

From: Williamson Strong <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 1/12/2022 8:00:02 AM
To: [REDACTED]; Jason Golden <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: nearing 500 signatures calling on your voice for Franklin & Williamson residents

Attachments: [Screen Shot 2022-01-11 at 8.26.19 PM.png](#)

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL - THIS EMAIL DID NOT ORIGINATE FROM WCS


Good morning, gentlemen,

We met with some local pastors on Natchez St. yesterday, and collectively realized the very best thing those of us can be doing right now in the community is showing positive signs of support for the ideals and legacy of Dr. King.

Almost 3,800 people - almost all locals (we can see zip codes) - have now signed our petition denouncing this weekend's Be the People event. that's a lot! <https://chnq.it/ppX6X8YR>

You may very well already be planning to attend this annual event that has strong community support, but would love to see you at Monday's MLK, Jr. celebration at First Missionary Baptist Church and then downtown Franklin.

WHERE
DO WE
GO
FROM
HERE?



MLK DAY
CELEBRATION

Monday, January 17, 2022
11am- First Missionary Baptist Church
113 Natchez St Franklin, TN 37064
11:15- March to Downtown Franklin
12pm- MLK Day Celebration

Everyone is encouraged to wear a mask and social distance where possible.

Sincerely,
Anne & Crystal
Williamson Strong
www.williamsonstrong.org

On Thu, Jan 6, 2022 at 2:23 PM Williamson Strong <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Mayor Moore, Mayor Anderson, Mr. Golden, Dr. Snowden, and Mr. Largen,

We're asking you, the leaders of various Williamson County and Franklin stakeholder groups ranging from residents, business owners, and our esteemed school populations, to please make a statement or use your influence to bring our community together right now.

As you're well aware, we have a nationally-funded organization that's taken root here in our county, making waves that have landed us in national and even international news....and it's not been a good look. We have so much to offer as a community, from our booming tourism industry, global business headquarters, small business owners, and schools that draw people to relocate here from all over the country.

The community, though, has had enough of the divisiveness caused by an extremely small number of people.

While we fully understand the complexities of getting involved in any public way, and that groups are free to do as they choose in running a "non-profit" or business or parent group, but it crosses a line when it's at the expense of a growing segment of your population. Williamson County has been changing for a long time now, and the diversity of the people who live and work here only makes us a better place to live and raise our children.

We launched a petition this morning in response to yet another controversial event being hosted in Franklin - one that even Dr. Bernice King had to get involved with last night on Twitter to publicly condemn because it so smears the legacy and work of her father, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

This is not political. This is our community's reputation - either as a place that accepts hate, or one that does not.

We know you to be leaders with character and integrity and that you aren't aligned with the belief that only those with certain values belong here or should run for public office. Allowing groups who say such things publicly, and openly organize to recruit and raise money under your watch without so much as a word is what Dr. King himself referred to as "the silence of our friends."

We're watching the names roll in on this petition today, and recognize countless WCS and FSSD teachers and even principals. They've watched silently as they and their profession have been verbally attacked by this group for almost a year - if we won't stand up for our teachers, who on earth will we stand up for?

Your community leaders from churches of color and organizations who support racial equality are coming out and asking for help, asking for someone to be on their side in what feels like 10 steps back in their longstanding struggle for opportunity and safety for their own children and family members.

We know you've each listened to these parties. You know their leaders. And we want to believe that you want to do more to help, but just don't know what that looks like.

Now is the time to figure that out, as 2022 heats up to be THE single most divisive year this county has ever seen. It doesn't have to be this way. You as leaders can do simple things to be on the right side of history.

We are all begging you to act. *The names on this petition are people here and that's just within a few hours.*

Please. Use your voices. Your silence is a choice. Please choose differently.

We have faith in you, and we invite you to add your names:

<https://chnq.it/ppX6X8YR>

Thank you for all you do,
The parents of Williamson Strong