



# METROPOLITAN CRIME COMMISSION, INC.

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August 26, 2010

Henry Bellamy  
Office of Special Counsel  
601 St. Charles Avenue  
New Orleans, LA 70130

RE: Judiciary of Orleans Parish Civil District Court's  
Private Executive Chef  
MCC# 012-10-H

Dear Mr. Bellamy:

The Metropolitan Crime Commission (MCC) respectfully requests a Judiciary Commission investigation into the conduct of the Orleans Parish Civil District Court judiciary relative to a court chef that prepares meals served exclusively to the judiciary in their executive dining room.

Information received by the MCC indicates that Orleans Parish Civil District Court has employed Chef Gason Yen Nelson since 2003 to prepare meals for the judiciary. Media posted on the web site for Mr. Nelson's private business, Full of Flavor, confirms his role as chef to the judiciary of Orleans Parish Civil District Court. Mr. Gason's compensation during his tenure with the court has ranged from \$18,000 to \$21,000 per year. Orleans Civil District Court Judicial Expense Fund payroll records from 2007 and 2008 indicate Mr. Gason's job title is "custodian" despite the fact that Mr. Gason has served as their executive chef. The court's attempt to disguise Mr. Gason's job duties creates a perception that the court is aware that it is impermissible to employ a chef with Judicial Expense Funds. The MCC is also enclosing for your consideration copies of petty cash reimbursement receipts paid by the court for food and cooking equipment.

We respectfully ask that the Judiciary Commission determine if the court's employment of a chef to provide them with lunches at no personal expense is in violation of Louisiana Revised Statute 13:691 paragraph B which states that judges shall not receive any additional "salary, compensation, emolument, or benefit." We additionally ask for a determination of whether the judiciary of Orleans Parish Civil District Court violated Judicial Canons. Specifically, Judicial Canon 2 paragraph A compels the judiciary to comply with the law at all times, and Judicial Canon 3 paragraph B (4) prohibits judges from making unnecessary appointments.

We are enclosing supporting documentation that verifies Gason Nelson's employment, media and online accounts of his service to the court, and receipts for food and supplies.

Please advise us of the outcome of your review.

Sincerely,

Rafael C. Goyeneche, III  
President

Enclosures