



CITY OF MERIDIAN

Mayor

Percy L. Bland, III
Office: (601) 485-1927
Fax: (601) 485-1911

City Council

GEORGE M. THOMAS
Ward 1

Dwyane Davis
Ward 2

Fannie Johnson
Ward 3

Kim Houston
Ward 4

Weston Lindemann
Ward 5

COUNCIL CLERK

Office: (601) 485-1959
Fax: (601) 485-1913

City Departments

Chief Administrative Officer

Office: (601) 485-1929
Fax: (601) 485-1911

Community Development

Office: (601) 485-1910
Fax: (601) 484-6813

Finance and Records

Office: (601) 485-1946
Fax: (601) 485-1979

Fire

Office: (601) 485-1822
Fax: (601) 485-1878

Homeland Security

Office: (601) 484-6890
Fax: (601) 484-6895

Parks and Recreation

Office: (601) 485-1802
Fax: (601) 485-1851

Police

Office: (601) 485-1841
Fax: (601) 484-6832

Public Works

Office: (601) 485-1920
Fax: (601) 485-1864

601 23rd Avenue
Post Office Box 1430
Meridian, MS 39302-1430
www.meridianms.org



Office of The Mayor
601 23rd Avenue
Meridian, MS 39302-1430

April 28, 2021

The Honorable Michael Guest
418 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Guest:

I want to express my support of funding requests for the Free Health Clinic of Meridian. This organization plays a vital role in our city to some of our most underserved citizens. This organization has worked diligently to fill a healthcare gap.

The leadership of this organization has proven to be good stewards of their resources. The Free Clinic of Meridian has not only maintained providing quality healthcare services to our community, but has grown to serve more.

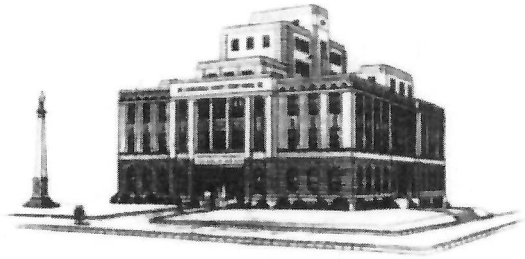
I thank you for your support and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mayor Percy Bland

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County Administrator

LEE THAGGARD
Board Attorney

410 Constitution Avenue, 11th Floor Meridian, MS 39301
Telephone: (601) 482-9746 Fax: (601) 482-9744
www.lauderdalecounty.org

April 26, 2021

Congressman Guest,

The Lauderdale County Board of Supervisors enthusiastically supports a construction grant for the Free Clinic of Meridian. The clinic currently serves more than 1,000 patients that do not qualify for Medicaid or Medicare. The clinic bridges the gap by provided medical care for people that make far less than the Federal Poverty level. Without the Free Clinic of Meridian, these individuals would not receive the medical treatment needed. The available construction grant would allow them to better our community thus resulting in a healthier Lauderdale County.

Thank you for your consideration and please let me know if there is anything I can do to help you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Lafferty'.

Chris Lafferty, County Administrator
Lauderdale County Board of Supervisors



2124 Fourteenth Street • Meridian, Mississippi 39301-4040 • 601.553.6000
AndersonRegional.org

April 28, 2021

The Honorable Michael Guest
U.S House of Representatives
418 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Guest,

I am writing in support of a grant request submitted by The Free Clinic of Meridian, Inc., which is an invaluable resource for Meridian and the people who receive much needed healthcare at the facility.

As a member of the National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics, The Free Clinic of Meridian, Inc. has provided thousands of volunteer hours of care since it opened in 2014. The Free Clinic serves patients, many of whom could not otherwise afford healthcare services, in the correct setting rather than at a local emergency room which is not designed for care continuity. Patients with chronic diseases, such as diabetes or hypertension (high blood pressure), seek care at the clinic under the direction of providers with whom they build a relationship for long-term care.

Anderson Regional Health System served as the initial sponsor upon The Free Clinic's inception and has continued to allow the program to operate in a previously unoccupied clinic. We rent the clinic space to the group at a deeply discounted rate and donate certain medical supplies if needed. Even still, The Free Clinic's volunteers have been very resourceful, obtaining operating funds through various means in order to continue their mission.

They now seek assistance, with the help of your office, to access funds that will enable them to expand the physical footprint of the clinic. There is a warranted need to do so as they have continued to see an increase in demand for their services.

I ask you to strongly consider the request from The Free Clinic of Meridian, Inc.; I truly believe there is not a more worthwhile request. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John G. Anderson".

John G. Anderson
President and CEO

Advanced medicine. Compassionate care. Close to home.



P. O. Box 5187
Meridian, Mississippi 39301
601/703-9614

April 15, 2021

Congressman Michael Guest
U. S. House of Representatives
418 Cannon HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Guest,

I am writing to express my support for The Free Clinic of Meridian to be nominated for the Free & Charitable Clinics grant program being organized by the House subcommittee on Labor, Health & Human Services, Education & Related Agencies. The Free Clinic of Meridian is an organization that Rush has supported since the clinic's inception in our community several years ago and it is a very important provider of healthcare services in our market.

As a non-profit, Rush provides clinical and financial support to the clinic as part of our mission to serve East Mississippi and West Alabama. The clinic has played a major role in increasing and improving the level of access to patient care for people in Meridian and Lauderdale County that have limited access to healthcare. Many of these patients are hardworking citizens who simply cannot afford healthcare coverage, so The Free Clinic is a great option for several services for these individuals.

In addition to the healthcare services they provide, The Free Clinic of Meridian also works with the ECHHealthNet Family Practice residency program in Meridian, which trains 18 residents at any given time to become primary care physicians. This residency program provides services to these patients as part of their training and the clinic benefits by having qualified medical personnel provide services to their patients. It is a great partnership and provides a wonderful service to numerous patients in our region.

Congressman Guest, thank you for your consideration of nominating The Free Clinic of Meridian for this grant. Their volumes have grown significantly over the years, as well as the types of services they are able to provide, but they are very limited on space and capital resources. This grant would allow them to continue to further their mission and not only provide great healthcare for their patients, but also reduce the financial burden on Rush Health Systems hospitals and clinic by helping provide healthcare to all citizens of East Mississippi and West Alabama.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larkin Kennedy".

Larkin Kennedy
President/CEO

Community Foundation *of East Mississippi*

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Leigh Thomas,
Executive Director
Amy Jacob,
Office Manager/Program
Assistant

April 14, 2021

Re: Free Clinic of Meridian

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to show my support for the Free Clinic of Meridian and their work in East Mississippi.

The Community Foundation of East Mississippi has awarded grants to the Free Clinic for many years. We believe in the importance of this work for the people of our state and for Mississippi. People of all races and backgrounds reap the benefits of the medical care offered by the Free Clinic.

I have personally interacted with some of the board members for the Free Clinic and found them to be dedicated, informed, eager to learn and grow, and open to opportunities to serve this community.

We are continuing to look for ways to collaborate on this project.

Sincerely,



Leigh Thomas
Executive Director

P.O. Box 865
Meridian, MS 39302-0865
Phone: (601) 696-3035
office@cfem.org
www.cfem.org