

Stan Joyner
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Town Administrator

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Town Clerk

Town of Collierville

December 3, 2012

Dear Fellow Collierville Resident,

I feel sure that by the time you receive this letter you will be well aware of the ruling by Judge Mays concerning the efforts by Collierville and other municipalities to form municipal school districts. I realize that there is a lot of information flowing from the media and it can be both confusing and overwhelming. One concern I have is that some media reports carry a tone that would have many believing that the effort to form municipal school districts has ended or that the options available to us are so limited that they are not worth pursuing.

Neither of these concepts is true. Judge Mays did not rule that municipal schools are unconstitutional; he only ruled that the formation of these schools is prohibited at this time. The final determination of whether municipal schools may form depends on the Court's rulings concerning the lifting of the ban on municipal schools and an adjudication of the equal protection/racial discrimination claims. The trial on the equal protection/racial discrimination claims set for January 3, 2013 has been continued and no date has been set.

When we began the effort to form our own school district we did so with a clear understanding that there would be challenges. Knowing this, we set out to embark on this process with a solid commitment to stand firm in our goals and in our resolve. Over the past few days since the ruling, I have received a tremendous amount of encouragement and support from Collierville citizens asking that we continue to pursue the effort and not compromise our goals. I want to assure you that this ruling has not weakened our resolve nor will it deter our effort. We began this process by developing a plan and strategies that accounted for obstacles and even setbacks. I have complete confidence in our plan and in our capable legal team.

Our efforts to form a municipal school district are grounded in the recognition that a quality education is something that every parent wants for their child. I also understand that our schools are the very heart of Collierville and that students deserve the best educational experience we can possibly provide. While we continue to actively engage in the legal process, other planned activities related to the municipal school effort will continue to move forward.

I greatly appreciate the encouragement I receive every day from Collierville residents. I believe we will ultimately attain our goal of establishing a school system that offers every student in Collierville schools an opportunity for a quality education.

Very truly yours,

Stan Joyner, Mayor