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*"The right of trial by jury shall remain inviolate. . . ."*

Tennessee Constitution, Article I, section 6

July 19, 2006

### **Open Letter to Citizens Threatened with Annexation by the City of Murfreesboro, TN**

You may be aware that the City of Murfreesboro has already annexed one area and is in the process of annexing another area.

What you may not know is that Citizens for Home Rule, Inc. (CHR) is a 25-year old not-for-profit corporation dedicated to opposing coerced annexation of its Members. Coerced annexation is a form of *Taxation Without Representation*. CHR presently sponsors approximately 200 law suits against the City of Knoxville on behalf of Members, and we have won scores of battles in court. Historically, CHR has been a Knox County-based organization but recently we accepted Associate Memberships in Sumner and Dickson Counties and we have filed suit to block annexations there.

The way CHR works is this: When an annexed property owner joins CHR and pays his or her annual dues, we will assume all legal costs including that of an attorney and authorize our corporation counsel to file a law suit on your behalf, in your name. That attorney then represents you and you alone. You are the client. CHR does not tell the attorney how to handle your lawsuit and the attorney does not divulge any information to CHR that you do not authorize. Thus filed, the suit has the effect of blocking the annexation, unless and until a court rules at trial that the annexation is valid. The City cannot levy taxes on you while the trial is pending. CHR has never lost an annexation trial to the City of Knoxville. This does not mean we will be as successful against any other city, or that CHR issues any sort of guarantee. We do not. But it does mean we have a positive history of fighting coercive annexations. As long as you remain a Member in good standing (payment of annual dues) the entire expense of legal representation is the responsibility of CHR, subject to the organization's financial limits. And you can rest assured that CHR is a solvent, fiscally conservative organization.

Obviously, it would be financial strain for CHR to accept the responsibility of representing you unless we receive a sufficient number of responses. We need at least 30 responses to make this work. The annual dues for a Rutherford County associate membership in CHR is \$50. We will not deposit anyone's check unless we receive at least 30 applications. Any less than that and we will simply return your check uncashed. Please see the membership application enclosed with this letter. You should also know that we are presently litigating with the City of Knoxville and the State of Tennessee in an effort to restore the right of trial by jury which is guaranteed under the Tennessee Constitution.

**You have only 30 days to act from passage of the annexation on final reading.**

**The City will not tell you this, but you *can* stop this annexation if**

**you act now!**

John A. Emison  
President, CHR