

City of Rolling Fork

Office of The Mayor

Eldridge Walker, Mayor

For Immediate Release

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A Joint Press Release Mayor Eldridge Walker, City of Rolling Fork and Travelers Rest Baptist Church in Vicksburg, MS.

Travelers Rest Baptist Church in Vicksburg, MS, held a meeting with Rolling Fork City officials at City Hall. The Board of Trustees and Deacons of Travelers Rest Baptist Church, along with its affiliated ministries, made contact with the mayor and city clerk earlier this week. Traveler Rest representatives formally present a cease-and-desist letter to the Mayor and the Board of Alderpersons of the City of Rolling Fork. During the meeting, Travelers Rest representatives voiced concerns and delivered a cease-and-desist letter, emphasizing the need for prompt action to cancel all contractual agreements between Travelers Rest and all of its ministries.

In an **August 2023** regular business meeting, the Board of Alderpersons unanimously voted and directed the Mayor and administration to proceed with the signing of a contractual agreement with Traveler Rest Ministries, CDC. This agreement solidified Traveler Rest Ministries CDC's role as the official grant management entity, with Dr. General Bryant Jr. as the representative of Traveler Rest.

The Chairman of Travelers Rest, Charles Miller, stated that he firmly believes that this meeting marks a significant step towards addressing the concerns raised and finding a satisfactory resolution that aligns with the best interests of all parties involved.

The Mayor and City Board of Alderpersons realized the urgency of this issue and held a special call meeting on October 25th. The board unanimously voted to accept the letter.

In my capacity as mayor, I applaud Travelers Rest and these fine gentlemen for their willingness to engage in this constructive dialogue. By accepting the termination of the grant management agreement between Traveler's Rest and the City, we can focus on improving the efficiency of the grant management process, allocating funds effectively, and having the greatest possible beneficial impact on our beloved city.

For further information or media inquiries, please contact the Travelers Rest Representative, Mr. Maurice Winston, at 601-636-3712 and/or City Hall at (662) 873-2814