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KIPP Delta to lease Malco from the city

By Melissa Martinez



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KIPP Delta School Director Scott Shirey has presented the future of the Malco Theater to Helena-West Helena city officials including some amendments to a proposed 10-year lease. Shirey reported that he is excited to announce that future improvements to this “gem of the Delta” will soon be underway with the city’s approval and the approval of some much needed grant money of course. “Leasing the Malco Theater would provide the city some relief because it won’t cost the city a cent,” commented Shirey.

Shirey presented each member of the H- WH City Council a copy of a proposed 10- year lease that shows that KIPP will pay a rental agreement of \$1,000 per year for 10 years.

During a brief discussion, Councilman Daniel Strickland asked whether KIPP would consider a 5-year lease as a trial run, after which time the lease would be renewed. Shirey stated that he foresaw no problem with accepting that proposed agreement as requested by the council and added that he was looking forward to getting the much needed improvements underway.

In a previous council session, Shirey reported that KIPP would be committed to applying for the proper grants and to paying all utilities.

“The Malco Theater will continue to be available to the public for community entertainment and events, as well

as to KIPP Delta, other school programs and as needed as community meeting space,” reassured Shirey.

It is estimated that the lease will save the city about \$25,000 per year with KIPP assuming full responsibility for all water, electricity, and gas payments. “KIPP Delta will professionally operate and maintain the Malco Theatre for use of the KIPP students and the use of the community, after the much needed repairs are made,” commented Shirey.

“We will also provide a full time facility manager, and a full time custodial and maintenance manager and all repairs will be maintained as outlined in the lease,” he continued. “We will continue to apply for grants that will be used to restore and maintain the Malco Theatre to be first class and as stated in the lease. If we don't offer the use of the Malco to the community, we will be in violation of the agreement at which time the city has the right to take away the rights of the lease from KIPP.”

Shirey assured the council and the public that the Malco Theater will bring great things back to Helena and that the proof is within KIPP Delta’s progression of success.

“We have transformed what used to be a desolate part of Cherry Street into a corner of accomplishment, that we hope will be reflected in the lights of the new and improved Malco Theater,” he concluded.