

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 1, 2009

CONTACT: WAAK 94.7 News Director, via email at waak@catt.com

“COMPLAINER” ABOUT CHEERLEADER SIGNS SETS THE RECORD STRAIGHT

Ringold, GA– Donna Jackson admits making a telephone call to Catoosa County school superintendent Denia Reese about cheerleader signs, but says that’s about the only part of the reports that are true.

Jackson, who has been the focus of a community’s ire due to rumors that she threatened legal action in order to get the signs containing Bible verses at Lakeview Fort Oglethorpe High School in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia removed, has issued the following statement to help set the record straight.

“I did not call the superintendent and complain that the LFO cheerleaders’ signs violated federal law by promoting religion at a school function. I am not offended by Bible verses, much less by Bible verses displayed publicly.

“I would remind all who care about this issue, that the Bible condemns bearing false witness against a neighbor, as well as all forms of deceit, gossip and slander.

“I did call the superintendent to express concern that the cheerleaders’ signs be done in such a way that all involved were within the ever changing and very confusing lines drawn by the federal courts about such things. The issue was on my mind because of a school law class I took last summer at the Christian university where I am working on my doctorate of education degree. That university is Liberty University, founded by the late Dr. Jerry Falwell. One of my sons recently graduated from LFO and another one is in school there now, and I never said anything about the signs all these years.

“I am not an expert on what the law or judicial opinions will or will not allow, but we all know of horror stories involving court battles and divided communities. I called the superintendent with the hope of heading off the type of community division that hasty actions have now caused.

“I never used the word “complain,” “complaint,” “grievance” or any other word similar in meaning. I expressed concern that teachers could be subject to lawsuits or losing their jobs. My concern was a direct result of the class I took this summer.

“I neither intended nor expected her to take the drastic action that ensued.

–MORE–

LFO CHEERLEADER STORY/PAGE TWO

“Only about two hours following that brief telephone conversation, I received an email from the superintendent that said the cheerleaders would no longer be allowed to display their signs. I was shocked, as many of my neighbors in this community were. I was further shocked by the attempts to pass that decision off as somehow the result of me complaining about the unconstitutionality of the cheerleaders’ signs. This is absolutely false.

“It is my hope that the school will see to it that all students are able to express themselves in such a way that they and the teachers who invest their lives in them are protected from potential lawsuits by some person, group or governmental body seeking to deny that God-given and Constitutionally-guaranteed right.”

Jackson will be a guest on the Clan Ceilidh radio show on Thursday night, October 1st at 6:30 p.m. The Clan Ceilidh is a local interest program and can be heard on WAAK 94.7 FM, or on the internet at <http://waak.catt.com/> . The live program will be recorded and rebroadcast periodically. For more information on the program, please contact waak@catt.com.

For more information on Jackson’s statement, please contact WAAK 94.7FM via email at waak@catt.com.