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September 12, 2018

Mr. Ken Hinton  
County Administrator, Livingston County  
305 East Grand River Ave. Suite 202  
Howell, MI 48843

Via certified mail, return receipt requested

RE: Livingston County Veterans Services Department and Hansel Keene

Dear Mr. Hinton:

This office represents \_\_\_\_\_ with whom you have already had contact and communications.

My client has requested that this letter be sent expressing her concerns and reiterating certain factual matters about which you and she have previously communicated.

As you may recall, the basis of your initial contact with my client involved my client's desire to assist veterans in Livingston County and her making donations to Mr. Keene personally at her home in the form of the following: a) a check in the amount of \$400.00, made payable jointly to the Livingston County Veterans Services Department and to Mr. Keene -per Mr. Keene's instructions; b) a new Dirt Devil brand vacuum cleaner; c) a new Bissell brand floor cleaner. and d) a 48" riding lawn mower.

My client's firmly held convictions and/or statement of factual circumstances are as follows

- 1) Mr. Keene represented himself as an agent of the Livingston County Veterans Services Department.
- 2) Mr. Keene represented himself as having the authority to solicit donations and cash checks on behalf of a county department.
- 3) Mr. Keene repeatedly told my client aid he already had a receipt from the County Veterans Department for those donations.
- 4) My client believes the county has a responsibility to investigate someone claiming to represent the county and claiming to have the authority to solicit donations, cash checks, and issue receipts on behalf of a county department.
- 5) As you are also aware, my client was informed by the county that none of the donations were received. Since her donations were intended for the county Veterans Services Department, since the check was made out jointly to that department and the person claiming to be that department's agent, and since that check was cashed, my client sincerely believes it is the county's responsibility to investigate what happened to that check and the other donations intended for the county Veterans Services Department.

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6) My client also is concerned about at least the potential that anyone may be falsely representing themselves as having a capacity or authority with the county that they may not have, and if such person may be soliciting donations on behalf of a county department without the authority to do so, that there exists at least the potential for misappropriation of donations. My client believes the county has a responsibility to investigate any such person and potential situation, for that potential reason alone, despite any specifics of this discussed matter.

7) My client made donations for veterans in good faith. The donations did not end up at the county department they were intended. Is it not at least "some" of the county's responsibility to ensure that donations solicited for and /or by a county department are handled in the proper manner according to laws and IRS regulations? As this matter seems to relate to a county department, any responsibility for the proper handling of donations cannot seem to be exclusively with the donor. It is my client's belief that the county has a responsibility to investigate any possible misappropriation of donations, and has at least "some" responsibility to the donors and the public (tax payers funding the Veterans Department) for the proper handling of those donations.

8) My client agrees it is beneficial and proper for the county to report the situation to the Michigan State Police as such may deal with the potential criminal nature of the situation. Yet my client also believes that only contacting the State Police does not address the perceived "internal" procedural or job description issues. If someone is misrepresenting the county in any manner (whether it be a county employee, volunteer, or appointee to a committee) doesn't the county then have a responsibility to stop that person, regardless of any potential criminal action? My client is aware the county currently requires all people wishing to volunteer to be subjected to a background check and biological screening. It appears the county has a procedure or an illustration of the oversight the county has for non-employees. If a non-employee, volunteer or appointee is operating outside of their scope of authority or engaging in actions that could be improper or illegal, then my client believes the county has responsibility to investigate such a matter, for its own seeming "internal proposes" and the integrity of its own actions and compliance with its own rules and regulations.

Accordingly, my client was dismayed when she understood from communications with you that no such county "internal" investigation was in place and not likely to be instituted.

It would be appreciated at your earliest convenience, if you could, in writing, confirm or clarify my client's understanding of a lack of county internal investigation processes for this matter, and any explanation or rationale behind whatever may be the county policy in this regard or for this matter specifically. It would also be appreciated if your correspondence could be with this office only and not directly to or with my client.

Thank you. Your time spent in this matter is appreciated.