

From: cjdd [mailto:cjdd@suddenlink.net]

Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2011 4:56 PM

To: Harold Perrin

Cc: Donna Jackson; Charles Frierson; Gene G Vance; Charles Coleman; chrismooreplumbing@yahoo.com; Ann Williams; clgibson@sbrmc.org; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Darrel Dover; Rennell Woods Contact; Tim MCCall; mikel.fears@suddenlink.net

Subject: PROPOSED FAIRGROUND LOCATION

Importance: High

I am buying a house on CR 702. Until Tues. night it was said that "702 would not be affected by the addition of the fairgrounds on CR 701!" Anyone can drive through this neighborhood and see that there is NO WAY that 702 could not be affected tremendously.

We were told on Tues. night that "we will tell you that the trucks carrying equipment, etc., will be using 702 to get necessities into the fairgrounds." 702 has been paved twice since I have lived here. This is just because of the normal traffic using 702. How is this road supposed to handle all the heavy traffic caused by the fairgrounds being moved here?

More important is the fact that the new hospital will be located just down hwy. 49. If there should be just one ambulance impeded from getting into the hospital due to the volume of the fair traffic, this could mean the difference in someone living and someone not making it to the hospital because of the sheer overload of the traffic. The important aspect of this situation was not, to my recollection, mentioned during the meeting Tues. night!

Neither of the above cited facts brings to the forefront at all what this addition will do to the value of our quiet, clean, single family residential neighborhood.

For my husband and myself, this means the move we made back to AR. after 40+ years away serving in the military, etc., will be overshadowed by the noise, smells, excessive traffic of an activity in which we no longer are able or desire to associate ourselves.

Any supposed amounts we might save from being on city services will in no way be close to making up for the upheaval in our previously quiet lives in this neighborhood. What residents of this area were assuming, that city services would be offered, is NOT a sure thing anyway without very much added expense to the homeowners.(despite what was said on Tues. night) These same homeowners would also be experiencing the effects of this unwanted entity which is, in my opinion, being forced on us against our better judgment!

Please, all city officials, think what this would mean to you if it were being built "in your back yard" and prayerfully be very objective about your vote! Please put yourselves in our position!

Respectfully and prayerfully submitted,
Carolyn J. Deal

Dear City Councilman:

In reference to ORD-11:026 on the agenda for Tuesday, March 15, 2011, City Council Meeting. We are requesting that you "**decline**" the proposed annexation and rezoning of the property with the proposed site plan being the Northeast Arkansas Exposition & Conference Center aka NEAR District Fairgrounds located .4 miles north of the Farville Curve on west side of Hwy 49 North. West boundary is CR 701. Current address is 449 CR 701, 572 CR 701 & 5693 Hwy 49 N to be used as the site for the Northeast Arkansas District Fairgrounds for the following reasons.

1. Close Proximity to an all Residential Area

The south, west and north sides of this property are surrounded by residential neighborhoods with a rural setting.

Current Land Use:

North: County **Single Family Residential**

South: **Oak Subdivision / Residential**

East: Vacant / Commercial / **Residential**

West: **Residential / Vacant future residential use**

As a city council member, you have the ability to protect the integrity of a "Residential Neighborhood" by how you vote on property to be annexed and rezoned in the City of Jonesboro. A person's home is one of the most important purchases a person can make in their lifetime. When selecting this location as a site to build our home, we did so because of the rural environment and that it was also close to the City of Jonesboro and the amenities it had to offer along with being close to our jobs. We planned on being in this home for the rest of our lives. We liked the "country" feel that it had to offer. We want to keep that rural "residential" feel in this area and ask that you help us to keep it "single family home" residential by **declining the annexation and rezoning request with the proposed site plan being the Northeast Arkansas Exposition & Conference Center aka NEAR District Fairgrounds** of the proposed property listed above.

2. Traffic

This property joins Hwy 49 N which already has **very high traffic volume**. We ask any of you to join us in the morning on any weekday as we drive to work along Hwy 49 and home from work on Hwy 49 and see the substantial amount of traffic that already exists on this highway. This is the "only" north/south corridor coming from the Paragould area and Missouri into Jonesboro. People use it when they go to the mall or out to eat, ASU and ASU events, as an access to Hwy 63, accessing the downtown area via Johnson Ave. and grain trucks use it all day long going to Riceland Foods and it will eventually be used to access NEA Baptist Hospital. These are just a "few" of the uses of Hwy 49 and if you do not travel it on a daily basis, you will not understand what we are talking about.

NEA Baptist Hospital – In the near future, Hwy 49 North will be the location of a major medical complex that creates even more traffic coming north/south on Hwy 49. By allowing the proposed location to be annexed and rezoned into the city and the proposed use of this land as the NEAR District Fair, you potentially could be endangering the life of an individual that needs quick access to the hospital because an event is entering/exiting this property and flooding Hwy 49 so that emergency personal

are delayed in getting to the hospital. Let's also add that an event could be entering/exiting from ASU at the same time and cause major congestion from that direction. These are all things that **must** be considered.

NEAR District Fair (Northeast Arkansas Exposition and Conference Center). This is the proposed use of the land requesting annexation and rezoning. The current fair location was at one time out in the country with gravel roads and no homes or commercial businesses surrounding it. The homes that exist across the street from the current NEAR District Fairgrounds were built after the fair located there and these home were bought knowing that the fairgrounds existed across the street from them. When we built our home, the NEAR District Fairgrounds did not exist across the pasture from us nor do we want it to be built by our home because of the reasons we are stating in this letter/email.

There are more events that will occur at this location than just the fair that have high traffic volume. In the proposed drawing, they show an amphitheater which we were told by Mr. Gene Vance would seat **5000** people. Potential traffic associated with 5000 people entering and exiting an event at the amphitheater would be:

5000 / 2 people per car = 2500 cars

5000 / 3 people per car = 1666 cars

5000 / 4 people per car = 1250 cars

We have no way of knowing at this time how many performances would be scheduled for this amphitheater. What we do know is the potential traffic associated with any event seating 5000 people.

*****Note: The side map for this location shows only 400 paved parking spaces and 1600 grass parking spaces (and future parking for 600). In the meantime, where are the additional 500 cars going to park if you have 2500 cars at an event? Along Hwy 49 or on our county roads that are not intended to be used for parking?**

Also, the site map for this property shows the main entrance/exit for this location is on Hwy 49 but there are also 3 gates/exits leading to CR 701 that also leads to Hwy 49 to the south and CR 702 to the north. We were told at our neighborhood meetings with the Fair Board led by Mr. Gene Vance that these exits would "only" be used for exhibitor, horse/cattle trailers and carnival workers. He also told us that they would not be used by fair patrons to enter and exit during the fair or any other events. We were told that the fair patrons could only use the main gates to obtain access to fair. At the meeting the other evening with MAPC, Mr. Vance stated that they might use them around 9:00 pm or so on the busy nights of the fair to allow traffic to exit from these gates thus sending those cars/trucks through our county roads and down Peachtree and Bridger which are not designed to handle large amounts of traffic not to mention that we do not want all of that traffic flowing through our residential neighborhoods as I am sure you would not want 100's of cars/trucks driving in front of your home on several occasions throughout the year.

Again, we respectfully request that you decline the annexation and rezoning request of the proposed property listed above with the proposed site plan being the Northeast Arkansas Exposition & Conference Center aka NEAR District Fairgrounds because of the reasons mentioned.

3. Noise

This applies to the proposed use of this land. We already know the amount of noise that can come from an ASU football game and we lives miles not feet from ASU. This site is only feet away from our home and when you throw in carnival rides, sound projected in the direction of our home from the amphitheater, cars, trucks and people, it will be very noisy. The site plan for this location shows landscaping, earth berms and a masonry screening for a portion of the location. This is very much appreciated and will assist in blocking our "view" but will do nothing to buffer any sound from projecting into our neighborhoods. The events that occur at this location will not all be over by 9:00 pm or so when people are trying to put their children to bed and trying to sleep because they have to work the next day. We will not be able to push a magic button and turn off the sound so our children can sleep. Again, ask that you think of this being by your home and trying to put your children to bed when an "outside" concert is being held a few hundred feet from your home.

Again, we respectfully request that you decline the annexation and rezoning request of the proposed property listed above with the proposed site plan being the Northeast Arkansas Exposition & Conference Center aka NEAR District Fairgrounds because of the reasons mentioned.

4. Crime, Gangs, Sex Offenders & Child Molesters

We are all aware of the events that have occurred in the past at the current fair location in relation to gang fights. **The thing that is most alarming to us is the fact that our police department will make several arrests of "Sex Offenders" working at the fair on opening day of the fair.** We are aware that this will occur at any location that the fair resides.

What this means to the residents surrounding this property is that these Sex Offenders have or will travel down our streets and observe the number of children in our neighborhoods directly surrounding this proposed location prior to obtaining work at the local fair. They will see them outside playing or being pushed in a stroller or riding their bikes. These people are "Child Predators" and we don't want these people driving down our streets and viewing our children and grandchildren playing outside. Why do you want to give them a reason to invade our neighborhoods by allowing this to locate in a residential neighborhood? Please protect our children and grandchildren.

Again, we respectfully request that you decline the annexation and rezoning request of the proposed property with the proposed site plan being the Northeast Arkansas Exposition & Conference Center aka NEAR District Fairgrounds listed above because of the reasons mentioned.

**** continued below ****

In closing, we would like to express to each of you that we are not opposed to the growth of the NEAR District Fair and agree that they have outgrown their current location and would be better served by moving to a location where they may build the proposed buildings and event centers that they are showing on the current proposed plan. The City of Jonesboro already has several locations that are traffic nightmares and why do you want to knowingly vote for this and create another traffic issue out on Hwy 49 N that would interfere with people trying to reach a major medical center when there are several other properties around Jonesboro that are for sale with city sewer and city utilities either already in place or right by them. We expressed in our neighborhood meetings with the Fair Board and Mr. Gene Vance that we can provide them with information on properties off Hwy 18 that would meet the same criteria as this proposed property and on both occasions, Mr. Vance quickly told us that Hwy 18 was "unsafe" and that little old ladies did not need to be going to quilting shows on Highway 18 across from the Industrial park because it was just not safe. Mr. Vance made this comment in the 1st neighborhood meeting as well as the 2nd neighborhood meeting only he was much more adamant in the 2nd meeting about the fact that the fair "would not" be going out off Highway 18 and for us not to bring it up again because it was not safe and it was just not an option. With this being said, we find it very disturbing that a Jonesboro City Councilman would be stating that the Industrial Park area in Jonesboro is not safe. You never read in the paper of anyone being robbed, shot, raped, kidnapped or any other criminal activity taking place off Hwy 18 (E. Highland Drive), CW Post Rd., Nestle Way or BP Way. We think this would be an ideal location in that it is primarily agricultural, industrial and commercial property with very few single family homes and no residential neighborhoods and excellent access from several different locations especially with the access to the bypass which is much better equipped to handle traffic than CR 701, CR 702 and Highway 49 North.

We want to be clear and want each of you to understand that we are opposed to this request to place this new site in a "PRIMARILY SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD" which is sitting in the county in an already highly congested area off Hwy 49 North.

We want to thank each one of you for time and for your consideration of what we have presented in this email to you. We invite each of you to drive out and view the proposed location from the HWY 49 side and from CR701 and from the Oak Subdivision homes that back up to the site and see what we are so passionate about keeping as a residential area and see our families outside working in our yards and our children playing in our yards and you will understand why this is not a change we want.

Thank you again for your time,
Cindy & Wade Lewis
CR 7450 (extension of Peachtree)

From: Shelly Campbell [mailto:shellykcampbell@yahoo.com]

Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 5:39 PM

To: Harold Perrin; Donna Jackson; Charles Frierson; Charles Coleman; chrismooreplumbing@yahoo.com; Ann Williams; elgibson@sbrmc.org; John Street; johnson3@suddenlink.net; Darrel Dover; Rennell Woods Contact; Tim MCall; Mike Fears

Subject: Northeast Arkansas Fairgrounds

Dear Jonesboro City Council Member:

Please take a moment to read the attached headlines of the heinous crimes that took place on or near a fairground in the past 36 months. The majority of these crimes were against children. 8 of them were for sexually assaulting or inappropriately touching children, 3 kidnappings, 4 rapes, 9 sexual offenders who were arrested on site, and 10 others crimes ranging from shootings, stabbings, drugs, and beatings. Some of these headlines come from the Northeast Arkansas district Fair. Were you aware that the JPD raids the fairgrounds every year to check the carnival workers, most of who are from this area, for outstanding warrants and for level 3 and 4 sexual offenders and several arrests are made? Note that level 1 and 2 sexual offenders are allowed to work and remain around all of the children attending the fair. I was horrified when I learned of this information but was told by one officer that these facts were not even what should scare me it is the fact that hundreds of sexual offenders and pedophiles will walk thru the gates of the Northeast Arkansas District Fair as patrons and that many of these will scope out our rural neighborhoods on their way to the site possibly pretending to be lost. According the Arkansas Crime Information Center there are almost 100 registered sex offenders in the Northeast Arkansas District Fair area and there are over 2,600 sexual offenders that Arkansas cannot account for because they are not currently registered. These are the type of people the Craighead County Fair Association are asking you to place in a residential area where approximately 500 children reside. Everyone keeps referring to the proposed property as being located on hwy 49 when in fact 2 of the 3 tracts are located on CR 701 completely surrounded by homes where children are allowed to play freely in their yards, ride their bikes, and take walks with their families on the quiet streets. The manner in which these families live and these children play will change if you invite these criminals who are roaming free in our society into these neighborhoods. I urge you to talk to Jonesboro Police Officers who have worked this event for many years and if given the opportunity to speak freely without political bias they will tell you what they have told myself and others and that is that they would not want to live in our neighborhoods if the fairgrounds locate to the proposed site. These houses are our HOMES and we shouldn't have to live in them in fear because child predators were invited and thousands of cars will be released onto our county roads. I urge you to drive out to the area on CR 701 or come park in front of my house at 231 CR 7450 (1000 ft away from the proposed property) and look around at all of the houses where families reside. This is NOT a commercial area it is a family area and if you do your due diligence I have no doubt that you will see this. If you are a parent or grandparent, I plead with you to put yourself into the shoes of all of the families who surround CR 701 and when you place your vote on Tuesday night I hope you vote in a manner in which your conscious allows you to sleep at night because if something were to happen to one of our children because you allowed a political agenda to take precedence over the safety of children and the rights of families then the blame will fall on YOU. No apology can make up for an injured child. The MAPC vote was a clear example of the Fair Board's statement that this is a

“done deal”. You have the power to put families before business and I pray that you do. On behalf of the families in the proposed area, I thank you for your time and consideration.

[NEA Fair Ends Early, Eight Arrested - KAIT-Jonesboro, AR-News ...](#) According to Jonesboro Police, eight people were **arrested** on charges ... gate I seen a gun come out and everyone take off again," said **carnival worker** Roy Rogers. **Arkansas** ...

[Sex Offender Arrests at Baxter County Fair \(Carny Town ...\)](#) A Marmaduke man who was employed by a **carnival** at the Baxter County Fair has been **arrested** for violating the **Arkansas** Sex ...

September 28, 2010; Two people were shot Monday evening while attending the Arkansas– Oklahoma State Fair in Fort Smith. Authorities advised that a female customer was shot in the back and a male carnival worker was shot in the leg Monday evening. The identity of the suspect(s) is unknown at this time, although witnesses observed two males outside the fair entrance with guns. Continue reading on Examiner.com: [Two people shot at the Arkansas – Oklahoma State Fair - Little Rock Crime | Examiner.com](#) <http://www.examiner.com/crime-in-little-rock/two-people-shot-at-the-arkansas-oklahoma-state-fair#ixzz1GFBWPCq4>

Teen cited for bringing BB gun to NEA Fair

JONESBORO — A 16-year-old was cited by police Saturday night after he allegedly brought a BB gun to the Northeast Arkansas **DISTRICT FAIR** grounds, Jonesboro police said.

[Carnival Worker | Reference.com](#)

Mar 2, 2011 ... Local: *Carnival worker arrested* in abduction of little girl; suspect known as sexual predator

Carnival worker arrested at State Fair on Massachusetts sex ...

Oct 15, 2010 ... A 37-year-old Massachusetts man was **arrested** on the S.C. State Fair grounds Wednesday morning by U.S. marshals on several sex offender ...

Carnival worker arrested on sex charge | KXAN.com

Mar 15, 2010 ... **Carnival worker arrested** on sex charge. Employee allegedly touched a teenage boy . Updated: Tuesday, 16 Mar 2010, 10:19 AM CDT ...

Posted: Monday, September 28, 2009 Teen tells police he was hit by 3 people

JONESBORO — An area teen-ager told Jonesboro police he was hit by three suspects late Saturday and told to empty his pockets. Patrolman Phillip Coleman said he went to an area around Dayton Avenue around 11:30 p.m. Saturday on a report of an assault. Coleman said officers searched the area for a victim who attends Jonesboro High School, but could not find anyone. However, Coleman said police got a call about 20 minutes later from an area near the Northeast Arkansas **DISTRICT FAIR** grounds about an assault. Coleman spoke to four people there. "I was advised by (victim) that he was jumped when (the four people) were walking home from the fair," Coleman said. "According to the four people, three males jumped (victim), hitting him several times, then telling him to empty his pockets."

Fair Carnival Worker Arrested on Molestation Charges | KSEE 24 ...

Mar 1, 2011 ... Fair **Carnival Worker Arrested** on Molestation Charges. By KSEE News.

Carnival workers arrested at fair

Posted at 12:00 AM Oct. 6, 2010 | Updated: 11:02 PM Oct. 5, 2010 | 0 |

WOODSTOCK -- Three carnival workers were rounded up on drug charges during the Shenandoah County Fair, according to the Shenandoah County Sheriff's Office

Carnival Worker Arrested On Sexual Assault Charge - Local News ...

Oct 1, 2009 ... FORT SMITH, Ark. -- Darren Vodopich, 34, was **arrested** Monday on suspicion of sexually assaulting two females at the state fair

Carnival Worker Recognized As Sex Offender, Is Arrested | KCRG-TV9 ...

Jul 28, 2010 ... WEST UNION -- Authorities **arrested** a registered sex offender Tuesday when they saw him operating **carnival** games and rides at the Fayette ...

Fugitive Carnival Worker Arrested In Phoenix - Phoenix News Story ...

Feb 7, 2008 ... PHOENIX -- An Arkansas man who allegedly raped a sleeping man, then eluded police by working in a **carnival**, is **arrested** in Phoenix

Carnival worker recognized as sex offender, is arrested | Eastern ...

Carnival worker recognized as sex offender, is *arrested*. Posted July 28, 2010 8: 31 pm by Jeff Raasch/SourceMedia Group News

WHDH-TV - Carnival worker arrested on out-of-state warrant

Apr 25, 2008 ... *Carnival worker arrested* on out-of-state warrant. ... Police arrested a carnival worker on an out-of-state warrant for kidnapping and armed ...

[Burton brother and three other carnival workers arrested ...](#)

Jun 19, 2009 ..Four members of the Burton Bros. carnival staff – currently working at the Turtle Days Festival – were arrested in Fort Wayne Thursday morning at approximately 3 a.m. and charged with robbery, a Class B felony, and unlawful use of body armor, a misdemeanor. One man was hospitalized and two others were treated for knife wounds. Police said they found body armor, knives, ammunition and guns – including an assault rifle – on Burton and in his vehicle

[Big Fresno Fair Carnival Worker Arrested on Child Molestation ...](#)

Oct 12, 2009 ... Fresno Fair *Carnival Worker Arrested* on Child Molestation Charges

[Carnival Employee Arrested for Assaulting Juvenile - Southern ...](#)Aug 17, 2010 ... On August 15, deputies responded to the Ridge Volunteer Fire Department Fairgrounds in Ridge, Maryland for a report of an assault

[Police: carnival worker attacked boss, stole cars, and faces DUI ...](#)Apr 20, 2010 ... A *carnival worker* on his day off is accused of committing a series of ... Mr. Kern continued north and was later *arrested* for driving under ...

[Carnival workers arrested on warrants, failing to register \(8:47 ...](#)

May 16, 2008 ... ANGELS CAMP -- Two *carnival workers* accused of failing to register as sex offenders were *arrested* Wednesday on the grounds of the Calaveras ...

[Carnival Worker Charged with Rape - YNN, Your News Now](#)

Aug 11, 2010 ... New York State Police *arrested* a *carnival worker* on rape charges

[Police name carnival worker as girl's kidnapper | name, hidalgo ...](#)

May 14, 2009 ... Christian Elijah Lee McMillan, a 23-year-old California *carnival worker* who was living in Mercedes was *arrested* late Wednesday night after

[Carnival worker on sex abuse registry arrested @ pulpNews.Com](#)

Jul 28, 2010 ... *Carnival worker* on sex abuse registry *arrested*

[12 carnival workers face drug charges - Kentucky New Era: News](#)

Mar 2, 2011 ... Twelve *carnival workers* at Little River Days were *arrested* Thursday after Christian County sheriff's deputies found some of them smoking

[Carnival Worker Charged In Court - NBC29](#)

Aug 11, 2010 ... *Carnival Worker* Charged In Court. Posted: ... Fowler was *arrested* Thursday night the Albemarle County Fair worker accused of sexual crimes faced a judge Wednesday afternoon. Joseph Fowler was in Albemarle Juvenile and Domestic Court for a preliminary hearing. The 20-year-old Fowler was charged with sexually abusing one girl and sexually assaulting another while operating rides at the Albemarle County Fair. Fowler was *arrested* Thursday night.

[Carnival worker accused of rape is out on bail | SeacoastOnline.com](#)

Aug 22, 2008 ... SEABROOK — An 18-year-old *carnival worker* accused of sexually ... Witham was *arrested* after the father of one of the girls called police. ...

[Carnival Worker Pleads Guilty To Fondling Girls](#)

May 27, 2009 ... A *carnival worker* has pleaded guilty to fondling girls at Valley Center's...

[Local police arrest carnival worker - Newport, AR - Newport ...](#)A Memphis, Tenn. **carnival worker's** trip to Newport over the weekend has landed him in the Jackson County Detention Center. According to a press release from Lt ...

[State Fair Worker Arrested on Sexual Assault Charges - KFSM](#)The **Arkansas** -Oklahoma State **Fair** turned into a frightening place this week for one young girl in our area

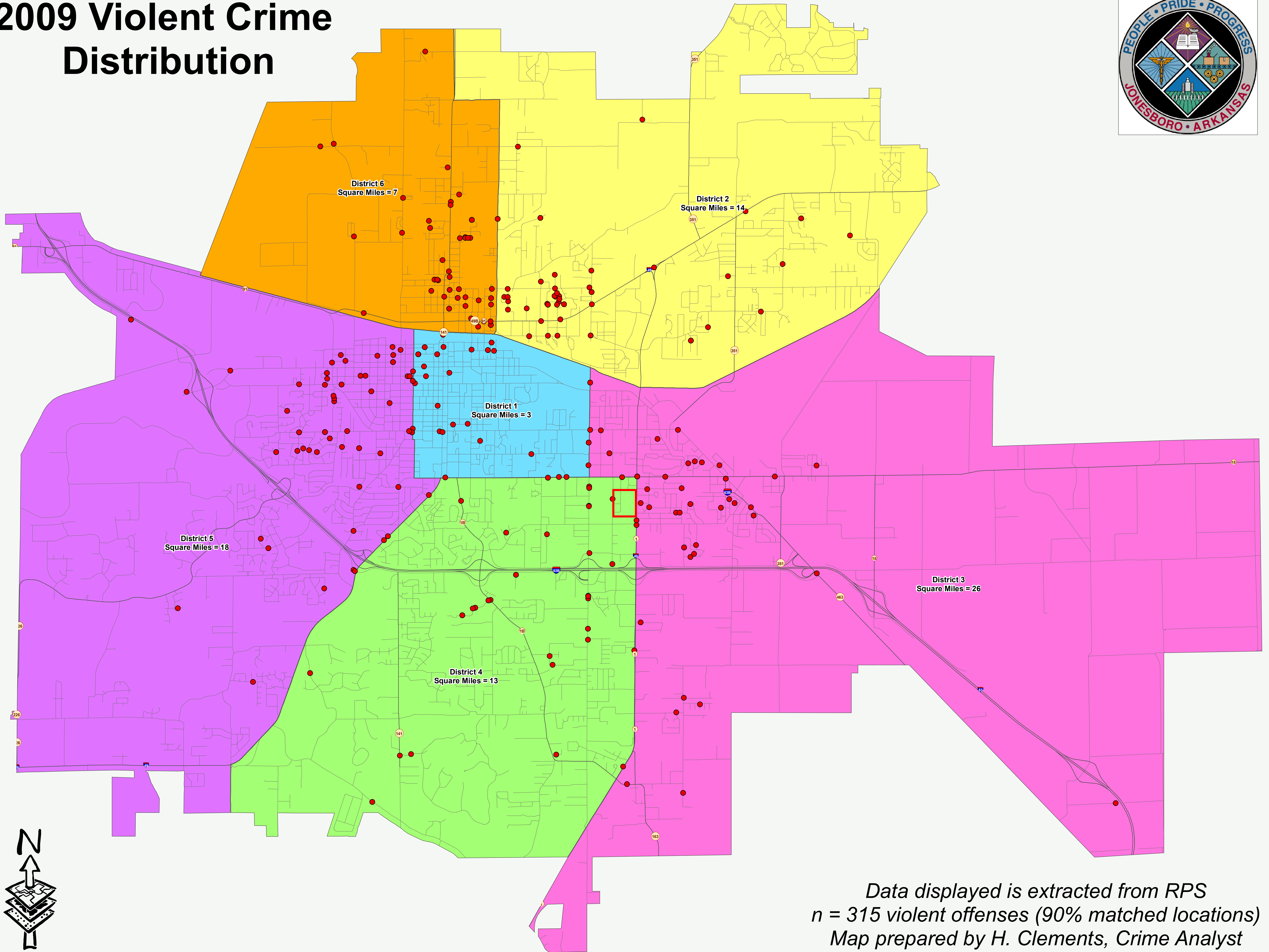
[Two Men Arrested for Shooting Near Fairgrounds in Fort Smith ...](#)Fort Smith police have **arrested** Roel Arturo Lopez, 19, and Isidro Zarate Lopez, 18, for a shooting that happened Monday night near the **Arkansas/Oklahoma State Fair** at

[Sex Offenders - Sex Offenders Arrested While Working at ...](#)Sex Offenders - Sex Offenders **Arrested** While Working at **Arkansas Fair** (KOLR - news and resources about sex offenders, megans law, sexoffenders and meganslawt

[Suspect In Knife Attack After Fair Arrested](#)Police **arrested** a man on Friday suspected of attacking a local high school student early Sunday after he left the Arkansas-Oklahoma State **Fair**.

[Sex Offenders Legally Working In Carnival Business ...](#)There are registered **sex offenders** working in the **Carnival** business

2009 Violent Crime Distribution



Data displayed is extracted from RPS
n = 315 violent offenses (90% matched locations)
Map prepared by H. Clements, Crime Analyst