11, 2006

Governor Timothy M. Kaine  
Patrick Henry Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
1111 East Broad Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

**Re: In response to your letter concerning: Available funds for Renovation and Procurement**

Dear Governor Kaine:

This letter is being written in reply to an earlier correspondence that I wrote requesting information and guidance concerning the acquisition of funds for the purchase and renovation of an important landmark located in Danville, Virginia, namely, the Winslow Hospital, now called the Ashwood Assisted Care Residence that also closed its doors on September 1, 2006.

The response you provided only added fuel to the fire concerning another closely related correspondence that I wrote to you concerning my total distrust and disgust in the system at large when it comes to the State of Virginia helping small businesses that are minority owned, specifically, owned and operated by Black males. I become and am very disheartened in the fact that I, an honorably discharged veteran of the United States Army, I, a small business owner, I, a father now of four adult children of whom have never received public assistance of any kind, can not receive help from a country that I pledged allegiance to and one that I would have died for in the pursuit of protecting and maintaining the liberties that all Americans, according to the Constitution, are entitled.

I am deeply bothered and put off when I think of this country's steadfastness in providing financial assistance to Japanese internees and also to Native Americans, who we do acknowledge were raped and stripped of their land and honor, that I, an African American who has undergone the naming and renaming of my particular racial heritage so that my ancestry can be easily identifiable and coined as politically correct, that I, the same African American whose forefathers and mothers died in the birthing and nurturing of America has never been compensated for the horrific devastation and social injustices that continue to plague my race and myself to date. How can it be that I, an African

American, who is trying to be a part of the American dream, and I, who am willing and able to engage in a strenuous work ethic for the acquisition of such a dream, can be so easily disavowed of the opportunity that was promised.

The question that I posed to you, Governor Kaine, was not why I am not eligible for help, but what can you as a representative of this great state do to right the many old and long standing wrongs that have been planted against my brothers and sisters of color. Please do not burden me with the fact that I am not a 501c organization and if I were conniving and deceitful enough to become such an organization, that it is very doubtful that I would qualify for the type of assistance I am requesting. Again, I choke regarding the information about qualifying for federal and state rehabilitation tax credits that have, I am sure, been so long and so often used by "White" corporate America. My sincere intentions in the procurement of stated funds are to renovate what should be an historical building to the greatness it once enjoyed, while simultaneously, providing jobs to many Danvillians who have lost substantial income due to the closing of not just the Ashwood Assisted Care Residence but Dan River Mills, Incorporated as well; both entities being a past employer of predominantly African Americans. My plan is also one that will involve the training and hiring of young African Americans who might otherwise succumb to the exploits that selling illegal drugs offer them and whose fate would also inevitably fall into the hands of the penal institutions of Virginia; thus, more young Blacks in jail and there at tax payers' expense.

I, Tyrone Grove, have a dream. My dream is not one that is farfetched, but far-reaching. My dream is not for the benefit of an individual, but for the masses. My dream is to be an advocate against the wrongs that have plagued and shackled my race since the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. Until all injustices set before me well over a century ago disavow themselves, can I proclaim to be free. Freedom can truly only come and manifest itself when my brothers and sisters, and I as well, am able to enjoy the same benefits set aside and given to all who live in this great society called America. By no means of misconception due to the nature of this letter should you or anyone else think that I am against America or the principles that this country was founded. I truly love America and I aspire to be a forerunner in this locality in giving back to the community by providing jobs and training future African Americans in a field that will never die.

Governor Kaine, I ask you not to put up a physical and or mental stumbling block but to help pave the way for me and others like me who have a dream and who are more than deserving of financial assistance that seem to be reserved for only the chosen elect. I again ask you to search deeply into your chronicles of opportunity and prosperity and provide the passage-way that will help me see the light at the end of the tunnel.

I am very interested in purchasing and renovating this legacy and by doing so, restoring it to the landmark it deserves to be. The Winslow Hospital should never be allowed to falter and or succumb to root rot and decay. I therefore again solicit your help and guidance in the process that is needed to acquire state, federal, and or any other funding available in seeing that the dreams of many come true. I ask that you take the