

October 23, 2000

Ms. Martha Beard
14160 John Clark Road
Gulfport, MS 39503

Dear Ms. Beard:

Thank you for taking time from your schedule to meet with Governor Musgrove during his recent "One-on-One with the Governor" event. Your multiple concerns were noted.

In regard to your first concern, Mississippi Development Authority records show that no Community Development Block Grant funds have been used for housing in more than five years. However, \$300,000 HOME funds were used in 1995 to improve a historic neighborhood. In 1997, residents certified that they were satisfied with the improvements and the project was closed.

Second, the Department of Health has provided a summary of the penalties for nursing homes that violate the standards care and licensure (see attached). The Governor's legal and legislative staff, with the Department of Health's legal staff, will review the nursing home care laws and regulations and possibly suggest improvements for the Legislature to consider during the next legislative session.

Third, under the Vulnerable Adults Act, the Attorney General's Office is charged with the responsibility of conducting investigations of abuse and fraud in nursing homes. The Department of Health's staff does participate in these investigations as they are conducted by the Attorney General's office.

Fourth, our legal and intergovernmental relations staff will review the action of the U.S. Naval Home and Veterans Administration's placing out-of-state veterans in Mississippi nursing homes at a cost to Mississippi residents, and provide a response to you.

Fifth, the Mississippi Code (§25-9-301) defines a veteran as "a person who served in the active Armed Forces of the United States for a period of ninety days during a period of war or armed conflict and was granted an honorable discharge therefore; or was discharged therefrom for a service-connected injury in less than ninety days." To provide a preference for all veterans will require legislative action. I encourage you to contact your Representative and Senator.

Sixth, your support for county law enforcement officers to have and use radar equipment is well founded. This too will require legislative action, and I encourage you to contact your Representative and Senator.

Finally, your concerns regarding Mississippi's right to work laws were noted. Again, this will require legislative action to amend the Mississippi Constitution. For your information, your representatives are Senator

Again, thank you for taking time to share your concerns with Governor Musgrove. If you have any further questions, please contact me at 359-3150.

Sincerely yours,

Michael Boyd
Policy & Planning Director

Cc: