



11/21/2010

Open Letter to the Gainesville Times:

I have read your editorial titled "[Rush into change: New commissioners' plan to move library may lead to division on board.](#)" Let me start by saying that I am a firm believer in the 1st Amendment and the freedom of the press, but I also believe that the press should be fair. After reading the above article, I have to wonder.

I think it is fair that we are being challenged on the placement of the library and how moving it back to where it was promised will potentially waste taxpayers' dollars. I think it is unfair to assign the blame to the people that are trying to right a wrong. I campaigned on this issue and the people of South Hall County have voiced their opinion: they believe that our commission needs to keep their promises. The people of Clermont were promised a library and I intend to follow through with the promise.

The editor feels that the library vote was not part of a "lame duck" effort, but let's look at some of the other circumstances around the vote: 1- Judge Fuller issued the ruling the day before the commission meeting, then left town handicapping the City from being able to appeal; 2- the item was not placed on the agenda until the day of the meeting, preventing the citizens from being able to act on the issue; and 3- the commission knew the will of the people based on election results, but moved forward with this anyway.

But where the paper crossed the line is when they published:

"... Gibbs and Lutz have let it be known they already know what the county needs to do and how, despite the fact that they have yet to sit in on their first commission meeting.

This potential trinity of power has made it clear in private conversations that they want to clean house from the top levels of county government, starting with County Administrator Charley Nix, Assistant Administrator Phil Sutton and Finance Director Michaela Thompson. To do so would be a major mistake, as all three have proven to be extremely competent in handling their respective positions."





Dennis, I have been to more commission meetings than you have in the past couple of years. While I have not been behind the desk, I have a greater qualification: I have knocked on people's doors and asked what they thought about it. Please don't forget, this isn't my 1st rodeo; I was on city council and have a little experience in listening to the public. Also, I don't remember seeing you or anyone from the Gainesville Times during my private meetings with Commissioner Bell or Commissioner Elect Gibbs, so how do you know who is on my hit list. All I can say is that your crystal ball is a little foggy because you have missed the only person that I have openly talked about and that is the County Attorney.

It is interesting that you refer to me as a child following Pied Piper of Hamelin. You do know that Peid the Piper was a rat catcher, don't you? You also know that the government didn't follow through on their promises him either.

My voters have put me on a mission to clean up the Government for the next four years, deal with it! I will act in the best interest of the citizens of the county, not in the best interest of the bureaucrats or other commissioners that have lost their way.

