



RECEIVED APR 02 2014

Armando Ramirez
Osceola County Clerk of the Circuit Court

Barbara A. Petersen, President
First Amendment Foundation
336 East College Avenue, Suite 101
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Re: Letter dated March 25, 2014

Dear President Petersen,

Thank you for taking the time to write to my office and express your concerns regarding the now dismissed allegations we faced during the recently closed FDLE/State Attorney investigation. In kind, I am taking the time to respond in attempt to allay those concerns.

Florida has been a leader of transparent government. I serve in this state to uphold the integrity that it has exhibited thus far in this arena. I have myself relied heavily on the integrity of public agencies to adhere to the tenets of transparent government during my career as a community & civil rights activist for over the past 50 years, thus I am whole-heartedly supportive of completely accessible government.

Here in Osceola County, I was instrumental in changing the election system towards one that embraced diversity, transparency, and fairness. Years later, I did it again with the school board system. Since I have been on the other side of the fence, I embrace and take in all conscience my responsibility as a public official to provide both transparent operations, and an effectual request-fulfillment process within my organization. I believe it is because of my history as a public advocate, with ideals very similar to those espoused by your organization, that certain detractors have attempted to tarnish those accomplishments by attacking the doctrines of my character that have been used in those efforts.

In closing, I want to succinctly address the recent investigation results, as I know that was the catalyst of your concern. The reason why the recent investigation was unprolific is simple. There was no evidence to support criminal charges because the allegations were not true, which some of the allegers have themselves admitted. I assure you that I cherish my position as an elected public servant that the people of Osceola County and the State of Florida can trust as a leader with dignity, decency, and above all else, fidelity.

Most Sincerely,



Armando Ramirez
Clerk of the Osceola County Circuit Court