



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMMUNITY SURVEY FOR ATHENS CITY SCHOOLS Community Survey for Schools Now Open

Athens, Tennessee – October, 10, 2018 – Beginning today, the City of Athens is seeking the community's direct input on the Athens City Schools building proposals. The City's school forecasting consultant, Cooperative Strategies, will be hosting two sites: a landing page with documentation for citizens to review and a survey to capture individual opinions. The survey will be open until October 31st.

The documentation and accompanying survey is expected to take about an hour to review and complete. Citizens are encouraged to set a specific time aside over the next three weeks to fully explore the video presentation, frequently asked questions (FAQ), and other documents to familiarize themselves with the facts of the matter prior to taking the survey. Protocols are being followed to protect the validity of the survey data and the identities of citizens submitting their opinions.

“Active citizen engagement is critical for the health of the city. The City Council and the School Board are seeking direct input from citizens on the available options for one of the most impactful issues that we face today,” said City Manager C. Seth Sumner. “This is every citizen’s opportunity to have their voice heard on the Athens City Schools building project. This will be a decision of the highest importance that needs to be made with input from the whole community.”

The City will also host a presentation of the school forecasting consultant's data for the public to attend at the Athens City Middle School auditorium on Tuesday, October 23rd at 6:00 p.m. The survey is easily accessible on most electronic devices such as mobile phones, tablets, and computers. If citizens do not have internet access at home, E.G. Fisher Library provides free internet access to the public, as do other locations around the city.

Citizens may directly access the documentation at <http://www.dejongrichter.com/athensfmp> and the community survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AthensCitySchools>. Links to the documentation

and survey can also be found on the City's website, www.cityofathensn.com, and the City's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/CityofAthensTN.

The City of Athens is a full-service municipality nestled in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains and has garnered a reputation as the "Friendly City."

For more information, please contact the Office of the City Manager at (423) 744-2702.

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