

Stan Joyner
Mayor

Maureen Fraser, *Alderman*
Jimmy Lott, *Alderman*
John Worley, *Alderman*
Tom Allen, *Alderman*
Billy Patton, *Alderman*



James H. Lewellen
Town Administrator

Lynn Carmack
Town Clerk

Town of Collierville

Judge's ruling seen as a delay, not an end to municipal school efforts

Although we are disappointed in the recent ruling by Judge Mays concerning our efforts to form a municipal school district, we are as determined as ever to be responsive to the mandate by Collierville residents. We understand clearly that there is overwhelming support for a locally controlled school system.

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. "I am always open to hearing all sides in an issue and exploring all possible options, however, I believe it is too early in the process to begin a discussion that moves toward compromising our position," said Mayor Joyner. "I firmly understand that our schools are the very heart of Collierville and that students deserve the best educational experience we can possibly provide. This ruling has delayed our efforts but not derailed us. My plan is to keep moving forward toward the goal of forming a Collierville Municipal School District."