

Dear District 5 Voter:

We are writing about your County Commissioner, Steve Mulroy. You may have received a letter from supporters of his opponent claiming that Commissioner Mulroy has not paid enough attention to the problems of the inner city in his district. This is simply not accurate, and you're entitled to know the truth.

Ms. Self was until recently the head of the Southeast Memphis Community Development Council and was intensively involved in issues of urban blight and economic development in that part of District 5. Dr. Betts is a University of Memphis sociologist who has for years been studying these issues and doing public advocacy on them (including those in Southeast Memphis). Mr. Casey is a Fox Meadows neighborhood activist who has been working to address the problems of the dilapidated Marina Cove apartment complex. All of us have worked closely with Commissioner Mulroy on issues of urban blight and inner city development generally, and Marina Cove specifically.

From the very beginning of his term as County Commissioner several years ago, Commissioner Mulroy has worked hard on these issues and shown real leadership. He has advocated tirelessly for a resolution of the Marina Cove matter. This year, municipal funding for demolition of Marina Cove has been approved. He has pushed legislation to make it easier for the county to clean up or sell vacant properties in the inner city, and to give them to nonprofit CDCs so they can be developed. He worked to help reopen the Hickory Ridge Mall. More recently, his innovative "Cash For Tires" program got over 113,000 illegally dumped tires off the streets of Memphis neighborhoods, and will be resumed this year. In sum, no County Commissioner has worked harder on these issues than Commissioner Mulroy.

As District 5 voters, you should of course make up your own minds about who you think would best represent you on the County Commission. But you are entitled to accurate information to help you make up your mind. Please consider the above as you make your decision.

Respectfully,

Beanie Self  
Former Director, Southeast Memphis CDC

Dr. Phyllis Betts  
University of Memphis

James Casey  
Fox Meadows Neighborhood Watch