

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to offer clarity to the public regarding the current situation involving the vacated council seats in the City of Lipscomb and the legal process that has followed.

I often explain this situation using the analogy of a foot race.

In any race, every competitor must run according to established rules. Even if a person crosses the finish line first, they can still be disqualified if they did not follow the rules of the race. If someone believes the rules were improper or unfair, the appropriate time to challenge those rules is during the race or immediately afterward through the proper protest or appeal process.

The same principle applies to elections.

If there were concerns about the election process, district lines, or procedures, those concerns should have been raised through an election contest within the legally allowed time. Once that window passes, the results become final and binding. At that point, the law is no longer about preference or politics—it is about compliance.

We are now in a different phase.

The issue before us today is not about how the race was run. It is about whether individuals are lawfully eligible to hold the positions they occupy. Alabama law is clear: a council member must reside in the district they represent. When an individual resides in one district but represents another, that is not a technicality—it is a legal disqualification.

As Mayor, I do not have the authority to ignore the law, reinterpret it for convenience, or selectively enforce it. My duty is to uphold the law as written and to protect the integrity of the city's government. When residency violations are identified, they must be addressed through the legal process, regardless of who is involved.

This is not personal. This is not political. This is about the rule of law.

The court has now ruled, and three council seats have been permanently vacated. Those decisions are not opinions; they are binding court orders. My responsibility is to respect those rulings and ensure the City of Lipscomb operates lawfully, even when it is difficult or uncomfortable.

We cannot rebuild trust in government if we are willing to overlook clear legal requirements. We cannot ask our citizens to follow the law if their leaders are unwilling to do the same.

My commitment remains the same: to govern with integrity, transparency, and accountability, and to lead the City of Lipscomb in a way that is grounded in truth, law, and fairness.

Respectfully,

Rob Sims
Mayor, City of Lipscomb
Phone: 205-997-3004
Email: mayor@cityoflipscomb.org

“Leadership rooted in service, driven by integrity.”