

City of Cleveland

CLEVELAND, TENNESSEE
Office of the Mayor

Tom Rowland
Mayor



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April 13, 2011

Cleveland City Council

I am respectfully vetoing Resolution 2011-29 approved by the City Council on a 3-2 vote Monday, April 11, 2011. The City and County have cooperated on a number of issues and I urge both bodies to continue to do so on future projects.

Councilman Banks, who introduced the resolution, explained the chronology of events leading up to the sales tax dispute. The bottom line is that Bradley County has brought litigation against the City of Cleveland in a dispute over proceeds of sales tax from a March 2009 Referendum. City voters were very clearly presented how this money would be spent, to do otherwise would be a violation of good faith between the city and voters. Therefore, the city must vigorously defend the lawsuit to protect the integrity of the referendum.

The City Council agreed on March 28, 2011 to enter into good faith, nonbinding mediation with Bradley County. We honored the request of Bradley County to enter into this mediation which was unsuccessful. The Council requested that the mediation take place before the chancery court date of April 21st.

I am calling a special meeting of the City Council at 8:00 am Monday, April 18, 2011 to ask the Council to allow the court hearing to proceed as scheduled.

This lawsuit needs to be put behind us so the city and county can continue to enjoy the progress we have achieved together. I sincerely hope the county will allow the litigation to continue on schedule. Both bodies have extremely important issues facing them for the future of Bradley County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Rowland", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Tom Rowland, Mayor
City of Cleveland