

## Bethel Missionary Baptist Church

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Commissioner Jane G. Sauls, District 2  
2007/08 Chairman  
Leon County Board of County Commissioners  
Tallahassee, Florida

Dear Commissioner Sauls:

I write this letter to apprise you of the outcome of an informational meeting held Friday, May 30, 2008, at the Bethel Family Life Center here in Tallahassee. At the initiation of Chairman Robert Kellam of the Leon County Educational Facilities Authority, the meeting was held to clarify the process for moving forward with Create, Inc.'s request for a TEFRA hearing with the Board of County Commissioners. In attendance at the meeting were Chairman Kellam, the leadership and staff of Create, Inc., representatives from the development team, and a representative from the Royal Bank of Canada, who is pledging financial backing for the project. The meeting was positive, and we appreciated the opportunity to clarify our next steps in this process. Chairman Kellam has agreed to hold a meeting of the Educational Facilities Authority in the next 10 days.

As you know, state statutes require the sponsoring agency to affirm that the applicant demonstrates its financial integrity and capacity, as well as its organizational acumen. We are pleased to report that these criteria have been addressed and further strengthened as evidenced by the following:

1. The Authority's financial consultant has given a positive initial assessment of the updated financial plan to a committee of the Authority.
2. Create, Inc., is prepared to provide a strengthened marketing plan that will provide specificity to the overall marketing plan, including documented support and participation across Florida.
3. The Royal Bank of Canada has committed its support to the project and has taken the leadership in coordinating the various investors, bond attorneys, and all affiliate interests in bringing this project to a successful conclusion. Weekly conference calls allow for ongoing communication and unprecedented cooperation.

Under girding the proposal is the well-documented record of the Bethel Missionary Baptist Church's consistent and valiant work in the Frenchtown community of Tallahassee. We speak humbly, but confidently, that Bethel has clearly proven its ability to successfully manage and operate major facilities and agencies that have positively affected the lives of our people:

The Bethel Christian Academy, Steele-Collins Charter Middle School, The Bethel Family Counseling Center, The Bethel Family Restaurant, Carolina Oaks Housing Development, Bethel Towers Senior Housing Facility. Additionally, Bethel Missionary Baptist Church provides

ongoing support to the community through twenty active church ministries. I firmly believe that the Bethel Student Housing Project will also meet the financial scrutiny and organizational excellence to ultimately receive approval, such that we can proceed with our proposal to reposition the Holiday Inn for student housing.

You will recall that Create, Inc. voluntarily removed their request for a TEFRA hearing from the March, 2007, agenda due to the fluctuating financial market at that time. Our updated financial plan eliminates that concern. I am therefore, requesting that you schedule a TEFRA hearing with the Board of County Commissioners by July 8, 2008, for the Create, Inc. proposal. Our request is time sensitive at this juncture. We have labored and cooperated in good faith. Our human and financial investments toward this initiative to date are very significant. Further delays will be counterproductive and disheartening. Be assured, we are motivated by our firm belief in transforming our community and improving the quality of life in Tallahassee by actively supporting the mayor's plan for "Eighteen Hour Downtown."

Your facilitation in bringing Create's proposal forth by July 8<sup>th</sup> is crucial for the success of the project, the commitment of our investors, and most importantly, the progress of our community.

Your leadership, friendship, and support are appreciated and valued. We look forward to meeting with you and the Commission in July.

Yours truly,  
Dr. R. B. Holmes, Jr., Pastor  
Bethel Missionary Baptist Church

C: Leon County Board of County Commissioners  
Mayor John Marks  
Mr. Robert Kellam