

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MARYLAND FOR  
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

PLAINTIFF  
Adrian Rousseau  
1001 5<sup>TH</sup> Street  
Laurel, MD. 20707

Proceeding pro se

v.

Defendants  
City of Laurel, MD City Council  
8103 Sandy Spring Road  
Laurel, Maryland 20707-2502

Served on:

CASE NO:

CA09-24762

COMPLAINT FOR DENIAL OF  
PLAINTIFF'S RIGHT OF EQUAL  
CONSIDERATION IN HAVING A  
CONVENIENT PLACE TO VOTE  
DURING SEPTEMBER 8, 2009  
REFERENDUM

CLERK OF THE  
CIRCUIT COURT  
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD  
SEP 23 11:11 AM  
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD

**Statement of Jurisdiction/Statement of Venue/Preliminary Allegations**

Petitioner is a resident of the City of Laurel, Maryland. The incorporated City of Laurel, Maryland is located entirely in Prince George's County. All named parties to this claim are residents of, agents of, or associated with the electoral processes of the City of Laurel. Petitioner, a registered voter in the city of Laurel, and an African American, challenges the September 8, 2009 referendum vote held at one precinct alleging that it will dilute minority voting rights (in violation of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act), that it amounts to impermissible racial gerrymandering that discriminates against minority voters in violation of the fourteenth and fifteenth amendments of the constitution and that it is a violation of the "one person, one vote" guarantee of the Federal Equal Protection Clause.

**Causes of Action**

**Fact Pleading**

1. The City of Laurel enacted Resolution No. 3-09 on June 8, 2009 which calls for a special referendum on September 8, 2009.

2. The City of Laurel Municipal in-person day of election voting is scheduled to be exclusively held at the Phelps Center. The Phelps Center is located at 701 Montgomery Street, Laurel, Maryland.
3. State and Federal elections in the City of Laurel use four additional polling locations.
4. Throughout the history of Laurel, multiple in-person voting locations have been utilized.
5. The City of Laurel has refused the requests of elected officials, community leaders, and citizens to increase the number of polling places to the Federal/State/County level of five within the corporate boundaries of the City of Laurel.
6. Attached as exhibit one is a document prepared by an elected Laurel City Councilman and presented to the Laurel City Council. This document traces the history of voting in Laurel.
7. Plaintiff sues the Mayor and the Laurel City Council (hereinafter "The City"). Plaintiff is informed and believes, through his own personal experience, that The City is discriminating against him and others similarly situated thereby casting his beloved city of Laurel as a racist city as a result of eliminating its normal election process of having five voting places for city-wide elections during the upcoming Referendum scheduled September 8, 2009.
8. Plaintiff is informed and believes that if The City is allowed to depart from its standard process of having five precincts and allowed to have only one precinct for the September 8, 2009 Referendum, he will be discriminated against by having to travel from his neighborhood where he customarily votes.
9. Plaintiff is informed and believes that the decision to have one polling place has forced him to travel from his own neighborhood and his regular polling station and that the same is a ploy by The City to discourage him from casting his vote on September 8, 2009. Plaintiff cites the attached study as support for his position that the neighborhood in which the referendum vote is currently scheduled is predominantly white, unlike the neighborhood within which he presently resides and customarily votes.

10. Plaintiff is informed and believes that The City's blatant and insensitive departure from the normal locations of voting precincts is in reality an attempt to discourage people of color from voting because he has announced that he will be running for City Council in 2010 and an important point in the Referendum scheduled to be voted upon on September 8, 2009, if passed, would extend the term of the Mayor and the City Council and would eliminate the regular election scheduled for Mayor and City Council positions in 2010, and would therefore effectively remove any possibility of the Plaintiff being elected in 2010.
11. Plaintiff is informed and believes that if he is given a fair opportunity to compete by having the placement of precincts follow their normal pattern, there is a strong possibility that the September Referendum would be defeated and would allow the regular 2010 election to be held, which would give him a fair chance of being elected to the Laurel City Council in 2010, and The City would avoid unnecessarily being cast as being racially biased, an image he would not like to bestowed upon his beloved city.
12. Plaintiff is informed and believes that The City is definitely discriminating against him with their arbitrary decision to have only one voting precinct for the September 8, 2009 Referendum, especially when one considers that the precinct selected is in a predominantly white neighborhood and the present racial demographics of The City show that the majority population is made up of people of color.
13. Plaintiff is informed and believes that The City's arbitrary decision to have only one voting precinct for the September 8, 2009 Referendum is a direct discriminatory act against him as a person of color, and that that decision denies him the opportunity of a fair chance to represent his city as a tax payer and resident of Laurel.

#### **DEMAND FOR RELIEF**

Plaintiff seeks the following relief:

1. A Court Order, commanding Defendant to use all five voting precincts for the September 8, 2009 Referendum.
2. In the event that the Court does not order the Defendant to use all five voting precincts for the September 8, 2009 Referendum, the Plaintiff asks the Court to set aside voting for the September 8, 2009 Referendum.

3. Any other and further relief the Court considers proper.

Respectfully submitted,

8/24/09  
Date

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