



FIRST AME CHURCH OF LOS ANGELES

Pastor J. Edgar Boyd
Senior Minister

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: MICHAEL ELLISON-LEWIS
ellisonlewis@famechurch.org
(323) 730-7734 24/7

STATEMENT OF FAME CHURCH LEGAL COUNSEL ROBERT M. SILVERMAN, ESQ.

"It has come to our attention that defendant Reverend John Hunter held a press conference today to state that the lawsuit filed by FAME Church against him, several other individual defendants and FAME Assistance Corporation and FAME Housing Corporation was dismissed. Reverend Hunter states that he has been vindicated and requests an apology from FAME Church. Typically, Reverend Hunter's statements are untrue.

FAME Church dismissed the individual defendants in its lawsuit entitled, FAME Church et al. V. Hunter et al, Los Angeles Superior Court case no. BC496747. FAME Assistance Corporation and FAME Housing Corporation are still defendants in this litigation. By dismissing the individual defendants from the lawsuit, FAME Church decided to proceed on the core issues in the case— (i) the return of FAME Corporations to the umbrella of FAME Church whereby FAME Church elects the directors of each FAME Corporation; (ii) the Senior Minister and Pastor of FAME Church is designated the chairman of the board and CEO of each FAME Corporation; and (iii) FAME Church supervises the activities of these non-profit public benefit corporations established by Reverend Cecil L. "Chip" Murray as ministries of FAME Church to serve the needy of the Los Angeles community.

Trial of this matter is scheduled for October 14, 2014. The essence of this lawsuit is to declare null and void the actions of the individual defendants in amending the by-laws of the FAME Corporations to disenfranchise the church from voting on the election of each board of director of the FAME Corporations and to block the Pastor of FAME Church from assuming his role as the Chairman of the Board and CEO of the FAME Corporations. The original by-laws of FAME Assistance and FAME Housing Corporations specify that FAME Church will elect the directors of these corporations at the annual meeting of FAME Church. The pastor of FAME Church is specifically designated as the head of the boards of directors. These by-laws have been in tact and operational from 1986 until defendants attempted to change this relationship.

The actions of the individual defendants in amending the by-laws of FAME Corporations sought to perpetuate their tenure as the directors of FAME Corporations. The ultra vires actions of the individual defendants were taken because these individual defendants knew in advance that Reverend Hunter would be transferred from FAME Church to another AME Church on or before October 28, 2012. Then the new Pastor of FAME Church would hold an election at the church regarding the directors of FAME Corporations.

Denise Hunter and her husband sought to block this election as specified by the by-law procedures. Dismissal of the individual defendants is not a vindication of their innocence. It is simply a decision to efficiently proceed with the litigation to challenge the unlawful by-law amendments. Any damages that the church could have obtained in an extensive jury trial against these individual defendants were considered uncollectible. FAME Church and Pastor Boyd desire a quick and decisive decision by the court to overturn the illegal by-law amendments. Other avenues are available to the church to challenge the actions of the individual defendants as specified in the FAME Church complaint."

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www.FAMEChurch.org
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2270 South Harvard Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90018
Tel: 323.730.7750 Fax: 323.735.7829