



STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO CONCERNS RAISED BY CERTAIN PROPERTY AND BUSINESS OWNERS

October 12, 2023

After receiving concerns from certain property and business owners in the Village of River Bend, Missouri ("Village"), the Village releases the following statement in response to those concerns:

The current Board of Trustees believed they were duly appointed by members of the preceding Board. However, to mitigate any concern regarding the validity of their appointments, current Board members decided to hold a Special Election in November 2023. At that time, the date for notice to the Jackson County Election Board had passed and required a court order to provide notice to the Election Board. After obtaining the court order and believing the current Board members were the only residents of the Village, the Village received an email from Andrew Hanson alleged to be on behalf of one Deborah Schneider stating she was a resident and wanted to submit her Declaration of Candidacy for the Board. Unaware and uncertain that Ms. Schneider is a resident of the Village, out of an abundance of caution and upon advice of legal counsel, the Village submitted to the Election Board Ms. Schneider's Declaration of Candidacy along with the other candidates.

During the Board meeting on September 19, 2023, certain property and business owners alleged there were other residents in the Village unknown to the Board, however, did not provide the names or addresses of the residents. Uncertain if there are such residents or the validity of their residency, out of an abundance of caution and upon advice of legal counsel, the Village contacted the Election Board to request that any other valid residents to be able to submit their Declaration of Candidacy or in the alternative withdraw the November Special Election. The Election Board advised the Village it was too late to allow any other Declaration of Candidacy submission or withdraw the election.

On October 9, 2023, Benjamin Hoffer submitted his resignation as member of Planning and Zoning and as such the Village is unable to conduct any business under Planning and Zoning at this time. It should also be noted that the Village received notice of withdrawal from SRED Investors, LLC, of its proposed redevelopment plan. Notice of this withdrawal has been sent to the Tax Increment Financing Commission.

The Village kindly asks, that anyone who is aware of individuals who are lawful residents of the Village, please notify the Village Clerk of the name, address, phone number, and other contact information of said persons.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Howse". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Amy Howse, Clerk, Village of River Bend