



City of Athens

Office of the Mayor

P.O. Box 1089

Athens, Alabama 35612

WILLIAM R. MARKS

MAYOR

(256) 233-8730

Fax: (256) 233-8721

Rmarks@athensal.us

www.athensal.us

Aug. 25, 2021

Ethan Woodruff, Executive Director
North Alabama Zoological Society
4100 Market St SW, Suite 100
Huntsville, AL 35808

Dear Mr. Woodruff,

The Mayor's Office and Athens City Council embrace your plans for an Association of Zoos and Aquariums accredited zoo/aquarium in Limestone County near the City of Athens.

Once complete, this project will enhance our area in several ways, such as:

- Providing a family-friendly tourism destination for our citizens and visitors.
- Adding to our tax base, which funds services for our citizens.
- Incorporating an educational component for the public, especially students, who will benefit from nature camps, school visits, and conservation endeavors.
- Promoting growth and providing jobs in North Alabama.
- Establishing a research area focused on sustainable farming, which is still a vital component of our local economy.

Since the NAZS made its location announcement in August, I have received numerous positive comments about the project. The community feels this is something to "roar" about for our area. Thank you for investing in our community and working to add another quality of life experience in Limestone County.

Please reach out if you need assistance from the City of Athens and Athens Utilities. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

William R. "Ronnie" Marks

Mayor, City of Athens, Ala.