

Maureen B. Valentino

From: Gene Valentino
Sent: Saturday, March 07, 2009 8:01 PM
To: Phillip Kittell (kirkman@cox.net)
Subject: FW: fyi

Phil: This is what I sent Cy which is what I said I'd forward to you

Gene Valentino

County Commissioner, District 2
 Escambia County, Florida
 221 Palafox Place, Suite 400
 Pensacola, Florida 32591-1591
 PH: 850-595-4920

Visit Us @: http://www.myscambia.com/departments/board_of_county_commissioners/District2.php

"To respond to public comment in a good way" - Zig Ziglar

From: Gene Valentino
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 10:12 PM
To: 'cyrus keefer'
Subject: RE: fyi

Cy... I appreciate your inquiry with me on this. The 'dynamics' in this town/county are strange. It took me two years to adjust to the "way" here and several years more to tolerate "stuff" I know you would find hard to do.... The newly elected school superintendent, Malcolm Thomas, replaced my buddy Jim Paul. He works with an elected school board as well. The person writing the comments below is suggesting that the "Sunshine Law" may apply and complicate your ability to call a meeting without a public advertisement of same. This is true, UNLESS, you visited each of them one at a time.

The dynamics of the school system folks are geared to operational thinking. Their budget does not give money back the community the way we do. I showed you the \$4.5 million we give away each year on charities that are considered priorities of the community. And now, our budget process begins, and by July we will have a proposed budget in place for October 1st, fiscal year.

Your desire to "help the kids" is beautiful. But I strongly suggest/request you follow my lead on this "list" of priority giving. The not-for-profit programs, such as the Optimist Group, the Kiwanis Clubs, and a few others have in their mission the fundraising priority of helping youth; food, clothing, shelter, counseling, care, etc....the concerns you expressed. I can help you use these programs to make the greatest impact upon the very people who would object to your initiatives.

You've got to watch the rerun of last night's county commission meeting. I got FUCKED again by Commissioner Grover Robinson (District 4) and Commissioner Kevin White (District 5). They shot down the engineering firm that successfully won the bid for the \$1.5-million sidewalk systems on Gulf Beach Hwy. from the Bridge to Blue Angel Pky. This is where Triggers Restaurant is where we had breakfast one morning. I'm delayed 4 months on the sidewalk project because they wanted to circumvent the RFP process to get their "good old boy" to do the contract work; when 11 others went through a complete process. Through that very important contact you recently made, I need him to simultaneously nail the downtown crowd and to get that crowd to:

1. support a new candidate I have to run against one of them
2. support me.
3. and to get him to use his influence to set these two guys straight.

We need to meet with the neighbors, IN THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS, as I suggested with the neighborhood

precinct leaders who I have appointed. They're waiting. Face to face, you can explain the "plans" and the focus of the project. You can share to the extent you choose the financial benefit to the county. I strongly believe that once the story is out there, the 'mystique' will dissolve away.

When I spoke with Dean Kirschner, my aide, today, he told me he had two or three meetings set up, 1.5 hours apart, on Thursday afternoon. He may have more set up for us by then. We can really nail this issue once and for all. Tonight, one of my precinct leaders, Vicki Campbell, called me. In the background she was on a conference call with 30 owners of Coquina Village. This is the property to the west of the WCI property. She owns a title search company and is very anxious to see us succeed. She reported to me as her conference call continued that she had many on the phone that did not know what was going on and feared the Bingo presence. Again, the locals seem more okay. The absentee owners were the ones raising the fuss from the rumors they've heard. She said she was handling it and calming them down. She's a 'player' with money out here and very able to help us...

The 'express lane' treatment worked well on Julian's property. But, it created part of the problem; meaning the suspicion from your ability to jumpstart the project with little public notice. Other properties, which will presumably not have a development order in hand (like Julian's) will require a public notice. During the review phase the public can listen to what it is you're staff brings to the DRC, (the County's Development Review Committee). When the committee approves your review, then you get a permit and all is under way. This is a 5-6 week process which I will attempt to shorten BUT, this is a normal time frame for this size of a project.

Summary: Cy, I do like this one-on-one with the neighbors which you suggest. I'll be there as the buffer. These are my people that elected me and I will be able to bridge the credibility issue for you. Once we get this expression out there to the folks we will have made great strides. THEN, in a coordinated and near simultaneous move, I strongly suggest you revisit the media with a firm announcement, reinforcing the plan presented in the neighborhoods. It's still a good idea to visit the other commissioners but, at this stage there is no need for the commissioner to vote on anything. That makes this even better. I hope this helps.

Handwritten signature



County Commissioner, District 2
Escambia County, Florida
221 Palafox Place, Suite 400
Pensacola, Florida 32591-1591
PH: 850-595-4920

Visit Us @: http://www.escambia.com/default.asp?board_no=county_commissioners/District2.php

"To require, it is possible in many ways." - Fyodor Dostoevsky

From: cyrus keefer [mailto:cyrus_keefer@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 10:54 AM
To: Gene Valentino
Subject: FW: fyi

6/1/2009