



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

**Office of the
Assistant Secretary
for Civil Rights**

**1400 Independence
Avenue SW**

**Washington, DC
20250**

Mr. Corey Lea
Cowtown Foundation
PO Box 422
Arrington, TN 37014
cowtownfoundation@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Lea,

Thank you for your May 19, 2021 email correspondence in response to our May 19, 2021 letter to you. In your latest correspondence, you indicated that you believe you have an open civil rights complaint on file with the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (OASCR), and you also forwarded an Order from USDA's Office of the Administrative Law Judge (OALJ) in support of your assertion. We have reviewed the documentation you provided and note the number you refer to in your email as the complaint number does not represent an OASCR program complaint number, rather this number appears to be an OALJ docket number.

Further, a review of available documentation reflects OASCR determined the issues referenced in the OALJ's order were the same issues you raised in program complaint #08-1401. OASCR dismissed this complaint on March 25, 2010, as you also filed a civil action in the U.S. District Court, W.D., Kentucky on the same issues (civil action #1:10-CV-00029). Ultimately, the Court dismissed your claim on January 19, 2011, finding there were insufficient facts to reasonably conclude discrimination occurred. Under the principle of *res judicata*, the matter raised has already been adjudicated by a competent court and the cause of action may not be relitigated.

We reaffirm, a review of our files indicates that you have no open or active discrimination complaints on file with the OASCR. While we certainly understand this is not the outcome you desire, we nonetheless hope you find this information useful.

Sincerely,

Monica Armster Rainge
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights