



Larry Solomon  
Mayor

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Open Letter To Union Residents...

As you may know, the April 8<sup>th</sup> Saturday Night Live show opening depicted President Trump coming to Union KY to speak to our residents for a 20 minute stopover. While the sketch was humorous, it truly misrepresented the residents of Union and those who live in Boone County.

*Why did they choose Union KY for their sketch?*

Like myself, I am sure you wondered why they chose Union KY for the opening of their April 8<sup>th</sup> show. The premise their sketch was for President Trump to speak to his diehard supporters. We presume that they said which State was the first to declare for Trump...that was Kentucky. Then they said, which major county showed a great voting percentage for Trump/Pence...that would be Boone County at 68%. Then, which city within Boone County showed the greatest percentage for Trump/Pence...that would be Union KY. We believe this is how they came to choose our city for the sketch, and we appreciate the national recognition. If this be the case, this was the only part they got right.

*True Union/Boone County resident depictions.*

The remainder of the sketch they totally misrepresented the City of Union and Boone County KY residents as to whom we are as a community. I would like to provide you some key facts who we are and how we should have been represented.

- The nearest coal mining plant is approximately 150 miles away from the City of Union KY in Estill County.
  - Coal is a very big part of Kentucky and West Virginia, and we are proud to be associated with the coal industry. However, coal is not an essential part of the Union/Boone County economy.
  
- There are plenty of good well-paying jobs in Boone County and each city within the county and more coming.
  - Judge Moore has been instrumental to recently bring Amazon Prime to Boone County...2,700 jobs will be created. They also recently brought Southwest Airlines to CVG with new jobs created by this acquisition.
  - Boone County unemployment rate is 4.20...a full point below the 5.20 national average, and job growth is projected at a whopping 32.82% over the next 10 years. (Source: Bestplaces.net.)

- The demographics of the City of Union residents are...
  - Professionals, primarily white collar workers, who work in all parts of Boone County.
    - Three biggest employment areas...management/financial/sales, production and transportation.
    - Nearly 50% are educated with a bachelor's degree or higher.
  - Those that make over \$60k per year (over 55% of Boone County households).
    - Family median income \$79k vs. \$65k nationally.
    - The Union zip code (41091) has the highest household income in the entire State.
  - Younger...average head of household age is 34.8...meaning we are a young and growing community.
  - Living in an area that is growing 1-2% annually and with a crime rate of only 1.9%.
  - Living in homes with a \$244k median home value. (Source: Bestplaces.net.)
- The Boone County school system is excellent...one of the best in Kentucky.
  - Larry A Ryle High School is ranked 10<sup>th</sup> in the state of Kentucky, 960 in the nation, and has a 94% graduation rate.
  - All six public schools in Union (Gray, New Haven, Mann, Ryle, Cooper and Longbranch) are rated as 8 or better with Mann, a blue ribbon school, at a perfect 10. (Source: Greatschools.com.)
- The water is clean and pure.
  - Boone County Water Works meets or exceeds all EPA and Ohio EPA standards for water quality, based on their 2014 report.
  - Lead compliance was in the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile. As part of the Greater Cincinnati Water Works system, Boone County is well above the national average.
- The Northern Kentucky Help Line, a partnership between NKADD, Boone County and Kenton County, provides immediate local assistance to drug addiction, and follows the well-established and successful model of the Addiction Services Council that operates in the greater Cincinnati area.

To Conclude.

The purpose of this letter is to let you know that those who live in the City of Union and Boone County KY do not fit the perception depicted in the April 8<sup>th</sup> Saturday Night sketch. I simply wanted you to know our true demographic, who we are, and what we stand for.

Sincerely,

Mayor Larry Solomon