



Issue of the week: Costs of reorganization

It pays to procrastinate, at least now and then. This issue was to in part be about the relationship of the council majority to the city's unions. John Nephew, in his response to the St. Paul Building Trades endorsement questionnaire, has said everything that needs to be said:

This council majority and their city manager have actively worked to undermine unions and workers' rights.

After city department heads and other managers petitioned to form a bargaining unit last year, the city manager announced a reorganization that effectively demoted everyone who was a member of a bargaining unit or union, by creating a new layer of managers above them. His original draft said the reorganization was needed, "given the action by department heads to vote to form a labor bargaining group in October 2006." This language was quickly edited when observers noted that it appeared retaliatory on the face of it. Around the same time, the city manager rewrote the city employee handbook in order to reduce employee rights (for example, removing the "just cause" standard for dismissal, eliminating an employee's right to a hearing to respond to allegations used to justify dismissal, and adding "Reclassification or Elimination of Positions" to the list of actions that are not grievable).

The city's Human Resources director, who had led the formation of the Maplewood Confidential & Supervisory Association, was fired last August. In the report that was used to justify her firing, there were numerous comments criticizing her performance on the grounds that during her tenure, negotiations with city unions resulted in agreements without ever having to go to arbitration. In effect, her ability to help create a cooperative environment with city employee unions was seen by this council majority as a major flaw.

In a later question he concluded:

I do not see any current city function that would benefit from contracting out or privatization. On the contrary, I think we have gone too far by outsourcing Human Resources, for example.

Next Issue: The Banick Affair

Campaign Developments

The Lillie Newspapers *Maplewood Ramsey County Review* has printed council candidate profiles.

Lawn signs are permitted as of August 1st.

The DFL has endorsed Rossbach and Nephew.

Maplewood Voters Coalition Activities

The MVC has endorsed Rossbach, Nephew, Llanas, and Dykes for Maplewood City Council.

We have also endorsed Ring, Edstrom, Dion, Martin, and Anderson for Roseville (ISD 623) School Board.

How to Get Involved

Send a note to

info@mvc07.com

(that's zero seven, not oh seven)

or

PO Box 9849

Maplewood MN 55109-0849

or visit the campaign website

<http://www.mvc07.com>

Coming soon: MVC candidate endorsements

Original prepared and paid for by the Maplewood Voters Coalition, PO Box 9849, Maplewood MN - Crystal Bloecher, Treasurer