

Leroy Brooks
Lowndes County Supervisor District Five
P.O. Box 1364
Columbus, MS 39703

January 24, 2013

Mr. Dewitt Hicks

Chairman

Columbus-Lowndes County Convention and Visitor's Board

Columbus, Miss. 39701

Dear Mr. Hicks:

It has become increasingly clear the Ad Hoc Committee of the Columbus-Lowndes County Convention and Visitor's Bureau responsible for developing the funding guidelines will not convene a meeting with the Festival Organizers prior to the next meeting of the board. We are very disappointed by the lackadaisical attitude of some board members in trying to find a reasonable solution to the disagreement concerning the funding for local festivals. The failure to resolve this matter in an amiable way will have an adverse impact on the perception of your board and the effort to promote "racial good will" in our community.

It is imperative that this matter be resolved as soon as possible. Jeff and I are receiving calls from vendors and other individuals interested in the festivals, since they are held in June and July. Mr. Karriem decision to request funding this year is predicated on getting this issue resolved in a manner that will help facilitate the success of our festivals. As festival organizers, we understand the cultural and financial impact these events have on our community. They have become an integral part of our community. Therefore, it is our responsibility to work diligently to make sure they are not destroyed because of politics and personality clashes.

Since we did not have the opportunity to meet with the AD HOC Committee, attached you will find our proposal. Hopefully, this will address the board's concerns regarding the festivals. If you have questions, please call me at 329-5871. I appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,


Leroy Brooks

The Following proposal is submitted on behalf of the festival organizers for The Juneteenth Festival, The 7th Avenue Heritage Festival and the Townsend Southside Festival.

Festival Representative

- A. No elected county or city official will appear before the CCVB to solicit funds for festivals.
- B. A designated representative (s) will be responsible for appearing before the CCVB as the spokesperson for the festival. Each festival committee may choose their own representative or one person may represent all three festival.
- C. All funding request and final report forms will be completed and signed by a member of the festival committees, other than an elected official.
- D. Elected officials will remain a part of each festival committee

Payment to Entertainers

- A. Payment to all entertainers will be made by check, money order or cashier's check.

Funding

- A. Request a Category be established for Festivals similar to the Tourism and Quality of Life Grant Category. Funding allocation will primarily for entertainment.
- B. Set the maximum funding level at \$15,000.00 and \$12,500.00 as the minimum, rather than \$8,000.00, with entertainment being the primary component of the grant.
- C. No less than 15% of the allocation be spent on promotion and advertisement

Special Request

Because of the time element for 2013, we are requesting the Quality of Life Category be amended. Set the maximum amount at \$15,000 and minimum amount at \$12,500.00, with no less than 15% be spent on advertisement and promotion. Request approval of this request at the January 28, 2013 meeting.

Note: These amounts are based on the historical cost of entertainment for the past several years.