

JUL 22 1971

D.J. 166-012-3

Mr. Norman J. Pitre  
Assistant District Attorney  
29th Judicial District of Louisiana  
Post Office Box 34  
Luling, Louisiana 70070

Dear Mr. Pitre:

This is in reference to the proposal of the St. Charles Police Jury to change from ward-to-ward to at-large election of the police jurors, which was submitted to the Attorney General pursuant to Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

After careful consideration of your submission, I must advise you that the Attorney General objects to the implementation of the St. Charles Police Jury reapportionment plan. As I pointed out in my letter dated March 30, 1971, the statute permitting at-large election of police jurors (Act No. 445 passed during the 1968 Louisiana Legislative Session) was submitted to the Attorney General pursuant to Section 5. The implementation of this statute, along with the provisions authorizing at-large elections for school board members (Act No. 561), were objected to by him on June 26, 1969.

Because of this earlier objection to the enabling legislation and federal court decisions affecting at-large election problems, it appears that St. Charles Parish does not have authority to elect police jurors on an at-large basis. This incapacity is not cured by retention of ward residency requirements. In the case of Dyer v. Love, 307 F. Supp. 974 (N.D. Miss. 1969), the court ruled

- 1 -

that as a result of the Attorney General's objection to the implementation of the state statute authorizing at-large elections for boards of supervisors in Mississippi, the supervisors do not have statutory power or authority to provide for such elections.

Sincerely,

DAVID L. NORMAN  
Acting Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division