



## CITY OF EVANSVILLE

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
JONATHAN WEINZAPFEL

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**For Immediate Release**

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### **Mayor Weinzapfel's Statement on Local Homestead Tax Credit**

(EVANSVILLE, IN) - Thank you for coming this morning, I want to take a few minutes to address the Local Homestead Tax Credit and how we move forward in 2010.

With regard to the provision of a Local Homestead Tax Credit for 2009, there is no question that, as elected officials, we made mistakes. The public was not informed that the City and the County did not plan to reinstate the Local Homestead Tax Credit this year. The people of Evansville and Vanderburgh County deserved to know and deserved the opportunity to participate in a public discussion on the topic.

I can tell you that there was no intent to mislead or deceive those who have entrusted me with this office. A decision was made that, at the time, I thought was in the best interests of the people of Evansville given the economic information we had available.

I take great pride in being a leader who listens to people and seeks collaboration on the many challenges that face our community, and does so with integrity, honesty and transparency.

Frankly, I have been kicking myself for the past several days for allowing a big decision like this to be made without public input. I am angry with myself that, because the decision was poorly handled, people are now questioning my motives. I understand why people are upset. I don't blame them.

The people of Evansville have spoken and I have listened. We can't turn back the clock, but we can handle things differently for 2010.

To that end, I will ask the City Council to consider the reinstatement of the full local homestead credit for 2010. This will require tough decisions by City Council members and me, but that is

the job we were elected to do. It will require real soul searching from the people of Evansville about the type of services they want from their City. I hope the public gets involved in this debate, because, ultimately it is their government.

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