

1067 Hartford Tpk
Waterford, CT 06385

Phone: 860-439-1173
Email: mrgooden@gmail.com

Courtney Gooden

Objective Obtain a Doctoral Degree in Social Psychology, teach at Secondary Schools.

Experience 1997 to present: Department of Correction USD1 Niantic, CT

State School Vocational Teacher

- ❖ Manage 15-60 Incarcerated Students
- ❖ Develop Lesson Plans
- ❖ Develop and Implement New Curriculum
- ❖ Write Student Evaluations
- ❖ Counsel Students
- ❖ Supervise various practical exercises
- ❖ Maintain Safety and Security

1989-1997: Department of Mental Retardation Waterford, CT

Mental Retardation Worker 1

- ❖ Administer Client's Daily Medications
- ❖ Medical Liaison for Cottage Clients
- ❖ Client Advocate
- ❖ Community integration
- ❖ Provide care for clients
- ❖ American Disability Act Liaison
- ❖ 1199 Health Care Union Delegate/Contract Negotiation
- ❖ D M R Affirmative Action Committee Board Member
- ❖ Supervised Various Sites

1981-1989: US Navy New London Groton Submarine Base CT

Electronic Technician/Radiation Worker/Anti-Terrorist Attack Force

- ❖ Repair and Maintain Submarines
- ❖ Top Secret Security Clearance
- ❖ Train Fire Party Member for Radiation Area Fires
- ❖ Radiation Control Point Monitor
- ❖ Pure Water Operations
- ❖ Radio Active Waste Transfers
- ❖ Submarine Antenna and Sonar Repair
- ❖ Supply Master at Arms
- ❖ Submarine Base Security
- ❖ Computer Operations
- ❖ ROV Supervisor
- ❖ Supervise Restricted Men
- ❖ Quality Control Inspector for Nuclear and Non-Nuclear Systems
- ❖ Protect American Interest

Civic Accomplishments

- ❖ Phi Beta Kappa Honors Fraternity
- ❖ 2nd Vice President New London NAACP
- ❖ Master Mason
- ❖ 32 Degree Master Mason
- ❖ Hartford Consistory Shrine
- ❖ Former Vice Chairman for United Way Allocation Panel 7
- ❖ United Way Spinnaker Club Member
- ❖ Boys and Girls Club Volunteer Certificate of Appreciation
- ❖ Army National Guard Family Program Letter of Appreciation
- ❖ 2 Naval Letters of Accommodation
- ❖ 3 Naval Letter of Appreciation
- ❖ 1 Naval Ney Award Certificate
- ❖ Naval Good Conduct Award
- ❖ Naval Good Conduct Medal
- ❖ Honorable Discharge
- ❖ Special Olympic Volunteer
- ❖ Selected by the National Association for Multicultural Education for an Ambassadorship to China
- ❖ Parent Leadership Training Certificate
- ❖ Connecticut House Representative Citation for the PLTI Program
- ❖ CT House of Representative Citation TRCC Peer Mentoring Program
- ❖ Participate in preparing meals for the Homeless
- ❖ Participate in Funding Sponsorships for Youth League Programs

Education

- 2007, Southern Illinois State University Carbondale Illinois
 - ❖ Bachelor's of Science; Workforce Education and Development, Summa Cum laude 3.75 GPA
- 2007, Three Rivers Community College Norwich CT.
 - ❖ Associate in Science, 3.57 GPA Cum laude
 - ❖ State of Connecticut Hazmat, Hazwopper Certification
 - ❖ Department of Homeland Security, FEMA Courses: IS-Mitigation, Mitigation for HomeOwners, Emergency Planning, Leadership & Influence, orientation for Community Disasters, Decision Making & Problem Solving.
 - ❖ NAVET Training
 - ❖ Medical Administration Certification
 - ❖ CPR, First Aid

Expertise

Curriculum Development, Instructional Design, SME Problem Solving, Counseling Close Quarter Combat, Hand Gun .45 Expert, M-16 Sharp-Shooter, Training Development

Courtney Gooden
1067 Hartford TPK.
Waterford CT. 06386

November, 21, 2007

E.E.O.C
Re: Discrimination, Retaliation, Intimidation, and Whistle-Blower Complaint

Dear E.E.O.C. Agent,

My name is Courtney Gooden; I am a State School Vocational Instructor for the Department of Correction Unified School District # 1. I am assigned to J. B. Gates Correctional Facility located at 131 North Bride Brook Road, Niantic Connecticut. I am filing this complaint because of an interview conducted by the Department's Security Division, authorized by Commissioner Lantz. This interview was a hebetudinous attempt at intimidation; the department has decided to conveniently accuse me of a racial incident committed against the former Islamic Chaplain. Chaplain's Ansari's 5th grade Classroom Photograph was defaced and a racial slur was written on the picture.

Someone employed here at J. B. Gates used whiteout, and covered the Chaplain's face, and wrote the word Niger, on the picture. I realize that the word is not spelled correctly, but that was how it was written on the photo. The Facility conducted what is commonly known as a placebo investigation, because, they had no intention of doing anything beyond the usual cover-up.

The State Police wasn't called in, as they should have been, for a crime of this magnitude. Instead the Warden, and the two Major's got together and commissioned, a new Chaplain to go through the Islamic Chaplain's computer to find evidence that could be used against the Iman. Well, Chaplain Casey found what he believed to be incriminating evidence of some Radical Islamic Documents on the Iman's computer. Chaplain Casey called down to the administration building to inform Major Coggeshall, who directed Captain Ford to conduct an investigation.

For this venture proper investigative measures were implemented, the room was secured, the areas was isolated, his computer was seized, yellow boundary tape was hung, which displayed the word caution, the tape was tied around the critical areas, including his room, and adjacent spaces were policed for any other potential evidence.

Their selectively dormant CSI tactics are always commendable, unfortunately their investigative expertise are only exercised when they identify an already wounded victim. The wounded victim in the previous mentioned hate crime incident was Ansari; these CSI tactics were not launched to investigate the hate crimes. The morning the class photo was found defaced, Warden Tarascio had just walked out of Ansari's office space. Ansari noticed the photo, and Warden Tarascio was the very first person Ansari told about the incident.

Reportedly the Warden's comment was, "yea what do you want me to do about it". Obviously since Warden Tarascio was the last person in the room prior to Ansari finding the photo defaced, that definitely makes the Warden a key person of interest!

Because the Warden was the last person placed at the scene of the hate crime, his motive for not calling for a CSI investigation is clearer now. Just as his motive for not calling for CSI style investigations to gather intelligence on any other claims of racially motivated incidents. Not only does he condone these actions of racism; his failure to act makes him a co-conspirator, and possibly a perpetrator in the Ansari case.

The Warden took immediate action in the "Computer Gate Scandal" the plot had thickened, and the decision to try and implicate Ansari in something, or anything would possibly give this administration leverage to use against Ansari. They were tenaciously searching for some way to connect Iman Ansari to anything that remotely resembled terrorist teachings. The Warden launched his aggressive search to secure evidence to intimidate, harass, retaliate, and blackmail, Iman Ansari.

This is how they treat victims who have complained of discrimination, disparate treatment, or complain about retaliation. This is a common malfeasant attempt by the department against it's victims to force an acquiesce demeanor. The protocol is to use any evidence even if it's fabricated, or exaggerated, as leverage to pressure their victims into dropping their complaint of discrimination and disparate treatment.

In Ansari's case there were multiple confirmable and provable cases of discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. Not including the most recent racial incident I mentioned in the preceding paragraph. When the plan to go after Ansari was hatched, all of the people mentioned as stakeholders, a meeting was held in the Warden's office to formulate this plan of attack.

To ensure they rid themselves of Ansari, with evidence that could be validated, firmly secured, and verified, the Warden went the extra mile; he summoned the Security Division, and the State Police, who arrived within hours that same day.

However, to their dismay the information on the computer was simply a speech given by a Connecticut State University Professor. The article on the Iman's computer was a lesson he used, to explain the difference between, Jihad, and Terrorism. Had this much energy been put into any of the previous un-investigated incidents that were not conducted at this facility, especially when the Iman's picture was defaced, or any of the other multiple racist, discriminatory, retaliatory claims that were made by minorities employee's, at Gates, it would have symbolized, a true none-bias, and un-racist leadership.

Ninety percent of the incidents, which have taken place at this facility usually the culprits, are known, and identified by the administration, but if those persons are not persons of color the situation is ignored. This administration encourages bigotry and hatred, it is so acceptable in this department that the Attorney General's Office for the State of Connecticut will, and have use it's attorney's and resources to fight victims of discrimination. This level of protection is the catalyst, which embolden people who are racist, people who commit hate crimes, and use racial slurs, to continue business as usual.

People who work at this facility that harbor racist feelings, and sometimes carryout racist acts, are fully aware that they are in an environment, which allow them to act freely on these ideals thoughts and feelings. During my interview, I was unable to ascertain any information from Captain Bowels concerning when the State Police was called, who else was interviewed, how many people were potential suspects, or how many other hand writing samples were sent to the State Police lab for analysis. I would like to add that I am more than certain Captain's Bowels statement concerning the handwriting analysis by the State Police Crime Lab was fabricated.

I have no problem taking a polygraph test, as a matter of fact, I welcome a polygraph test, and I would even consent to a truth serum. I have no confidence in the State Police's work concerning self-governing matters such as this one. It would be greatly appreciative if the FBI was called in to conduct a real investigation. Not just for this incident, but for a host of other matters that have been out of hand for far too long. However, I would also like to invite the people listed above, along with several others to commit to the same fact finding methods.

Time and time again, this agency has policed itself, and not once has it ever found itself to be guilty of anything. Outside intervention is desperately needed to uncover the true nature of the problems we are facing here at this Institution, and in this Agency. I tried to take these complaints to CHRO, along with the administration verbal denial of two FMLA requests I submitted, before, and after my wife gave birth. In a telephone conversation with a CHRO Caseworker, I was informed of their backlog, and that it would take a minimum of eight weeks before someone is able to call me for an interview.

We are confronted with racism in the department, and it is beyond question a systemic problem, from the institutions to the Commissioner. People would not violate laws if they weren't secure in their actions. People would not put their careers on the line unless they felt safe in their environment. Most of the People working for the state definitely would not risk being jailed for breaking state and federal civil rights laws, if there were any consequences for their actions. These people are operating under absolute certainty, emboldened by blatant arrogance, manifested over years of inaction from an administration that embraces the same ideology.

In this packet of information you will find several letters written during the spring of the year to the Commissioner, the Governor, and others. Paragraphs in these letters specifically cite some patterns of retaliation, and intimidation regularly used against people who complain about discrimination. I found this administration's latest attempt at cognition to be extremely insulting. This accusation identifying me as the culprit, that committed the hateful, hurtful, discriminatory act against a friend, and colleague, shows nothing less than a blind act of desperation.

I am respectfully requesting that you investigate this case, and if possible some of the other horrendous acts of retaliation, discrimination, or intimidation. If not for the victims of these hateful acts, do it for the perpetrators, and save them from themselves, because they are digging themselves into a hole to perdition. This plot concocted by Captain Bowels from the Security Division, originated from, Warder Tarascio, Major Coggeshall, Captain Bourne, and approved by Commissioner Lantz, as her signature is affixed on the letter summoning me to attend the interview.

I am in an unfortunate predicament, which places me in close quarters with people here that operates without, ethics, people who are void of compassion, and morals, these individuals know no limit or shame. Once these Dirt Dealers decide to become, retaliatory, discriminatory, and mean-spirited for the purpose of intimidation, their actions are steady and free of opposition, because of the cart-blanc attitude of others in this state that feel as they do.

It has been proven that one person will lie, and the other will swear to it, they will twist, information, backdate, paperwork, erase information, lose documentation, create phony memo, and write policies directed at a single individual. When policies are written that are directed toward single individuals, the consequences for breaking that policy is only enforce once that person break the policy.

Hopefully, you can find the time to respond to this complaint.

Cc. Robert Jackson; Affirmative Action Officer

Attorney; John R. Williams

Scott X. Esdail; State NAACP President

Waldren Phillips; New London NAACP President

Respectfully,

Courtney Gooden

State School Vocational Instructor

Courtney Gooden
1067 Hartford TPK
Waterford CT. 06385
Home Phone (860) 439-1173
Cell Phone (860) 961-4815

November 16, 2007

Employment Equal Opportunity Commission

November 16, 2007

Dear E.E.O.C. Agent

My name is Courtney Gooden I am a Vocational Instructor at J. B. Gates Correctional Facility in Niantic CT. On Friday November 9th 2007, I left my classroom at the end of a regular workday, with the following food items stored in a refrigerator and a storage cabinet behind my desk. These items were taken from the refrigerator inside a locked room. Two frozen banquet TV dinners, three bottles of Nestea, two bottles of Aquafina water, eight bowls of Campbell's microwave-able soup, and three Tupperware containers with meals I brought from home.

Upon my return to work on Tuesday, November 13, 2007, after entering the classroom, I went to get a bottle of water from the refrigerator only to find that it was completely empty as well as the storage cabinet that the soups were stored. I looked in the wastebasket next to my desk; there I located an empty Tupperware bowl with the contents missing .I filed an Incident Report with Principal Mary Greaney, before leaving the facility.

On Thursday, November 15, I arrived in my classroom after returning from court, at 12: 45 p.m. I was out the entire day of Wednesday November 14, 07 attending trial. Once again I went to the refrigerator to retrieve a bottle of water only to find two missing Tupperware containers which were not in the room on 13, November, back in the refrigerator void of their contents.

This obviously means that someone with Institutional Keys replaced the containers sometime between the 4-12 shift on 11/13/07 and the 8-4 shift on 11/15/07. For someone to be arrogant enough to take the food is one thing, but to bring the empty container back and return it to the scene of the crime this person must feel Omniscient. How does someone get comfortable enough to commit such blatant acts of cowardliness, without fear of consequences or reprimand?

The answer to the question is either they have auto-absolution from the Administration, feel that the Administration is not competent enough to catch them, or they are acting on behalf of the Administration. Sir, or Madam, you may choose any or all of the options listed above. No matter which one you choose, if any, the bottom line is that these acts are forms of harassment, they are retaliatory, and it makes my work place a hostile environment.

Separate Incident Reports were written on each occasion and turned into the administration.

Sincerely,

Courtney Gooden
State School Vocational Instructor

Courtney Gooden
1067 Hartford TPK
Waterford CT 06385
Home Phone # (860) 961-4815
Work Phone # (860) 691-4809

November 13, 2007
Mr. Robert Jackson, Affirmative Action Director
24 Wolcott Hill Road
Wethersfield, CT 06109

Dear Mr. Jackson;

I hope this letter reach you in good sprits, and doing well. Regrettably, it is not a letter of cordial circumstances. I filed FMLA paper work a few weeks ago in anticipation of my wife's delivery date. Prior to filing these papers I reviewed the forms very carefully. After which time I conferred with my wife and her Physician about potential needs after delivery. We decided to opt for intermittent FMLA leave because our family members will arrive from out of state, as well as from beyond the Continental U.S. at various times.

The dates were predetermined to fill gaps where my family would not have coverage if assistance were needed. The FMLA form specifically states intermittent, or blocks leave for the birth, or adoption of a child. Please find a copy of the FMLA paper work submitted to Ms. Maloney. Ms. Maloney informed me that she would have to submit the forms, but she did not think that it would be approved. This comment was made because, I wrote the potential dates needed in advanced, Ms. Maloney said I should have left the dates blank and just call in on the days I specified.

Now, clearly I could have taken twelve consecutive weeks off however, knowing exactly when my family needed me made it easier to plan these dates. According to Ms. Maloney intermittent leave is only intermittent if it is a mystery. I spoke with Ms. Maloney after she presented my request to Dan Callahan, who then discussed it with Mr. William Barber. Ms. Maloney informed me during our phone conversation that she checked with central office about my leave request.

During my conversation with Ms. Maloney, I repeated the information back to her before writing it down. Ms. Maloney comments were as follows; “ your leave was not approved”, she also informed me, “ you can only take 3 baby leave days”, “each occasion I am out I must have a doctor’s note for every occasion”, “ you can not take intermittent leave as it was written”, “ you can not take time off, and come back to work”, “she check with Dan Callahan at Central Office, who said that it could not be done”, end quote.

I requested a written explanation concerning the status of my request, which I have yet to receive. I asked Ms. Maloney for written conformation of our conversation, stating why my request was denied, she refused to put it in writing, fortunately I was taking notes during our conversation on the phone. Prior to submitting the FMLA request, I had nine months to speak with other D.O.C. employee about the advantages and disadvantages of the program. I’ve had conversation with at least 4 people who submitted FMLA request, with predated intermittent leave times that were approved.

Upon your review you will conveniently find that the rules concerning the FMLA policy, when associated with my request has defined boundaries, boundaries which are inconsistent with the State and Federal Policies. I would also like to revisit the fact that other employees have received approval intermittent leave in the past. As I am sure you are familiar with D.O.C. Policy, I received nothing in writing concerning my request. Any time I take off beyond the Baby Leave Days will more than likely be marked as Un-Authorize Leave, which the administration intend to use to terminate my employment.

Although the Un-authorize Leave Policy has not been widely exercised in the past with certain people, I can’t help but sense that this is the malevolent intention of the administration. This letter is a communication to you with specific discrimination, and retaliation issues. It is my wish that you consider this letter as my formal complaint. Any actual departmental forms that may need to accompany this letter I shall enter upon receipt. I would appreciate a response from you at your earliest availability regarding this matter, more especially the Un- Authorize Leave issue.

On Thursday November 7th 2007, I requested a second leave of absence form for one to two days to attend court, in the matter of Gooden vs. the Department of Corrections. The School Secretary Joyce Harris went to Personnel Officer Diane Sylvestri to obtain the form for me as she had done so the previous month so that I may attend a deposition for the State's Attorney General Office. Personnel Officer Diane Sylvestri, called my classroom belligerently exclaiming that there is no medical leave request forms for one day. Ms. Sylvestri also added that my FMLA Leave was not approved, and that Ms. Maloney had already told me that my leave was not approved.

I found Ms. Sylvestri's phone educate, as well as her lack of professionalism to be appalling. Ms. Sylvestri attitude and her tone of voice were arrogant and condescending, however when I explained to her for the third time the form I was requesting. I read the form out loud to her, finally she gave the secretary the needed form with and accompanying sheet of information. This was the first contact of any kind I ever had with Ms. Sylvestri.

There is no doubt in my mind that Ms. Sylvestri's un-professional attitude was primarily based on the discriminatory and retaliatory efforts of the Department, resulting from the lawsuit file for past discrimination practices. This retaliation has been on going since I return to work in 2000. To date I have not received one single correspondence in writing providing me with the status of two FMLA request filed. However, on two separate occasions I received verbal notification over the phone from Ms. Maloney, and Ms. Sylvestri, that both FMLA leave request had been denied.

After the original conversation with Ms. Maloney concerning the verbal denial of my FMLA request, I contacted my union representative, Roland Bishop. I read the Original FMLA request over the phone indicating dates I requested to Mr. Bishop. I also informed him of the conversation that had taken place over the phone with Ms. Maloney. Mr. Bishop response was, " why was it not approved?" " did they give you a reason?", " is there anything in writing?". I informed Mr. Bishop that I received nothing in writing, even after I requested something in writing.

Mr. Bishop said that he would check into the matter, because he knew people who have taken Intermittent, FMLA Leave in the same manner I had requested. The following week Mr. Bishop contacted me, to inform me that no one, not even in the Personnel Department at Wethersfield saw anything wrong with the Original Intermittent, FMLA Leave Request I submitted. Mr. Bishop went on to say that none of the several people he had spoken to including a person from personnel would say that I couldn't take intermittent leave in the manner in which I requested it.

For the record I consider the actions of Ms. Maloney, Ms. Sylvestri, Mr. Dan Callahan, as well as Mr. William Barber to be retaliatory, discriminatory, and deliberate forms of harassment and disparate treatment.

CC. Governor: Jodi Rell
Commissioner: Teresa Lantz
Warden: Tarascio
Principal: Mary Greaney
Attorney: Martyn Philpot
C. H. R. O.

Sincerely,
Courtney Gooden
State School Vocational Teacher

Courtney Gooden 2nd V. P. New London NAACP
1067 Hartford Tpk.
Waterford CT. 06385
Home Phone (860) 439-1173
Work Phone (860) 691-4809
Cell Phone (860) 961-4815

September 17, 2007

Connecticut State Legislators
State Capitol
Hartford Connecticut

My name is Courtney Gooden; I am a Vocational Teacher for the Department of Correction, at J. B. Gates C. I. in Niantic CT. Until a few months ago I was the only African American Vocational Teacher Employed by the Department Correction. In 1997, I was hired by the Department of Corrections as a Vocational Instructor, upon satisfactorily completing standardize training at the Training Academy; I was automatically tenured as a result of eight years of previous State Service.

In 1999, Mr. William Barber, the Superintendent of the Unified School District for the Department of Corrections committed the fiendish act of premeditated discrimination. This intentional act transpired when, Mr. Barber aggressively fired me for not completing the last of three-college course need. At that time two of the three courses needed were finished, only a mid-term and final remained.

Prior to experiencing a course delinquency, I informed the Principle at that time, that I had been experiencing financial difficulties. I mentioned monthly financial contributions to my Mother who required special care due to her failing health. My financial obligations to my two children, and I informed her that one of my brothers had been found hanging from a tree in Alabama.

This information was thoroughly communicated to my superiors, and they were well aware of the financial hardship, from D.M.R. cutbacks, and my efforts to stabilize my income. However, the irony is, before, during, and after I was fired for a delinquent certification, more than five of my White Colleagues were exuberantly given letters of support for certifications extensions by Mr. Barber.

For these reasons, and more, *I filed an official complaint with CHRO*. The Primary Investigator stated that my case had merit! However, no formal decision was made concerning my case; it was held in limbo until the deadline to file a suit was at hand. Once fired, in 1999, I was out for approximately nine months, I returned to work in July 2000, at which point I was constantly harassed, and retaliated against. In 2000, I applied and was accepted by Yale University for the purpose of continuing my course work, I requested 1hr of flextime twice a week to attend classes, and my request was spitefully denied.

While yet again some of my White Colleagues were granted such flex-schedules, as a matter of fact it is a written departmental policy to work with educators for educational purposes. During a project for Gates Institution a putty knife was lost, from a locked office, inside a locked desk that I had no keys to, on April Fools Day in 2003, I was given a day off without pay.

In 2004, I was told by a Correctional Officer to pack up, that my class was being moved to an old dilapidated basement. At which time I yield my classroom to a White Co-workers. The expression pack up is normally used to inform Inmates that they are moving, again this process took place exactly one year after the last retaliatory incident on April Fools Day 2004.

This basement room was used for storage this area had visible mold and mildew aggressively growing on the walls and ceilings. This room also hosted exposed lead-paint, exposed asbestos pipes, and urine and feces leaking from the Inmates toilets above. The floor drains commonly over flowed with raw sewage covering more than 80% of the classroom floor. The lighting was poor, there was no ventilation system the air was stale and stagnant.

At least once a month during the winter, oil was delivered for the furnace and hot water systems. On delivery days the suffocating smell of # 2 fuel filled my class- room space. The nine months I was interned in this space has caused me to suffer possible uncorrectable respiratory, and sinuses damage. In 2004, I was chosen by, The National Association for Multicultural Education to be an Educational Ambassador; this organization was the Brain-Child of former U. S. President Johnson.

It was the belief of this world-renowned organization that I possessed certain qualities of an Educational Ambassador to represent Connecticut, and the U.S. to strengthen educational bonds between the U.S. and China. In order to make this pilgrimage to China, I requested four days off without pay, the time was necessary to fulfill the Ambassadorship, however, my request was meritoriously denied.

My plight is just a subtle reminder that, no matter how hard you work, time and time again we are consistently reminded of the evil people that continue to flourish in our society. One does not have to look very far to see the evidence, like Gena 6, incident, as nooses hanging at the U. S. Coast Guard, Universities, and Police Stations.

At Gates C.I. in Niantic, two African Americans women applied for an Office Assistant Position, one applicant wanted a lateral transfer, the other who was part-time was hoping for permanent employment after four years as a durational employee. Both were denied, a 19 year old White Female was hired instead.

When one of the interviewing supervisors was asked about the situation, her response was, “ she wanted to hire someone that she could get along with, someone who would fit in, someone like her, more or less someone White that just happened to be her best friend daughter. This is the same institution where the Warden made a comment to me when Bill Cosby visited one of the prisons, “ he was surprised that I wasn’t there when Mr. Cosby appeared”, when I asked him why, “he said I thought all you guys knew each other.

It is no secret that war has been declared on people of color, by the State of Connecticut, and State Agencies against its minorities, and the Judicial Department as well.

However, once employed by a State Agency, especially in the Department of Correction there are policies in place to get rid of you before you are hired. There are literally hundreds of cases of racist and discriminatory incidents in D. O. C. alone.

Our State Agencies are infested with Racist, and their actions have gone unchecked, far too long. In this day and time it is most unfortunate that the malfessant hideousness of racism remains to be the systemic internal moral compass for many of our Brothers, and Sisters. This type of discriminatory treatment has been an on going episode of as the State Turns. While those persons empowered to put an end to this blight in unjust dealings, have just as well given consent to these illegal actions.

Unfortunately we have given these agencies consent, because we have not questions their actions, or held them accountable. The people that commit these crimes in the Department of Corrections, as well as in other State Agencies have long enjoyed the safety and security of the protection of the Attorney Generals Office.

It would appear that this State has adopted a position similar to that of Justice Roger B. Taney in the 1857 Dred Scott Decision. Like Former Justice Taney, the State's is declaring that people of Color are not entitled to rights as a U.S. Citizen, (and in fact, they have "no rights which any White Man was bound to respect").

What these actions, or inaction's, obviously means is that the State condones, the Violation of, certain people's Civil Rights, Racism, and Discrimination as long as it is directed toward People of Color. Given all the historical, and on going events of Civil Rights Violations, and openly sanctioned, discrimination, is it not being too presumptuous to say that theses behaviors are covenanted unwritten State Policy.

One thing has been, and continues to be apparent, in every claim of discrimination against a State Agency, and its agents, the State's AG's office has been standing behind these Criminals, like Tammy Wynett stood by her man; as if what these perpetrators are doing is legally, morally, and constitutionally correct.

What is obvious here is that AG's office; the Judges, D.O.C. as well as other State Agencies are all on the same page. Taking instructions from the same discriminatory text, however, I am hoping that you, as well as the Good Citizens of this State will make it clear that the "Book of Jim Crow" is illegal, and that it must be taken out of circulation.

I am writing you this letter to for help, to stop the agents of the State from violating people civil rights, to stop retaliation, harassment, and intimidation.

The morbid nastiness of their actions and the infliction of immoral and unethical treatment say it all, the "N" word is implied with an exclamation mark through their actions. All minorities working in these agencies are subjected to a racist groupthink mindset from people who have generationally inherited this ignorance, and systemically practiced it through State Agencies at taxpayer expense.

So let us not be so gullible to think that all racists are going to raise their hands when asked to do so. Not so long ago the previous Commissioner John Armstrong, who was so comfortable with his subconscious racist thoughts he openly compared Blacks to Dogs in a public forum.

The point is, these are not just random acts of ignorance, this is engrained racism, which is a growing epidemic of discrimination that constipates their minds, as it fuel their thoughts of interposition and nullification, at the mere sight of a People of Color.

Honorable Ladies, and gentlemen, need I remind you once again there's a "Pink Elephant in the room," and we have been ingeniously creative at denying its existence. It seems that we always find ourselves in predicaments where we are fighting the endless conflict for justice.

The Department of Correction is an agency that willfully and intentionally destroys people lives; they execute harsher punishments for Blacks, fire them for hearsay, and maintain hostile work environments for minorities.

In D.O.C. the management utter words of inclusiveness, while their ongoing practice of ethnic cleansing, is undeniably racially motivated. These economic lynching disrupts the stability of minorities families, ruin marriages, destroys credit, and makes it harder for the victim to get jobs capable of sustaining their family unit.

I would like nothing more than to be optimistic about the potential for harmonious parity among all Americans, when we all practice loving our neighbor excogitatively, where equality, and respect overflows unbound and superfluously.

Since this milestone has not yet come to pass we must be realistic, and in doing so we can never be satisfied when we lack true representation in federal, state, and local municipalities were taxpayers money is being spent. Our absences in these agencies especially in decision-making positions are pragmatic issues, and we should never serendipitously embrace the continuation of these social injustices.

As a gesture of, "Good Faith", the Department of Corrections currently have an African American Affirmative Actions Officer, however, appointing a man to a position is inconsequential when he has no autonomy, when he is verbally mummified, authoritatively castrated, and every thing that he say has to be approved by the Boss first.

Today in the year, 2007 once again we find ourselves at a crossroad, consistently grappling with the fact that we are victims of a Two- Tier Society. Our country proudly displays our national symbol of the American Bald Eagle, a Proud, Strong, and fierce hunter, with unparalleled vision. This bird is a National Treasure of majestic beauty, a protector, and provider.

Unfortunately in the State of Connecticut when African American looks for that Eagle for all it should represent, suddenly we come to the realization that our bird is blind, with damaged wings. Our American Bald Eagle is broken, mutilated by hatred, wounded by racism, and devoid of plumage, as a result from the fiendish actions of evil groups and individuals.

Upon closer examination we realize that our American Bald Eagle, bears a striking resemblance to a Turkey Vulture; our bird is an imposter. One whose beautiful feathers have been plucked, and resigned to the wooden supports of a Taxidermist. The sad truth is, our bird won't hunt, and its lifeless body is the personifications of what People of Color have been hoodwinked into accepting as our symbol of Freedom and Justice.

Today I ask you these questions, when will we become true Americans, not just on paper, but in the eyes of the Courts, on the job, and by our fellow Caucasian Brothers, and Sisters. When will we be able to travel the roads of this state without being racially profiled? When will we be able to go to court not just as a defendant, but as plaintiffs and receive fair and equitable treatment?

Today has become yesterday, and tomorrow will be just like the day before. My reference to the past is not of the immediate past, but of centuries of un-humanitarian treatment of people of color. This form of Domestic Terrorism is aggressively picking up steam, especially in the State of Connecticut, and innocent people are selected as targets for discrimination.

With this communication I am formally serving notice to everyone whom receives this message. The dream is still a dream, and the nightmare lives on, the same nightmare, but different monsters. The shift has gone from televised police brutality, and nationally televised discriminatory acts, to social and economic terrorism. We continue to find ourselves victimized by the very systems that have taken an oath to protect our rights. We have sacrificed our lives and fought in wars, and the most recent wars were said to have been waged, to bring freedom to other nations, freedoms that we have yet to realize in our own country, in our own State.

When will these predators be held accountable for their actions, there must be criminal charges imposed, mandatory sentences given, and monetary damages awarded. No Single State Appointed Judge should ever be given the luxury of ruling on a case of discrimination, in the absence of a Jury, especially when the case is against the very system that hired them. Ladies and gentlemen allowing a State Appointed Judge to be the sole voice in a case against the State of Connecticut is definitely a *conflict of interest*, it's *unethical, immoral, and unjust*.

Our Ancestors sacrificed the very essences of their being for centuries while generating enormous wealth for their Slaveholders. Through out the centuries they pressed forward with steadfast resolution, and survival was their primary objective. In 1863 a particle beam of light cut through the total eclipse of oppressive darkness, otherwise known as slavery. This particle beam of light was the Emancipation Proclamation. It was the beginning of the end of slavery for Blacks, at least from a metaphoric standpoint.

This edict issued by President Abraham Lincoln, was in and of itself the first line drawn in the sand to combat the iniquitousness of racism. Later the 13th Amendment, ratified in 1865, officially abolished slavery. Since that time we have made a great deal of progress, during Reconstruction (1865-77), new laws were passed to end discrimination. There have been various ratification of the constitution as it relates to civil rights (Title I), (Title II), (Title IV), (Title VI), and (Title VII).

Yet in light of all the constitutional laws, an amendment, rules and regulations, too little has changed. As individuals and groups continue to be discriminated against with increasing regularity, the judicial system commonly turns a blind eye to sentencing people who violates the constitutional rights of African Americans.

What's most unfortunate is that the bulk of our problems stem from people who are in positions of trust, with certain degrees of power, and have the ability to be change-agents with our collective best interest in mind.

We must remain mindful of the fact that we still have people who hate. Far too long we have acted out the role of the pacifist, and resigned ourselves to follow a script that ostracize and demean us. We must become activist for truth, and justice! We must wake up from this horrific nightmarish daydream, and stand up straight and end the free rides. Many of us have been lulled into complacency by accepting clandestine relationships for personal gain or notoriety. Just because someone put his or her arm around you and call you friend, does not make it so.

Just in case you didn't know friends don't smile in your face and support unjust laws that have catastrophic affects on your ability to function as an equal in this society. When I reflect back on a paragraph, written in Dr. Kings Letter from A Birmingham Jail, date April 16, 1963. Dr. King expressed his disappointment with many of the Southern White Clergymen, because of their appalling silence during times of obvious injustices.

Dr. King thought that these men of God would be among his strongest allies, instead, some were outright opponents, and many were more cautious than courageous, as they remained silent behind the anesthetizing security of stained-glass windows.

Unfortunately we have given these agencies consent, because we have not questions their actions, or held them accountable.

Our religious leaders must come forth and be counted spread the news to your congregations, and throughout the community that the cancer, known as racism is growing and has never been in remission. Our religious leaders must stop embracing politicians who sat idle and do not to combat racism. Our leaders in the communities have an obligation to every living breathing soul in this society. And that obligation is to do no harm, protect the community, even if the citizens are Catholic, Muslim, Protestant, or non-denominational.

Not just because your bible tell you to, but because it's the right thing to do. Just in case you were wondering, any man or woman that openly launch discriminatory actions against your brothers and sisters or do nothing about those that do, he or she is not your friend.

After the assignation of Dr. King, politician started a grass roots campaign, a full court press, by courting the preachers in our communities. This full court press is intended to serve as a form of validation for many preachers in our community. This back patting and hand shaking method has been so successful, in a modern day Willie Lynch kind of way, which many of our religious leaders have been lulled into complacency.

I would like to take the time to apologize for such a long lecture; unfortunately I felt that it is imperative that the truth be told. With that being said, and in remembrance of My Childhood Baptist Preacher, in Alabama, I would like to ask you to stand up; it's not too late to stand up for justice. It's not too late to let them know that you deserve to be treated fairly. It's not too late to communicate to your friends and families the importance of voting.

It's not too late to look at the up coming elections and vote your way to equality. Today I am here out of love; however, there are those among us that will undoubtedly label me uncharacteristically, as something that I am not. Nevertheless if that works for you then so be it! One thing I learned long ago is good morals, ethics, and character in real men or woman is not subjective. If your loyalty is for sale it is not worth having unfortunately some of our own people have been playing the role of Judas, these actors have played these roles so well they should earn their rightful place among other world-renowned thespians.

As I often ask myself, today I ask you, what kind of people are they? What kind of person would sacrifice his or her self-pride, and dignity and cosigned injustice and unconstitutional treatment of their own people? The true tragedy for these people is that they are inconveniently black, in a convoluted kind of way they have the notion that a title, an education, or a phony relationship with people that detest their very existence is something to strive for. I have had the unfortunate opportunity to witness such events that have taken place many times in my life, and for years I have had to grapple with some way to come to terms with such scandalous transgression by my own people, against my own people.

The only thing that provides me any level of comfort is when I remember the profound loves displayed by Jesus during his crucifixion, "when he said forgive them Farther for they know not what they do".

Because Jesus forgave the men who crucified him, who am I not to forgive my brothers and sisters if they want to sell themselves off to the highest bidder, relinquish their very essences, laugh when something is not funny, agree with things that they know are wrong, hate what is wrong. Such cowardly actions do not gain you acceptance, it loses you respect. Some of us have long suffered social, emotional, and psychological character flaws, which stem from unsubstantiated feelings of inferiority, absence of self-love, as well as no self-respect.

With that being said it is impossible to love any one if you have not learned to love yourself.

Sincerely,

Courtney Gooden

2nd Vice President New London NAACP