

# Town of Selmer, Tennessee

## Aldermen

John Smith  
John Finlayson  
Paul Simpson  
Lloyd Tennyson  
Edward Smith

DAVID ROBINSON, Mayor  
ANN HENDERSON, Recorder

Neal Burks, Chief of Police  
Anthony Carr, Fire Chief  
Terry Abernathy, Attorney  
Bill Webb, City Judge  
Jim Replogle, Building Inspector  
Theadies Sebree, Street Dept.  
Mike Dickey, Sanitation Dept.

April 23, 2009

Susan R. Cooper, Commissioner  
Department of Health  
State of Tennessee  
425 5th Avenue North  
Nashville, TN 37243

Re: TN DOH Reply to Town of Selmer letter of inquiry

Commissioner Cooper,

We have received your April 3<sup>rd</sup> reply to the Town of Selmer's March 6<sup>th</sup> letter of inquiry directed to Kevin Morris of the Hardeman County Health Department.

As a reminder of the purpose of our letter of inquiry, the Town of Selmer had conducted a hearing on February 24, 2009, wherein there were a number of questions posed for the health department that Mr. Morris was not able to answer directly at that time. He subsequently offered to respond to the direct questions we pose in writing.

Sadly, the April 3<sup>rd</sup> reply we have received from your office is not responsive to our questions.

In our letter of inquiry's introduction, we specifically acknowledge the Department of Health's endorsement of water fluoridation and provide assurances that we are in receipt of other prestigious endorsements.

We further requested, in advance, that answers be directed to the specifically numbered questions we posed, so that we could easily discern between the facts we are seeking, any rhetoric that often accompanies this issue, and your position of endorsement.

The reply we received from your office did not comply with the courtesy we requested, and after thorough review of your 22-page reply, I was only able to account for 4 questions, of the 34 original questions plus the 11 questions added by representatives of the black community, that were answered in a fashion that were directly responsive, without even considering or challenging the accuracy of the response.

144 North Second Street • Selmer, Tennessee 38375 • (731) 645-3241 Fax (731) 646-1462  
[www.selmer-tn.com](http://www.selmer-tn.com)

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider, and employer*

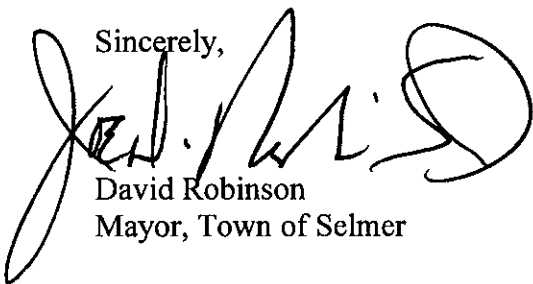
In order for others to make their own determination as to the responsiveness of your reply, I am re-submitting the original letter of inquiry to the Board of Aldermen and other Town officials with the request that they thoroughly review your reply, with close scrutiny, to discern for themselves the extent of facts presented, and to then go back and review the questions posed to determine if they are then able to ascertain your exact answers to these very specific questions.

As many of the questions were of a nature that are directly related to your actions and consideration for consumers, I will place this letter, your reply, and the original questions posed, on the Town of Selmer's web site with an encouragement that the public examine these documents in total, so that they can make up their own mind whether the insufficiency of your reply is better characterized as incompetence, the work of a junior employee with little experience in responding to a request for factual rather than political information, or whether there really is an agenda for water fluoridation that transcends the Department of Health's duty of care to the public and duty to provide accurate information to constituent deliberative bodies such as the Town of Selmer.

As for myself, your tortuous slanting of the information, the omissions, and your willingness to attempt to provide cover for your lack of responsiveness to questions of authority, liability, who you have considered, who you will inform, and even as simple a question as to whether you can supply even one toxicological study on the product that actually shows up in the truck to be injected into our water, causes me to question whether the Department of Health can be considered a reliable source on other issues for which I have taken your answers for granted and without question.

I am copying these communications to Governor Bredesen so he may better evaluate the performance of the Department of Health and to Kevin Morris so that he may re-evaluate his willingness to make commitments for answers in light of your Office's reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Robinson", written over a large, stylized circular flourish.

David Robinson  
Mayor, Town of Selmer

cc: Governor Phil Bredesen  
Mr. Kevin Morris  
Board of Aldermen  
City Attorney