



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

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DJ 168-39-21

*Special Litigation Section - PHB
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530*

March 24, 2010

The Honorable Tim Pawlenty
Office of the Governor
130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Minnesota Veterans Home - Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dear Governor Pawlenty:

We write to inform you that we are closing our investigation of the Minnesota State Veterans Home in Minneapolis, Minnesota ("MVH"). As you are aware, on July 23, 2008, the United States Department of Justice notified you of its intention to investigate MVH pursuant to the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act ("CRIPA"), 42 U.S.C. § 1997.

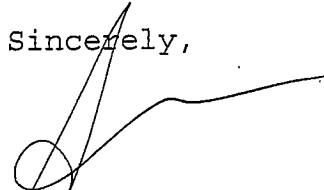
As part of our investigation, we toured MVH twice - in February and December, 2009. Before, during, and after our site visits, we reviewed a variety of relevant facility documents, including policies and procedures, medical records, and other records relating to these issues. We also spoke with MVH administrative and health care staff and residents. Further, at the close of both tours, we conveyed our preliminary findings to State and MVH representatives, including, on our most recent tour, Administrator Dan Steen and the Deputy Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs, Gilbert Acevedo.

Based upon our site visits, our experts' evaluations, and other information we have obtained, we are pleased to report that we did not uncover a systemic pattern of constitutional deficiencies at MVH, and that we are, therefore, closing our investigation. We congratulate the staff at MVH and appreciate the efforts they make to ensure that the veterans and residents of MVH receive the quality of care to which they are entitled.

By separate letter we will provide MVH the report of our consultant, Deborah C. Karas, in the hope that the staff at MVH may benefit from the technical assistance she offers.

Thank you again for the courtesy and cooperation extended us by the representatives of the State of Minnesota during the course of this investigation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 514-0195.

Sincerely,



Shanetta Y. Cutlar
Chief
Special Litigation Section

cc: Honorable Lori Swanson
Attorney General
State of Minnesota

Dan Steen
Administrator
Minnesota Veterans' Home - Minneapolis

B. Todd Jones
United States Attorney
District of Minnesota

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