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COMMITTEE
ON
WAYS AND MEANS

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4208

July 21, 2006

Honorable Don McLeary
125 Ed Smith Road
Humboldt, Tennessee 38343

Dear Senator McLeary:

Thank you for your letter of July 18 inviting me to your "Crime Summit," to be held on July 28, 2006. Due to Congress being in session, I will be unable to attend.

In my place, I am asking Mrs. Shirlene Mercer to represent our office. Mrs. Mercer serves on my staff as Director of District Services.

I think Mrs. Mercer will represent our office well. Her name is synonymous with crime prevention in the Jackson community and the State of Tennessee as well. She has been at the vanguard in raising the public's awareness of the crime problem in Jackson.

Twelve years ago, Mrs. Mercer started the weekly Crime March, and she has continued to nurture this neighborhood war on crime, even when not in the best of health. For her efforts, she has been recognized by many organizations.

Just some of the awards for her work in crime prevention include: The Directors Community Leadership Award from the Director of the F.B.I., Mr. Louis Freeh; the Liberty Bell Award from the Jackson Bar Association; the Mason-Patterson-Ford Award from the Pentecostal Assembly Church of God in Christ; the University of Tennessee at Martin's award to an Outstanding Contributor to West Tennessee in 2004; the Gene Harris Award by Rotary International; the National Crime Prevention Council's Recognition for the Extraordinary Contribution to Preventing Crimes in 2000; and the Tennessee Education Association's E. Harper Johnson Human Relations Award for Outstanding Leadership in Achievements in Human Relations.

Perhaps more than any other individual in the community, Mrs. Mercer possesses a wealth of knowledge and experience when it comes to dealing with issues associated with crime. Through the years, public officials from the Vice-President of the United States, U. S. Senators, Congressmen, Governors, State Legislators, Mayors, and County officials have sought her advice and counsel on ways to combat crime.

At my request, Shirlene Mercer will be available to participate in the "Crime Summit" in the manner you deem appropriate.

Sincerely,

John Tanner, M.C.

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