



G R E A T E R  
S T A R K V I L L E  
D E V E L O P M E N T  
P A R T N E R S H I P

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
TOURISM  
MAIN STREET  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

October 5, 2015

RE: Support for Redesign of State of Mississippi Flag

Dear Mayor Wiseman and Starkville Board of Aldermen:

The Greater Starkville Development Partnership (GSDP) took action at its regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting on September 23, 2015, to issue a resolution to the Mississippi Legislature requesting that the State of Mississippi flag be redesigned to provide a more welcoming environment for residents, economic development prospects, and tourists alike.

We respectfully request that the Starkville Board of Aldermen consider issuing a similar resolution on behalf of your body to send a strong and joint message that the Starkville community desires a flag to represent our Great State that symbolizes unity and equality for all people.

Please find attached a copy of the resolution that was unanimously approved by members present of the GSDP Board of Directors and will be submitted to the Oktibbeha County Board of Supervisors, Mississippi Legislature, and Governor Phil Bryant.

Sincerely,

Richard Hilton  
Chairman, Board of Directors  
Greater Starkville Development Partnership

Attached: Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Greater Starkville Development Partnership of Starkville, Mississippi, Requesting the Mississippi Legislature Modify the Flag Representing the Great State of Mississippi

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE GREATER STARKVILLE DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP OF STARKVILLE, MISSISSIPPI, REQUESTING THE MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE MODIFY THE FLAG REPRESENTING THE GREAT STATE OF MISSISSIPPI.**

The Board of Directors of the Greater Starkville Development Partnership (GSDP) of Starkville, Mississippi, met on September 23, 2015, and adopted the following resolution requesting the legislators of the State of Mississippi authorize a new design and adopt the new flag to represent the entire State of Mississippi.

WHEREAS, the state flag of Mississippi should represent all of the citizens of our great state, and

WHEREAS, the Confederate battle flag of the Army of Northern Virginia has since the Civil War come forward symbolizing oppression, discrimination, slavery, and division to an important segment of our Mississippi population, and

WHEREAS, the state of Mississippi currently is the only state flag in the United States that includes the Confederate battle flag in its existing state flag, and

WHEREAS, the current state flag of Mississippi detracts from the image we attempt to create in the hearts and minds of non-residents, and

WHEREAS, those in economic development struggle to portray Mississippi in a positive and favorable light to potential investors; we feel that our current state flag is a distraction to their message of opportunity, and

WHEREAS, the city of Starkville has ceased flying the state flag due to the negative features which many citizens of Starkville saw in the flag, and

WHEREAS, the Student Association and Faculty Senate of Mississippi State University have sent to the University President a request to remove the state flag from the campuses of Mississippi State University,

WHEREAS, as Mississippians we should remove the Confederate battle flag from our state flag so that we may provide a welcome and open environment for residents and newcomers alike,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we as a body promoting the economic wellbeing of our area and supporting our locally elected officials respectfully request that the Mississippi Legislature bring this matter before their respective bodies and request the redesign of our state flag to positively represent all of the citizens of the Great State of Mississippi.

Submitted this day of October 5, 2015, by the Board of Directors of the Greater Starkville Development Partnership to the Mississippi State Legislature, Governor Phil Bryant, Mayor of the City of Starkville, Starkville Board of Aldermen, and the Oktibbeha County Board of Supervisors.

WITNESS THIS SIGNATURE:



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RICHARD HILTON, CHAIRMAN  
GREATER STARKVILLE DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP (GSDP)