

Memorandum

To: Members of the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee
From: Jimmie L. Griffin, Former State NAACP President
Date: March, 9, 2009

It doesn't give me any pleasure to write this letter of opposition to the pending appointment of a former co-commissioner of mine. As you are aware the Commission as in a recent Auditors report is described as an agency (CHRO): that operates primarily under the provisions of Chapter 814c, sections 46a-104 of the General Statutes. Its principal duty is to enforce State laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, credit, and public accommodations through civil and human rights law enforcement.

Although, I can point to numerous defiance's in the agency that occurred and continue at this date within this agency. I will focus on the public perception of an agency run amok. I have seen first hand the internal conflicts created by a poor working environment and lack of trust among fellow employees. Due to a lack of leadership from the chair, and his direct involvement in personal matters, that are delegated to the Executive Director.

My personal contact with Chairman Norton has been one that resulted in threats of intimidation and numerous accusations concerning my character. I have been a member of the civil rights community, for some thirty years and never have I experienced such embarrassing moments, because of being a strong willed black man who demands respect from other men or woman who serve our communities.

Since Mr. Norton has been chairman of this commission there has been internal strife in this agency. I advise you that before you reappoint Mr. Norton to look at certain conditions that have invited numerous lawsuits and complaints because of his brand of leadership. After reading the Hartford Courant on Sunday most of you must take pause. This is not in defense of any of the allegations against me but that mere fact that there was **no due process** in an agency established to protect and enforce the law.

I can point to other numerous stories over the years to which this very agency was portrayed as a big joke and Mr. Norton has been a member of this Commission dating back to 1999 and chairman for 4 years and things have gotten worst.

I cannot go into as much detail as I would like too, but one of the issues that Mr. Norton and I disagreed on frequently was the reflection of a lack of diversity in the top four positions of leadership being white males. Especially, at a time when systematically it appears that there's a conspiracy to replace all black males with black females because they seem to be more agreeable with his tactics of division.

I urge you to take a close look at what's happened to this agency under Mr. Nortons leadership, as you felt to deny me a fair hearing before this committee because of possible controversy. Not that I broke any laws, he should get equal treatment in your questioning and final justification, to the citizens of this state as to why you would reappoint him?

Jimmie L. Griffin
Community Activist