

March 8, 2018

Lt. Governor Tate Reeves
P.O. Box 1018
Jackson, MS 39215



Dear Lt. Governor Reeves,

We recognize that the City of Jackson is challenged. The city has seen its population decrease from 200,000 in 1980 to 170,000 today. The City of Jackson has limited resources to address its ever growing needs. Safety issues have increased while property values have declined. The kidnapping and subsequent shooting in Northeast Jackson and the murder in Belhaven are some of the instances of crimes neighborhoods are facing. Our own Secretary of State had his truck stolen from his garage at his home....a crime still unsolved.

Across America today, there are hundreds of "Community Improvement Districts" (CID), allowing neighborhoods and communities within a city to voluntarily assess themselves with a "fee" for the sole purpose of improving the quality of life, protect property values, and generally improve neighborhoods in a defined, specific area. A CID is created and governed much like a "Business Improvement District" (BID), in that the property owners THEMSELVES, create a "District Plan" and choose a managing organization to implement this district plan, as approved by state law. Property owners are allowed every few years (as agreed to in the District Plan) to re-evaluate these assessments and vote to continue them or not.

This is the 4th year the CID legislation has been introduced to the Mississippi Legislature. Other cities such as Atlanta and St. Louis have CIDs. We can make it happen here as well.

Why do we, the undersigned, implore you to support us in our efforts to improve our communities?

1. Government cannot address the many amenities and improvements in our specific communities and neighborhoods.
2. CID's can address streetscaping, landscaping, security concerns and cameras, signage, beautification efforts and a host of other concerns to particular communities.
3. CID's assure accountability, as the assessments (set up the District Plan and authorized by state law) can be rescinded by vote of the people paying the assessments, the property owners themselves.

IT'S DOWNTOWN

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4. Studies have shown a reduction in crime within the district boundaries.
5. Allowing a community to have control over its own destiny is simply the right thing to do. This is not an increase in taxes, but simply a democratic expression of a community, by super majority vote (60% required for authorization), to improve the neighborhoods in which they live.

We respectfully implore you to not only support our efforts to pass Senate Bill 3045, but to also use your considerable influence to assist us in getting this bill signed into law. Time is of the essence. Every day problems continue to grow, but we can overcome our challenges through neighborhood action.

Respectfully,

Ben Allen
President

Leland Speed
Chairman Emeritus

The following neighborhood associations wholeheartedly support SB3045 and are cosignatories in this letter.

Belhaven Heights Community Association

Alex McCord

Fontaine Place Homeowners Association

Tad McCraney

Belhaven Improvement Association

Reed Hogan

Greater Belhaven Foundation

Casey Creasey

Bellevue Gardens Homeowners Association

John Zupko

Greater Eastover Neighborhood Foundation

Dale Currie

Broadmeadow Neighborhood Association

Jason Tuten

Jackson Medical Mall District

Primus Wheeler

Carolwood Homeowners Association

Ken Adcock

Our Fondren Neighborhood Association

Dawn Mackie

Country Club of Jackson Homeowners Association

Breck Hines

Sherwood Forrest/Audobon Park Security Association

Melissa Neyland

The District at Eastover

Ted Duckworth

New Horizon Ministries

Bishop Ronnie Crudup

Eastover Security Association/Homeowners Association

Dana Robertson

Massena Heights Homeowners Association

Sally Birdsall

Fondren Renaissance Association

Jim Wilkirson

Lefleur East Foundation

Stacey Jordan

LOHO Homeowners Association

John Morgan Hughes

Villages of Northpointe

Lisa Miller Nettles

Meadowbrook Highlands Homeowners Association

Lewis Bell

Revitalize Mississippi

Andy Frame

Rollingwood Homeowners Association

Patrick Crews

Sheffield Area Homeowners Association

Ashley Ogden