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August 1, 2008

Judge Dan Gattis & Williamson County Commissioner's Court
710 Main Street, Suite 101
Georgetown, TX 78626

RE: Williamson County Park Fund Assistance for Proposed City of Thrall Park

Dear Judge and Commissioners:

The City of Thrall has been working diligently on re-developing the downtown area of town to a Main Street District. Over the past years, the City has constructed the new City Hall on Main Street. We are working with the building owners along Main Street to revitalize the old, historical structures. The Volunteer Fire Department, due to financial hardship, is planning to sell the fire house on Main. The City is considering possible options to purchase the building for a community hall. An essential piece of the re-establishment of a cohesive downtown is the development of City Square Park. The City anticipates constructing a pavilion with picnic tables, a large playscape with swings, benches, a memorial flower garden, trails for access, boundary fencing and a parking lot. The proposed park will be built on the square between the City Hall and Police Station. The City has very limited financial resources due to our small population, poor property values and meager sales tax revenues. Even with these limitations, the City will commit \$2,000 in cash and the sweat equity to make this vision come true.

The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$202,000. A detailed estimate with a site plan of the proposed project is attached. The City respectfully requests \$100,000 in County park bond fund assistance. With these funds, the City will immediately purchase the playscape for approximately \$25,000, and through volunteers prepare the site and erect the structure. By having the playscape in place quickly, the citizens will become excited about the downtown revitalization. The City, with the remainder of the bond funds from the County (\$75,000) being used as match, will apply for the Small Park Grant from the Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) in January 2009. If funded through TPWD, the \$75,000 from the County would need to be available summer 2009. The application will score well with TPWD with this being the first park owned by the City and the match funds coming from "others". The City will also apply for a Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) for \$25,000 from their community development grant program.

With no current city-owned park facilities, the City of Thrall must provide recreational activities to its citizens to create an inviting community for everyone.

The City of Thrall appreciates all that the Williamson County Commissioner's Court does for its constituents and for the City. Thank you for the opportunity to provide our citizens much-needed recreational facilities

Sincerely,



Troy Marx
Mayor