**Letter to the Editor Template**

Dear Editor:

The City/Town/Village of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is proud to join the Mississippi Municipal League and its 291 member municipalities across the State of Mississippi in celebration of Municipal Government Week, January 20 – 26, 2020.

City government is, without question, the government closest to the people. At a time when people nationwide seem to have less faith in their government, we in municipal government want to be sure the people here at home are aware of the critical services we provide.

Over 50% of Mississippi citizens live in a city, town, or village. In addition, thousands more rely on cities for places of employment, professional services and retail trade centers. These citizens look to us to provide important services such as police and fire protection, garbage pick-up, street and sidewalk maintenance, water and sewer service, parks and recreational services, and much more.

It is a constant challenge for (name of city, town or village) to provide such services within our budget and in the face of requirements imposed on us by other levels of government. During the current legislative session, the (city, town, village of \_\_\_\_) will join municipalities across the state in asking the Mississippi Legislature to refrain from passing any laws that preempt local authority. Locally elected officials, in both large and small towns, are best positioned to identify the needs and desires of their own citizens. Furthermore, the members of the Mississippi Municipal League will strongly oppose any legislation that creates an unfunded mandate on cities and towns. Unfunded mandates are effectively tax increases handed down by the legislature on local citizens and property owners. They may be unintentional when a bill is originally passed, but often they end up forcing counties or cities to raise taxes to finance the policy. The (city, town, village, of \_\_\_) will join the MML in fighting local preemptions and unfunded mandates to protect our current municipal revenue streams and keep local property taxes level.

Even in challenging times, I believe that our officials and employees are doing a great job in meeting the needs of our citizens. I am proud of our (city’s, town’s, or village's) record and look forward to the opportunity to showcase our services during Municipal Government Week. For a list of activities planned, please visit our website at (\_\_\_\_\_\_), like our official Facebook page or call my office at (000) 000-0000.

Sincerely,

(Title)(Name)