

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA
NEW ORLEANS DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Plaintiff,

v.

THOMAS F. DONELON, individually)
and as President of the Jefferson)
Parish Council, Jefferson Parish,)
Louisiana; DAVID M. SCHEURMANN,)
individually and as Director of)
the Recreation Department of Jef-)
ferson Parish, Louisiana; MAURICE)
D. WALSH, JR., individually and)
as Library Administrator for Jef-)
ferson Parish, Louisiana; and)
THE JEFFERSON PARISH COUNCIL,)
Defendants.)

CIVIL ACTION NO. _____

C O M P L A I N T

Plaintiff, the United States of America, alleges:

1. This is an action instituted by the Attorney
General on behalf of the United States, pursuant to Sec-
tion 301 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2000b.

2. This Court has jurisdiction of this action pursuant to Section 301 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2000b and 28 U.S.C. 1345.

3. The Attorney General has received a signed complaint from a Negro citizen to the effect that she has been deprived of her right to the equal protection of the laws, on account of her race, by being denied equal utilization of the public library facilities of Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, which facilities are owned and operated by the Jefferson Parish Council, the duly elected governing body of Jefferson Parish, and the Attorney General certifies, pursuant to Section 301 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, that the signer of the complaint is, in his judgment, unable to initiate and maintain appropriate legal proceedings for relief, and that the institution of an action will materially further the orderly progress of desegregation in public facilities. The certificate is attached to this complaint.

4. Thomas F. Donelon is President of the Jefferson Parish Council, the duly elected governing body of Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, and is the chief executive officer for Jefferson Parish. He resides in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana.

5. David M. Scheurmann is Director of the Recreation Department of Jefferson Parish, Louisiana and is responsible for the operation of all public facilities within the

jurisdiction of said Recreation Department, including all public library facilities in Jefferson Parish. He resides in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana.

6. Maurice D. Walsh, Jr. is employed by the Recreation Department of Jefferson Parish as library administrator, and is the manager of all public library facilities in Jefferson Parish. He resides in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana.

7. The Jefferson Parish Council is the duly elected governing body of Jefferson Parish, Louisiana. As such it owns, finances, and sets governing policy for the management and operation of all public facilities in Jefferson Parish, including all public library facilities in the Parish. The members of the Jefferson Parish Council are Thomas F. Donelon, Charles J. Eagan, Jr., Harold L. Molaison, Jacob H. Sciambra, Beauregard H. Miller, Jr., James J. LaForest, Jr., George J. Ackel, and Anton Pilney. They all reside in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana.

8. The Jefferson Parish Council owns and operates public library facilities at the following locations in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana:

- a. 520 Transcontinental Drive, Metairie
- b. 701 - 2nd Street, Gretna
- c. 219 Soniat Avenue, Harahan
- d. 1307 Causeway Boulevard, New Orleans
- e. 2632 Jefferson Highway, Jefferson Parish

f. 1903 Airline Highway, Kenner

g. 626 Avenue A, Marrero

h. 528 Webster Street, Kenner

i. 100 Atherton Drive, Metairie

j. 913 Ames Boulevard, Marrero

k. 222 - 4th Street, Westwego

9. The public library facilities listed in Paragraph 7 are public facilities within the meaning of the Section 301(a) of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2000b.

10. It is the policy of the defendant Jefferson Parish Council and the individual defendants named herein to operate the public library facilities of Jefferson Parish on a segregated basis, and under this policy Negroes have been and are refused, on the basis of their race or color, full and equal use of the public library facilities provided for white persons.

11. The acts, practices, and policies described in the preceding paragraph constitute a deprivation of the rights of Negroes to the equal protection of the laws, by denying them full and equal use of the public library facilities of Jefferson Parish on the ground of race or color.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff prays that this Court enter an order enjoining Thomas F. Donelon, David M. Schuermann, Maurice D. Walsh, Jr., and the Jefferson Parish Council,

together with their successors, agents, employees, and all persons in active concert or participation with them, or any of them, from:

- a. Refusing to admit Negroes to any public library facility in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana;
- b. Refusing to issue library cards to Negroes or to permit Negroes with library cards the full use and enjoyment of library facilities used by white persons;
- c. Making any distinction whatever, on the basis of race or color, in the availability of any of the services, facilities, privileges, or advantages offered, or made available to the public at any of the public library facilities operated by the defendants in Jefferson Parish;
- d. Otherwise denying or interfering with the free and full use by Negroes of all public library facilities in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana.

Plaintiff further prays for its costs of suit and for such additional relief as the interests of justice require.

NICHOLAS deB. KATZENBACH
Attorney General

JOHN DOAR
Assistant Attorney General

LOUIS C. LA COUR
United States Attorney

D. ROBERT OWEN
Attorney
Department of Justice

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CERTIFICATE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Nicholas deB. Katzenbach, Attorney General of the United States, certifies that he has received a complaint signed by an adult Negro citizen residing in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, that she has been denied equal utilization of the public library facilities of Jefferson Parish by the Jefferson Parish Council, that the signer of the complaint is unable, in his judgement, to initiate and maintain appropriate legal proceedings for relief, and that the institution of this action will materially

further the orderly progress of desegregation in public facilities.

This certification is made pursuant to the provisions of Section 301(a) of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2000b(a).

Signed this day of , 1965.

NICHOLAS deB. KATZENBACH
Attorney General