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The Honorable John Doe
Mayor
City of Niceville
216 Niceville Avenue E.
Niceville, Alabama 36610

Dear Mayor Doe:

Like most dedicated public servants, you want your city to be a place its citizens can be proud of.

You know the kind of place I'm talking about. Streets lined with bright office buildings. Neighborhoods filled with neat, well-kept homes. Parks teeming with happy families. A community that attracts investment, high-paying jobs, new residents.

But many things we see in Niceville fall short of this ideal. Rundown houses with absentee owners. Empty lots filled with debris. Environmental issues that never seem to get resolved.

As Niceville's mayor, you know what the challenges are. But you're committed to building a community that can be a shining example to its neighbors. And so am I.

My name is Rhonda Simmons, and I am the owner of ABC LandService, a local company specializing in demolition and rehabilitation of distressed properties. My proposal to you is very simple: I'd like to help build the City of Niceville into the community you and I know it can be.

I started ABC LandService because I have a passion for community development. Working with the Environmental Court, I've seen firsthand what happens in neighborhoods when eyesores are turned into productive properties. One house at a time, one neighborhood at a time, communities are restored and residents begin to take pride again.

ABC LandService can offer the City of Niceville a complete set of services in the area of residential and commercial demolition. As you would expect of any professional demolition company, we secure all of the required permits, provide all necessary equipment and labor, and arrange for the safe and environmentally-conscious removal of demolition debris. As I am fond of saying, ABC LandService tears it down, picks it up, and hauls it off. Simply. Effectively. Completely.

We routinely help owners of properties that have been cited in Environmental Court to bring those properties up to municipal code. In many cases, these owners have received multiple citations. With 50 to 60 offenders coming through the court each week, there is a lot of work to be done.

Often, we can convince these owners it is more cost-effective to clean up the property than to continue to pay the fines week after week. And once we “clean-slate” a property, we return to Environmental Court with before-and-after photos to show the property is now fully compliant.

But ABC LandService often goes beyond just handling demolition and clean-up of cited properties to take a proactive interest in the community. I regularly take a day or two each week, drive through area neighborhoods, and locate parcels that are good candidates for rehabilitation. Then, I contact the owner (often someone living in another city) and help them return the property to its highest and best use.

Often, I negotiate to purchase run-down properties, then take what’s salvageable and use it elsewhere in the community. In some cases, a home can be moved to another lot. Or fixtures from a condemned house can be used to refurbish another property.

Why would I do all that? To put it simply, I believe these neighborhoods can thrive – *if* we eliminate unproductive properties in their midst. When condemned houses are torn down, empty lots are cleaned up, and tenantable homes are refurbished, surrounding residents take better care of their own property. When local individuals and companies own and manage these properties, they remain productive and in compliance with city code.

ABC LandService can offer the City of Niceville a win-win situation. Working with you and the City Council, ABC LandService can help stretch the city’s limited resources for dealing with these recurring problems. I can work with Environmental Court offenders bring properties up to code, once and for all, in a way that fits their limited budgets. I can help identify absentee owners of other non-compliant properties and work with them to return their properties to productive use.

And I can be the kind of property owner and manager that the City of Niceville needs: someone who is nearby and involved, ready to serve the needs of tenants.

After all, if Niceville is to be the city you and I know it can be, we have to solve the problems we see around us. And once we do, this community will attract investment. Bring in better jobs. Collect more tax revenues. Become a community its citizens can be proud of.

There is much work to be done. But I believe the City of Niceville and ABC LandService, working in a strategic partnership, can help fulfill the central promise of your mayoral campaign: to bring Niceville to a new level.

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[Date]

Page 3

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and the City Council to explore ways that ABC LandService can partner with the City of Niceville in the many community development initiatives you've planned. I believe Niceville, with the help of community-conscious vendors like ABC LandService, can become a shining example to its neighbors.

And I want to help make that happen.

Very truly yours,

Rhonda Simmons