

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)

Plaintiff,)

vs.)

THE CITY OF BELLEVILLE and THE)
CITY OF BELLEVILLE BOARD OF FIRE)
AND POLICE COMMISSIONERS,)

Defendants.)

CIVIL NO. 93-799-GPM

FILED
JAN 27 2003
C. PATRICK MURPHY,
DISTRICT JUDGE
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EAST ST. LOUIS, ILLINOIS

ORDER

MURPHY, Chief District Judge:

Before the Court is the renewed motion of Defendants to dissolve the Consent Decree that was entered August 8, 1995 (Doc. 446). The initial motion to dissolve was filed August 31, 2000, and was opposed by the United States. At the request of the parties, the Court stayed consideration of the motion to give the parties an opportunity to work out the remaining issues. On September 24, 2001, the initial motion to dissolve was denied without prejudice to reassert the same at a later date.

The Court convened a status conference December 9, 2002, and ordered that Defendants file a motion to dissolve the Consent Decree no later than December 20, 2002. Defendants' timely renewed motion to dissolve was filed December 19th. The United States was ordered to respond to this motion no later than January 20, 2003. Instead of a response to the motion, the Court received the United States' motion to extend the time for filing its response on January 21, 2003. This motion to extend time was signed January 17, 2003.

This Consent Decree has lasted longer than the United States' participation in World War II, and this Court cannot fathom why the United States would need additional time to determine whether it wants to object to the motion. The motion to extend time is **DENIED**, and the Court **FINDS**:

(1) The objectives of paragraph one of the Consent Decree have been substantially achieved.


(2) The City of Belleville has engaged in sufficient employment activity over the period covered by the Consent Decree to demonstrate its good faith in achieving the purposes set out in the Consent Decree.

(3) It is past time that the responsibility for administering the police department and the fire department be returned to the local elected officials charged with this responsibility.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Consent Decree entered by this Court on August 8, 1995, as amended, is **DISSOLVED**.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED this 27th day of January, 2003.



G. PATRICK MURPHY
Chief United States District Judge