

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday, August 11, 2005

CONTACT: Gina Hatler, Communications Manager, 209-6117

Mayor Ramsey Announces “Hamilton SHINES” Anti-Litter Initiative

Mayor Claude Ramsey outlined a new county-wide program aimed at reducing litter in Hamilton County this morning at the County Commission Agenda Session. Entitled “Hamilton SHINES”, the program is designed to reduce litter through education and enforcement of litter laws.

Mayor Ramsey reported that he has met with mayors and police chiefs from municipalities in the county and that they have participated in the structure of the program and pledged their support for the effort.

Mayor Ramsey said, “You don’t have to look too hard to find litter in our community. It’s not a problem that is specific to any one area or demographic, it is everywhere. My intention is to bring about a heightened awareness to all citizens, young and old, that there are laws against littering and that littering does have consequences.”

Ramsey went on to say that he has already sent letters to waste haulers requesting that they carefully cover all loads, and to general contractors outlining stricter litter standards for construction sites. Beginning later this month, a Clean Builder’s Checklist will be distributed with all building permits, and building inspectors will report sites that are not in compliance with these recommendations.

Mayor Ramsey also said that he has spoken with Dr. Jesse Register about adding more litter education into the curriculum and holding a county-wide art contest to promote the effort to students.

Upcoming plans include a mass media campaign, distribution of litter bags at vehicle emissions testing centers, driver’s license testing centers, and other locations later this fall.

Mayor Ramsey said, “Littering is an unnecessary blight on our community and we want to reinforce that message. We want children to pass it to their parents and vice-versa. We hope this program will initiate discussions about it at school, at work, at church and at neighborhood meetings. As a result, many will automatically change their behavior. Some will not. Those who continue to litter will receive fines, perform community service and may even lose their drivers license. The end result will be that Hamilton County will be a cleaner place for us all.”

###

