

STATE OF THE COUNTY
WILLIAMSON, INC - CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
July 19, 2022 – 11:30 am

I WANT TO BEGIN TODAY BY THANKING YOU FOR BEING HERE. PEOPLE HAVE MANY CHOICES WHEN IT COMES TO WHERE THEY WANT TO SPEND THEIR TIME AND THEIR MONEY. SO I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING TO BE HERE TO LEARN ABOUT THE GOOD THINGS HAPPENING IN WILLIAMSON COUNTY.

IT'S NO SECRET THAT WILLIAMSON COUNTY HAS ONE OF THE BEST PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEMS IN OUR NATION. THIS HAPPENS BECAUSE THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 2,900 TEACHERS, AND ANOTHER 2,300 SUPPORT STAFF WHO HAVE CHOSEN A CAREER IN EDUCATION. THEY HAVE MADE A CONSCIENTIOUS DECISION TO DEVOTE THEIR TIME TO HELPING OUR YOUTH BECOME FUTURE LEADERS.

THEIR HARD WORK IS BEING REFLECTED IN TCAP SCORES, INCLUDING RECENT INFORMATION SHOWING WILLIAMSON COUNTY ELEMENTARY THROUGH 8TH GRADE SCORES AS BEING THE HIGHEST IN THE STATE OF TENNESSEE.

WHETHER OUR STUDENTS DECIDE TO FURTHER THEIR EDUCATION WITH AN ASSOCIATES, BACHELORS OR MASTERS DEGREE, WHETHER THEY CHOOSE A TECHNICAL CAREER, OR WHETHER THEY CHOOSE NOT TO FURTHER THEIR STUDIES AFTER HIGH SCHOOL, THEY ARE LEAVING OUR COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM WITH AN EXCELLENT BACKGROUND IN PUBLIC EDUCATION.

WILLIAMSON COUNTY'S EDUCATION SYSTEM IS UNDER THE OVERSIGHT OF 12 MEN AND WOMEN WHO WERE ELECTED BY THE PUBLIC THEY SERVE TO SET POLICIES FOR THE OPERATIONS OF OUR AWARD WINNING SYSTEM. THE MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL BOARD WORK DILIGENTLY TO ENSURE THAT OUR STUDENTS AND THEIR ADMINISTRATION HAVE THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR THEM TO BE SUCCESSFUL. IT HAS ITS CHALLENGES. IT IS NOT EASY. IT IS NOT CHEAP.

BASED ON THE MOST RECENT CONSTRUCTION, BIDS AND CURRENT MATERIAL COSTS, A NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, INCLUDING LAND, COSTS APPROXIMATELY \$35 MILLION – A NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL APPROXIMATELY \$61 MILLION AND A NEW HIGH SCHOOL AT APPROXIMATELY \$80 MILLION. THESE CAPITAL EXPENDITURES DO NOT INCLUDE THE COST OF FURNISHING, EQUIPPING, STAFFING OR ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS.

THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY COMMISSION HAVE ALSO MADE PUBLIC EDUCATION A PRIORITY WHEN IT COMES TO THE ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET. THE 2022-23 BUDGET, WHICH WAS PASSED APPROXIMATELY THREE WEEKS AGO, APPROPRIATED 68% OF THE TOTAL \$723.5 MILLION BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY TO EDUCATION. THE COMMISSION FULLY FUNDED THE REQUESTED SCHOOL BUDGET, TOTALING \$492.5 MILLION BUDGET.

IF YOU INCLUDE THE COUNTY'S DEBT SERVICE REQUIREMENTS DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO SCHOOLS, THAT PERCENT INCREASES TO OVER 75% OF THE TOTAL COUNTY BUDGET BEING EARMARKED FOR SCHOOLS. (Pause & Review Chart Information)

WHEN YOU COMPARE THE OVERALL 10% INCREASE FOR SCHOOLS SINCE 1987, YOU WILL NOTICE THAT THE OPERATING COSTS FOR ALL OTHERS HAS DECREASED BY 10% DURING THAT SAME TIME FRAME.

A REVIEW OF THE SLIDE SHOWN PROVIDES THE PERCENTAGE OF EXPENDITURES FOR EACH OF THE FUNDS WITH THE COUNTY GENERAL FUND AT APPROXIMATELY EIGHTEEN PERCENT (18%). THE \$128.3 MILLION ALLOCATED TO THIS FUND PROVIDES THE FUNDING FOR THE GENERAL OPERATIONS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY, WHICH INCLUDES ALL OF THE COURT SYSTEMS AND THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE AS WELL AS THE GENERAL OPERATING COSTS FOR EACH OF THE OTHER SEVEN ELECTED OFFICIALS.

THIS SLIDE SHOWS THE MAJOR REVENUE SOURCES TO PROVIDE THE FUNDING FOR THE OPERATIONS OF ALL OF THESE FUNDS – 74% WHICH IS DERIVED FROM LOCAL TAXES, 24% FROM THE STATE AND 1% FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

WITH THE HIGH PRICE OF GROCERIES AND GASOLINE, AS WELL AS UNCERTAINTY IN A POST-PANDEMIC ECONOMY, THE COUNTY COMMISSION RECOGNIZED THE NEED TO PROVIDE INCREASES FOR OUR EMPLOYEES.

WE CONTINUE TO WORK DILIGENTLY TO ENSURE THAT WE ARE RETAINING TRAINED AND EXPERIENCED PERSONNEL. WORKING WITH AN OUTSIDE CONSULTANT, WE HAVE IDENTIFIED AREAS IN THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE, JAIL AND EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENTS THAT NEED TO CONTINUOUSLY BE TWEAKED TO STAY ON TOP OF MARKET ASSESSMENTS.

SHERIFF RHOADES AND HIS STAFF WORK 24/7 TO ENSURE THAT OUR RESIDENTS RECEIVE OUTSTANDING LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSES AND IT IS IMPORTANT TO RETAIN QUALITY PERSONNEL. LIKewise, OUR 911 TELECOMMUNICATORS ARE OFTEN THE FIRST INTERACTION THE PUBLIC HAS WHEN FACED WITH AN EMERGENCY.

IN AN EFFORT TO STAY ON TOP OF RISING PRICES AND COMPETITIVE SALARIES, LAST JANUARY, THE COUNTY COMMISSION PROVIDED A MID-YEAR 4% SALARY INCREASE FOR ALL EMPLOYEES AND A 6% INCREASE FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND E911 COMMUNICATIONS.

WITH THE RECENT ADOPTION OF THE NEW BUDGET, THE COMMISSION ALSO UNANIMOUSLY FUNDED ANOTHER 2% SALARY INCREASE EFFECTIVE IN JULY AND AN ADDITIONAL 2% TO BE DISTRIBUTED NEXT JANUARY. THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND TELECOMMUNICATORS RECEIVED THE FULL 4% AT THIS TIME AND ARE SLATED TO RECEIVE AN ADDITIONAL 2% IN JANUARY.

IT IS IMPERATIVE IN TODAY'S JOB MARKET THAT WILLIAMSON COUNTY RETAINS SEASONED EMPLOYEES AND REMAIN AN ATTRACTIVE EMPLOYER FOR NEW STAFFING.

AT THIS TIME, I WANT TO THANK THE MEMBERS OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY STEVE SMITH AND INCLUDED SEAN AIELLO, DWIGHT JONES AND TOM TUNNICLIFFE. THESE GENTLEMEN GAVE OF THEIR TIME AND EXPERTISE TO REVIEW THE NEEDS OF EACH DEPARTMENT AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS WITH FISCAL CONSERVANCY.

THEY APPROVED AND RECOMMENDED A \$723.5 MILLION BUDGET THAT WAS FUNDED **WITH NO PROPERTY TAX INCREASE**. AT \$1.88 PER \$100 OF ASSESSED VALUE, I AM PROUD THAT WILLIAMSON COUNTY'S PROPERTY TAX RATE REMAINS ONE OF THE LOWEST IN THE STATE OF TENNESSEE.

THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY COMMISSION ARE EACH ELECTED BY THE PUBLIC THEY SERVE IN THEIR RESPECTIVE DISTRICTS. I AM HONORED TO HAVE THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES WE ADMINISTER THROUGHOUT WILLIAMSON COUNTY. WOULD ANY MEMBER OF THE COUNTY COMMISSION PLEASE STAND AND BE RECOGNIZED AT THIS TIME?

AS PREVIOUSLY STATED, THE COUNTY COMMISSION CONTINUES TO ENSURE THAT PUBLIC SAFETY IS A PRIORITY AS THEY WORK WITH SHERIFF RHOADES AND HIS ADMINISTRATION TO MEET THEIR LAW ENFORCEMENT NEEDS ARE MET.

IN A WORLD OF UNCERTAINTY, EACH OF THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVE IN LAW ENFORCEMENT ARE TO BE COMMENDED FOR THEIR COURAGE AND DECISION TO ENTER THIS CAREER.

WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE COMMISSION, A SPECIAL COMPENSATION STUDY WAS CONDUCTED AND FUNDED FOR WILLIAMSON COUNTY'S MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM. THOUGH IT CAN NEVER BE ENOUGH FOR THE TASKS THEY DO, IT IS ONE WAY TO SHOW OUR SUPPORT. AT THIS TIME, I WOULD ASK THAT ANY MEMBER OF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY STAND AND LET US THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE WITH A ROUND OF APPLAUSE.

I AM PROUD, IN MY YOUNGER YEARS, TO HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO WEAR A DIFFERENT TYPE OF UNIFORM AND TO HAVE SERVED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE IN BOTH AFRICA AND VIETNAM.

IF YOU ARE ALSO VETERAN AND SERVED OUR COUNTRY TO DEFEND OUR FREEDOMS, WE SIMPLY CANNOT THANK YOU ENOUGH. WOULD YOU PLEASE STAND AND BE RECOGNIZED?

IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT NOT EVERY CITIZEN, OR PERSON WHO VISITS OR RESIDES IN THIS COUNTY, ARE LAW ABIDING INDIVIDUALS. WHEN THEY BREAK THE LAW, THEY ARE GUARANTEED A FAIR TRIAL IN OUR COURT SYSTEMS. WHETHER IT BE IN CRIMINAL, CIRCUIT OR JUVENILE COURT, WE HAVE A GROWING DEMAND TO INCREASE SERVICES, PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES FOR OUR COURT SYSTEM.

IN RECENT YEARS, I HAVE SHARED WITH YOU THE PLANS FOR MEETING THESE DEMANDS FOR OUR JAIL, JUVENILE AND JUSTICE SYSTEMS.

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE PUBLIC BUILDING AUTHORITY AND THE COUNTY'S REPRESENTATIVES FROM OVERSITE, INC., THE TIME WILL SOON BE HERE TO BEGIN THE COMPLEX PROCESS OF CONSTRUCTION AT DIFFERENT SITES AND RELOCATING SERVICES IN AN EFFORT TO PROVIDE IMPROVED FACILITIES FOR A MORE EFFICIENT OPERATION OF THESE OFFICES.

I WANT TO THANK SHERIFF RHOADES, JUVENILE JUDGE SHARON GUFFEE, JUVENILE COURT CLERK, BRENDA HYDEN AND THEIR EMPLOYEES WHO HAVE PROVIDED THEIR VALUABLE INPUT TO MEET THE EVER GROWING NEEDS OF OUR JUDICIAL SYSTEM.

WILLIAMSON COUNTY IS NOT IMMUNE TO THE EVER INCREASING RISE IN SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS. THE CURRENT PROJECTED BUDGET FOR THIS "TRIPLE J" PROJECT

STANDS AT \$250-300 MILLION, BEFORE BEING PLACED OUT FOR BID. IT IS A LONG PROCESS BUT ONE THAT NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED.

YOU MAY RECALL IN A PREVIOUS SLIDE THAT ONLY A MINIMUM AMOUNT OF THE COUNTY'S REVENUE SOURCES ARE DERIVED FROM FEDERAL SOURCES. WITH THE PASSAGE OF THE FEDERAL AMERICAN RECOVERY PLAN ACT OF 2021 ("ARPA"), WILLIAMSON COUNTY RECEIVED \$23 MILLION WHICH ALL MUST BE SPECIFICALLY UTILIZED FOR RESOURCES THAT WOULD HELP RETAIN A SUCCESSFUL LOCAL ECONOMY IN THE CASE OF ANOTHER NATIONWIDE PANDEMIC.

A PORTION OF THESE FUNDS WERE EARMARKED TOWARDS HIRING A TEMPORARY ACCOUNTANT POSITION, WHICH HAS BEEN FILLED BY COMMISSIONER PAUL WEBB. UNDER THE WATCHFUL EYES OF OUR COUNTY'S BUDGET DIRECTOR, PHOEBE REILLY AND PAUL ARE TASKED WITH ENSURING THAT ALL FEDERAL GUIDELINES ARE UPHELD WITH THE EXPENDITURE OF THESE FUNDS.

WHEN STUDENTS WERE TASKED WITH REMOTE LEARNING AND EMPLOYEES WERE REQUIRED TO WORK FROM HOME, IT SOON BECAME APPARENT THAT MANY OF OUR RURAL AREAS OF THE COUNTY DID NOT HAVE ANY, OR SUFFICIENT, ACCESS TO THE INTERNET. THOUGH THE SCHOOL SYSTEM, OUR LIBRARY SYSTEM AND OUR PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENTS WORKED DILIGENTLY TO PROVIDE INTERNET ACCESS VIA REMOTE PUBLIC FACILITIES, IT WAS STILL NOT ADEQUATE TO MEET THE NEEDS FOR OUR RESIDENTS.

WITH THIS IN MIND, IT BECAME A PRIORITY TO ENSURE WILLIAMSON COUNTY WOULD ESTABLISH THE BEST CONNECTIVITY FOR BROADBAND AND CELL SERVICE AS POSSIBLE. IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE TN DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, WILLIAMSON COUNTY AGREED TO SET ASIDE A PORTION OF THESE FEDERAL FUNDS TO BE UTILIZED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A BROADBAND SUPERHIGHWAY.

WE WORKED WITH CABLE PROVIDERS AND THE TN DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TO IDENTIFY NON-SERVED AREAS IN OUR COUNTY AND ARE NOW AWAITING AWARDS INFORMATION FOR RURAL BROADBAND GRANTS. THE COUNTY HAS COMMITTED \$4.7 MILLION OF ARPA FUNDS TO SUPPLEMENT ANY STATE FUNDING GRANTED FOR BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE IN WILLIAMSON COUNTY.

THE THREE INTERNET/BROADBAND PROVIDERS IN WILLIAMSON COUNTY WHO SUBMITTED GRANT REQUESTS INCLUDE CONEXON, COMCAST AND UNITED COMMUNICATIONS.

WILLIAMSON COUNTY HAS BEEN WORKING WITH VOGUE TOWERS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF FIBER AND TOWER SITES IN RURAL AREAS OF OUR COUNTY. THESE PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS WILL ENABLE ADULTS TO BE ABLE TO WORK REMOTELY AND STUDENTS TO BE ABLE TO LEARN AT HOME, IN WAYS NOT PREVIOUSLY ACCESSIBLE TO THEM.

NOT ONLY WILL THESE IMPROVEMENTS IN REMOTE COMMUNICATION HELP BUSINESSES AND HOMES, THEY WILL ALSO ENHANCE INTERNET AND MOBILE COMMUNICATION ACCESS FOR OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT AND OTHER PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL.

OTHER ARPA FUNDS HAVE BEEN SPECIFICALLY EARMARKED TOWARDS HEALTHCARE, INCLUDING \$6 MILLION TO BE UTILIZED FOR AN UPDATED AND ENLARGED EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT AT WILLIAMSON MEDICAL CENTER TO BETTER SERVE OUR CITIZENS. AN ADDITIONAL \$1,425,000 WAS PROVIDED TO PURCHASE THREE (3) NEW ADDITIONAL AMBULANCES TO IMPROVE EMERGENCY RESPONSE SERVICES THROUGHOUT OUR COUNTY.

AS YOU CAN SEE, THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS GOING ON THROUGHOUT OUR COUNTY IN AN EFFORT TO CONTINUE TO KEEP WILLIAMSON COUNTY MOVING FORWARD.

AS YOU MAY BE AWARE, ALL OF THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF OUR COUNTY ARE SERVED BY VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ALSO RECENTLY ADOPTED A PROGRAM WHICH ALLOWS THE COUNTY TO MIRROR A PROGRAM IMPLEMENTED BY THE STATE WHICH ALLOCATING ANNUAL FUNDING FOR VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS WHO MEET THE REQUIRED TRAINING CRITERIA.

WITH ON-GOING TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE, VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS WILL NOW RECEIVE AN ADDITIONAL STIPEND TO HELP COVER THEIR PERSONAL EXPENSES AND IT IS OUR GOAL THAT THIS WILL HELP WITH VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTER RECRUITMENT.

AS WE TURN OUR FOCUS TO JOBS, A RECENT SECOND QUARTER ECONOMIC MODELING REPORT CONDUCTED BY EMSI, STATED THAT WILLIAMSON COUNTY JOBS INCREASED BY 14.1% FROM 2016 TO 2021. WILLIAMSON COUNTY OUTPACED THE NATIONAL GROWTH RATE OF 0.7% BY 13.4%! THE STUDY REPORTED THAT THE TOP THREE INDUSTRIES IN 2021 AS BEING MANAGEMENT OF COMPANIES AND ENTERPRISES,

RESTAURANTS AND OTHER EATING PLACES AND EDUCATION AND HOSPITALS (LOCAL GOVERNMENT).

YOU HAVE HEARD ME SAY IT BEFORE AND IT BEARS REPEATING – GOVERNMENT DOES NOT CREATE JOBS. HOWEVER, GOVERNMENT CAN PROVIDE THE ENVIRONMENT TO ATTRACT JOBS. WILLIAMSON COUNTY HAS ALWAYS PRIORITIZED QUALITY EDUCATION, TOP NOTCH LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY AND PARKS AND LEISURE SERVICES WHICH ARE KEY FACTORS CONSIDERED WHEN COMPANIES ARE LOOKING AT OUR COMMUNITY. CORPORATE LEADERSHIP RECOGNIZE AND APPRECIATE THE CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP SHARED BY OUR GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES.

THEY WANT THE SAME FOR THEIR EMPLOYEES AND THEIR FAMILIES AS WE DO AND I WILL CONTINUE TO PLACE AN EMPHASIS ON THESE SERVICES THROUGHOUT OUR COUNTY.

TENNESSEE CODE ANNOTATED STATES THAT THE COUNTY MAYOR IS THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER OF THE COUNTY. THIS IS A DUTY THAT I TAKE VERY SERIOUSLY IN AN EFFORT TO PRESERVE OUR TRIPLE A (Aaa) BOND RATING. WORKING WITH THE COUNTY BUDGET DIRECTOR AND OUR FINANCIAL SERVICES ADVISOR, SAM CREWSE OF STEPHENS, INCORPORATED, WE ARE CONSTANTLY EVALUATING THE COUNTY'S FINANCIAL PICTURE AND TAKING ADVANTAGE OF ANY OPPORTUNITIES TO SAVE THE COUNTY TAXPAYER'S DOLLARS.

IN THE PAST THREE YEARS, WILLIAMSON COUNTY HAS USED SPECIFICALLY TARGETED SALES TAX REVENUES TO PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT OF AN ADDITIONAL \$66 MILLION

IN DEBT OBLIGATIONS. IN OTHER WORDS, IN ADDITION TO OUR REGULARLY SCHEDULED PAYMENTS, WE HAVE PRE-PAID ADDITIONAL DEBT OBLIGATIONS.

THE FUNDS THAT HELPED MAKE THIS POSSIBLE WERE THE RESULT OF THE SALES TAX REFERENDUM AND THE AGREEMENTS WITH THE SCHOOL SYSTEM AND OUR PARTICIPATING MUNICIPALITIES WHO PARTNERED WITH THE COUNTY TO ASSIST IN FINANCING SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.

BASED ON A CURRENT TAX BASE OF APPROXIMATELY \$62.65 BILLION, THE COUNTY'S NET DEBT RATIO OF 1.27% HAS NEVER BEEN LOWER IN THE PAST 28 YEARS OF DATA COLLECTIONS. THIS IS A CONTRIBUTING FACTOR THAT MOODY'S INVESTOR SERVICE ANALYZES WHEN RATING THE COUNTY'S BOND ISSUES. THOUGH THERE ARE STILL A NUMBER OF CAPITAL PROJECT NEEDS AND BORROWING PLANS FORTHCOMING IN THE NEXT FOUR YEARS, THE CURRENT LEVEL OF DEBT REFLECTS THE COUNTY'S ONGOING GROWTH IN A VERY PROPORTIONAL WAY.

THOUGH WILLIAMSON COUNTY'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ARE STRONG AND THRIVING, WE ARE ALSO PAINFULLY AWARE THAT THERE ARE THOSE PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY, ON OUR STAFF AND IN THIS ROOM TODAY WHO ARE STRUGGLING TO MAKE ENDS MEET FOR VARIOUS REASONS.

I WANT TO ENCOURAGE EACH OF US TO REMEMBER OUR NEIGHBORS, FRIENDS, CO-WORKERS AND FAMILY MEMBERS WHO MAY NEED OUR HELP.

THERE ARE A LARGE NUMBER OF NON-PROFITS IN WILLIAMSON COUNTY WHO PROVIDE NEEDED SERVICES FOR MANY OF OUR RESIDENTS. I CANNOT NAME THEM WITHOUT

FORGETTING THE GOOD WORKS OF OTHERS SO I WILL NOT TRY TO DO THAT. WHAT I CAN TELL YOU IS THAT NON-PROFITS EXIST TO ASSIST WITH DISABLED CHILDREN AND ADULTS, THOSE STRUGGLING WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO MEET THE BASIC NEEDS OF FOOD, CLOTHING AND SHELTER, AS WELL AS AGENCIES WHO OFFER SERVICES FOR SENIORS AND JUVENILES. THERE ARE VETERANS IN OUR COMMUNITY WHO COULD USE OUR HELP. WE KNOW THERE ARE THOSE STRUGGLING WITH ADDICTION OF MANY TYPES.

I ENCOURAGE EACH OF US TO FIND WAYS TO OFFER OUR HELP – WHETHER IT IS THROUGH FINANCIAL MEANS, SERVICES OR PRODUCTS. WE CAN ALL FIND A WAY TO “DO GOOD” FOR OUR NEIGHBORS THROUGHOUT OUR COMMUNITY.

SPEAKING OF OUR COMMUNITY, THE SINGLE LARGEST COMMUNITY EVENT IS JUST A FEW SHORT 17 DAYS AWAY. AT 5:30 PM ON THE FIRST FRIDAY IN AUGUST, WE WILL JOIN MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY AND THIS CHAMBER TO CUT THE RIBBON TO OPEN THE 18TH ANNUAL ALL AMERICAN COUNTY FAIR!

IF YOU HAVE ANY EXTRA TIME ON YOUR HANDS, I WOULD ALSO ENCOURAGE YOU TO VOLUNTEER AT THE FAIR. WE HAVE MANY NEW EVENTS THIS YEAR AND SOME THAT ARE RETURNING. THIS MARKS THE 18TH YEAR OF THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY FAIR, PRODUCED BY A MAGNIFICENT COMMUNITY GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE FAIR FAMILY, YOU CAN FIND A LINK ON THE WEBSITE. (Pause for fireworks)

I HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE WHEN YOU BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS OUT TO THE ALL AMERICAN FAIR, FEATURING AGRICULTURE, EDUCATION AND ENTERTAINMENT FOR ALL AGES.

AS WE CLOSE TODAY, I WANT TO SAY THANK YOU AGAIN FOR CHOOSING TO BE HERE, WORK HERE AND RAISE A FAMILY HERE. THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO SERVE THE CITIZENS OF THIS GREAT COUNTY.

MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS WILLIAMSON COUNTY AND OUR UNITED STATES OF AMERICA