



*KNOWLES & RANDOLPH, P.A.*  
*Attorneys at Law*

*Harold M. Knowles*  
*Roosevelt Randolph\**  
*\*Board Certified Mediator*

August 24, 2017

*Dawn P. Whitehurst\*\**  
*Clayton F. Knowles*  
*Linje' Rivers\*\*\**  
*\*\*Also Admitted in Virginia*  
*\*\*\*Also Admitted in Georgia*

Chairman Mike Rogers &  
Housing Finance Authority Board  
c/o 918 Railroad Avenue  
Tallahassee, Florida 32310

Dear Chairman Rogers and Board Members:

I trust you have been made aware of the legal challenges in the state of Georgia faced by one of our firm's principals, Harold Knowles. Even though news accounts have presented only one side of this very complex legal and business story, Mr. Knowles maintains that he is innocent of these allegations. Tuesday was his first opportunity to speak publicly about these false charges, when he entered a plea of not guilty before the Federal District Court in the Middle District of Georgia. Although this case is in a very early stage of the judicial process, he looks forward to the opportunity to present the truth in the appropriate forum at the proper time.

Over the years, our firm has represented Leon County as legal counsel to various boards with the utmost integrity, honesty and accountability. With respect to our law firm's long-standing relationship with the Leon County Board of County Commissioners (which the Knowles and Randolph family values greatly), we want to assure you and your fellow board members of the firm's continuing capacity and commitment to serve the County and the HFA.

Certain news reports have projected several points which we believe warrant our direct response.

First, it is important to keep in mind that Dawn Whitehurst is the General Counsel to the HFA. And while we always take a firm-wide collaborative approach to representation of any individual client, Ms. Whitehurst has been designated by the firm as lead attorney for the HFA engagement, with the remaining attorneys in the firm serving in a consultative capacity. Thus, there will be no reduction in the level of service provided to the HFA. It should be noted, parenthetically, that Mr. Knowles remains licensed to conduct legal affairs on behalf of others in the State of Florida and will therefore be able to continue to provide consultative support to General Counsel Whitehurst as he has in the past. If his status should change in this regard, we would, of course, immediately notify you as we are ethically required to do by the Florida Bar. We are thus confident that Knowles and Randolph can continue to fulfill your expectations and perform at a level identical to the level of our performance in the past.

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Secondly (as noted above), Mr. Knowles has entered a plea of not guilty to the pending formal charges. We request that you, as a body, withhold judgment and afford him the opportunity to clear his name. We ask simply that you not judge him in the Court of Public Opinion, but allow him in a Court of Law to avail himself of the constitutional presumption of innocence accorded every citizen of this state and nation.

Please accept this correspondence as an expression our firm's appreciation for the confidence the HFA has placed in us to this point as we look forward to continuing to serve you in the future.

Sincerely,  
Knowles & Randolph, P.A.

  
Roosevelt Randolph, Esquire  
Firm President