

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR
THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND
GREENBELT DIVISION**

MS. PATRICIA FLETCHER,)	
<i>et al.,</i>)	
)	
Plaintiffs,)	
)	
v.)	
)	
LINDA LAMONE in her official)	
capacity as State Administrator of)	
Elections for the state of Maryland;)	
And ROBERT L. WALKER in his)	
official capacity as Chairman of the)	
State Board of Elections,)	
)	
Defendants.)	
)	

Civ. Action No.: RWT-11-3220

DECLARATION OF MICHAEL HARRIS

I, Michael Harris, declare based on personal knowledge and experience and pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746:

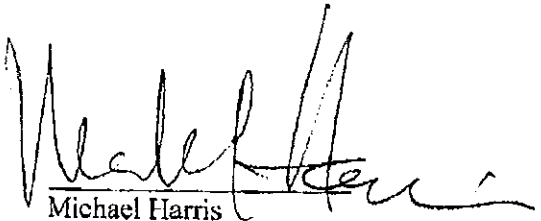
1. I am an African-American resident of Temple Hills in Prince George’s County, Maryland. I have lived in Maryland for between 15-20 years. I have a Bachelors degree in Industrial Labor Relations from Cornell and a J.D. from American University. I practiced law for a few years after law school but transitioned into the IT industry. I am now an IT consultant in Washington D.C. and Maryland.
2. African Americans in Prince George’s County uniformly have two major requests. First, we want more and better jobs in our community. Second, we want better schools in our community. However, we don’t get these things from our state elected leaders.

3. What jobs there are in Prince George's County tend to be government jobs. The private sector and industry simply do not invest in Prince George's County. There is a gigantic hole in terms of opportunity for advancement socially and economically because of a lack of private enterprise. African Americans in Prince George's County are beholden to the government for their livelihood.
4. As an entrepreneur and small business person I would prefer a community where I am free to offer my services to other business people but most of the work is contracting with the government.
5. In my experience economic opportunity in the African American community is working for the government or contracting with the government. However, as you drive south in Maryland into less minority areas you see private enterprise. And to the extent there is government work it is highly skilled work such as engineers.
6. Because our elected leaders are not listening to the needs of the African American community in Prince George's County we have bad schools and that creates a scarcity of potential employees. We are graduating students who literally can't read.
7. In my experience elections are rarely about the issues. Race is always a predominate factor. During the last election, when we had a African American Republican running against a white incumbent for Congress, I saw posters of President Obama show up all over African American communities telling us to vote for the white incumbent to show President Obama we had his back. Those signs did not appear in non-African American areas.
8. During previous elections I heard Michael Steele, an African American who ran for office as a Republican, referred to as a "Sambo" and as a "Jigaboo," both offensive racial terms.

9. I understand that African American Prince George's County leaders were told they had no choice but to vote for the approved congressional maps or they would get redistricted out during the legislative redistricting to come. The leadership at top is disconnected and white, and live in other communities. They only care about the vote in Prince George's County but not the issues facing the people of Prince George's County. Prince George's County is the community that always come out on the short end and told to take one for the Democratic Party.
10. During the debate over gambling in Prince George's County I was involved in a coalition of ministers who opposed the slot machines and spoke out on the issue. They were told by community leaders that if they continued to oppose the slot machines they would find their support from the county would end – such as police support for traffic control on Sundays, or difficulties with the zoning boards when they tried to make changes to their churches or establish shelters for the poor.

I declare under the penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on December 6, 2011.


Michael Harris