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Friday, December 5, 2025

ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

Mr. Dwayne Page
WJLE Radio
2606 McMinnville Hwy.
Smithville, Tennessee 37166

***RE: Matthew Sliger
Response to County Misinformation and Defamation***

Dear Mr. Page:

We are writing to follow up our conversation from a few weeks ago. I would apologize, as the day in responding was entirely on me. I had a death in the family and it put me behind in everything. First, we would like to thank you for taking the time to allow us to address the scurrilous and false allegations and statements that were made by Dekalb County officials against our client, Matt Sliger. Mr. Sliger enjoys an excellent reputation as a land developer throughout Tennessee, and the falsehoods directed at him by Mayor Matt Adcock and Jack Barton for pure political gain and expedience have needlessly damaged that reputation.

We previously forwarded to you a letter we transmitted to Dekalb County through its attorney, Hilton Conger, dated September 12, 2025. That letter contains our complete position on the issues in this dispute. We also forwarded the letter transmitted by District Attorney General Bryant Dunaway to Mayor Adcock and Hilton Conger dated August 18, 2025. This letter corroborates just about everything we have said about Mr. Sliger and the mistreatment he has suffered at the hand of these rogue public officials. We hope that you will consider publishing both these letters in their entirety, especially the letter by General Dunaway, as we doubt seriously the community-at-large has been privy to it.

You asked us what we hoped you would stress in potential follow up stories. We merely would like for the truth to be made known. Nothing more, nothing less. However, if there are some points we wish to stress, it would be the following:



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1. Matt Sliger is an excellent developer, with an excellent reputation, who has been open and honest in his dealings with the citizens and landowners of Dekalb County. He has committed absolutely no crimes, as verified by General Dunaway. The District Attorney didn't have to do much investigation to confirm what we always knew, Mr. Sliger acted lawfully in all his dealings with the landowners. No land was transferred until after the final plat was approved. A fact corroborated by General Dunaway's office. In addition, Mr. Sliger was only the land developer. He did not sell any of the parcels. Regardless, no parcel was transferred prior to approval.

2. There is not, and never was, any FBI investigation. This was simply made up. As you can read in General Dunaway's letter, he confirms there was no wrongdoing on Mr. Sliger's part, and there was never any FBI referral, much less an investigation. General Dunaway appeared to be bewildered by Mayor Adcock's statement to the contrary. Regardless, there was yet another falsehood hurled at Mr. Sliger.

3. Mr. Sliger made a bond in the amount of \$45,000.00 as required by the Dekalb County planning commission, based upon the commission's own specifications and requirements. It was the planning commission that approved the fire safety requirements and established the bond amount, which was increased multiple times. And each time, Mr. Sliger agreed to pay the bond in an effort to put this matter in the review mirror. Dekalb County now has Mr. Sliger's money but refuses to use it to install the fire suppression infrastructure. We don't believe any upgrades are necessary, but the planning commission did at one time. Thus, the bond requirements. Mr. Sliger complied, and he would now like to see his money either utilized to the benefit of the landowners or returned.

4. Maybe the most important point we would like to emphasize is that Mr. Sliger's development comports with national standards for fire suppression and/or prevention. We do not believe that has ever been disputed or challenged. As Dekalb County has adopted that standard, Mr. Sliger's development is in full compliance with the applicable standards. Again, however, he agreed to pay the bond (and bond that steadily increased) which speaks volumes about this integrity and willingness to cooperate.

There have been other falsehoods and petty slights that we could address, but they really do not deserve further attention on this platform. They will be addressed later in potential litigation. We believe the repeated falsehoods, some made up out of whole cloth, were made to redirect the understandable frustration and anger some landowners had with the planning commission and the Dekalb County commission. Mr. Sliger was served as a convenient patsy in the political dispute involving several members of the Dekalb County government. We will work tirelessly to not only bring the truth to light, but to restore Mr. Sliger's reputation in this community. He would also like to rebuild the trust with landowners that was so unfairly and needlessly damaged by county officials.

If you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to reach out. We thank you again for your time and attention in this matter.

With kindest regards, we remain

Very truly yours,

Michael Giaimo

Mike Giaimo, Attorney at Law

Mike Savage, Attorney at Law

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