

Proposal to Consider a Merger of Bellewood with St. Matthews

I would like to propose that the Bellewood Commission explore the advantages of joining with the City of St. Matthews in order to acquire for its citizen the advantages of residing in a fourth class city in Jefferson County, Kentucky, among these are:

A managed, trained, and full time police force, patrolling our streets 24-7, enforcing parking rules, enforcing city and Metro codes, and full arrest powers.

Metro zoning veto power to prevent by law the changes in our land use.

A more powerful voice in communicating with Louisville Metro departments, LWC, MSD, LWC, etc.

Access to a city attorney, engineer, arborist, budget and financial management, etc.

Leaf removal in October and November.

Snow removal.

Free tree planting in right of ways.

Drainage improvement, pothole repair, storm waste removal,

Free police house watches for vacationing citizens by SMPD.

A tax rate virtually equal to that of our current rate. Bellewood is \$0.19 with a 40% discount (\$0.114 per \$100 assessed value). St. Matthews is \$0.20 with a 44% discount (\$.116 per \$100 assessed value).

The process should include a face-to-face discussion with representatives of St. Matthews and a vote by the Bellewood commission to take the issue to our constituents, and, if positive, a petition. St. Matthews leadership has been positive about this action for well over a decade.