

City of Memphis



DR. W. W. HERENTON
MAYOR

TENNESSEE

June 25, 2009

Myron Lowery, Chairman
City Council
125 North Main, Suite 514
Memphis, Tennessee 38103

Dear Chairman Lowery:

Effective July 11, 2009, I will resign my tenure as Mayor of the City of Memphis. My service as Mayor of this great city has been one of the highlights of my professional career and I have immensely enjoyed serving the citizens of Memphis in this capacity for the last eighteen (18) years. I am most proud of the fact that during my tenure as Mayor, the City of Memphis has grown and prospered for all of its citizens and I will leave behind a much better and stronger City government than I inherited.

However, my retirement from City government does not mean I am retiring from private endeavors or from public service. As always, I am busy making plans for the next chapter of my life. In the immediate future, I will join my son Rodney at Herenton Capital Management, a Memphis based holding company which focuses on the institutional investment management business. This locally based firm pursues opportunities in the private sector and with governmental institutions located throughout the State of Tennessee.

On the public side, I have previously announced my intention to seek the seat in the ninth congressional district. That remains my intention and over the next several months I intend to devote a great deal of time and energy, meeting and listening to the citizens of the ninth congressional district.

One of the things that I am acutely aware of is the fact that pursuing one public office while holding another creates the appearance of a "conflict of interest". I have always been opposed to such behavior by public officials and if I follow the same course of conduct that I have criticized in the past, it would subject me to the same criticism I have publicly stated about others. Although many of my colleagues, friends and constituents have tried to persuade me otherwise, I am convinced that serving as Mayor while pursuing a seat in Congress is not a good idea and would only become a distraction and take the focus from

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the campaign I intend to run - one that will be based on the important issue of who can best represent and serve the interests of the citizens of Memphis in Congress.

I have served Memphis and her citizens for more than thirty (30) years. In all of those years, I and my administration have partnered with those in Washington, DC to accomplish great things. However, in these recent challenging times both for our city and this nation, it has become increasingly apparent to me that the success of critically important local government initiatives are more dependent than ever on strong Congressional leadership.

It is therefore with great zeal and optimism that I look forward to the opportunity to take my local government experiences of dealing with urban challenges to the halls of Congress to benefit this great City which I have served tirelessly for my entire career.

I am deeply humbled and grateful to the citizens of Memphis for providing me with the opportunity to serve my hometown, first as Superintendent of Schools and for eighteen (18) years as Mayor. I ask for your continued support and prayers. God bless the great City of Memphis, the State of Tennessee and the United States of America.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Willie W. Herenton', written in a cursive style.

Willie W. Herenton