

Wednesday, June 27, 2007

### **Marshall University and Mayor David Felinton**

I am aware of the dispute between Marshall University and Mayor David Felinton in Huntington West Virginia, over a small piece of alley property that Marshall University desires to use to fuel an expansion project. In the real world far beyond Huntington, disputes between the states largest cities ( Huntington ) and state entities like the Board of Regents ( Marshall University ), are very commonly settled by a negotiated discussion between the Mayor of the city and the Governor of the state. The mechanics of how those negotiations would work are outlined below. 1. The city attorney and the attorney for the University would first have a meeting to discuss the legal position of both parties and attempt to find common ground. 2. If the city attorney was satisfied and accord was reached... all would be well. 3. If the city attorney was unhappy with the results, then he could make his position known to the attorney general who is the states chief lawyer. 4. If that did not work, the the mayor and governor could try to negotiate a solution within the executive branch as an alternative to going to court and seeking adjudication before the judicial branch. End outline. If I would have been in Mayor David Felinton's position, I would have told the governor that I would give the alley to Marshall University... if the governor would sign an order to increase the number of state troopers assigned to Cabell County. It's called a political trade off. This in retrospect would have made Felinton look very tough on criminals, and pro University to boot. A Win-Win situation that could potentially result in re-election. However a golden opportunity was blown by Mayor Felinton. More state troopers in Cabell County and Huntington WV would have put the fear of hell in local dope dealers. I understand why the mayor wants to be a good steward of the public assets. However the public safety is a public asset too. The public assets are not just limited to monetary tangibles. The Mayor seems to limit his perception of the public assets to money only. Our mayor in Huntington is only 32 years old and a more mature man would see things differently. Huntington seems to prefer entertaining public political squabbles, to the finer points of hardball politics that can potentially yield dividends to both sides of a dispute. That's sad. In the mean time... here in chromatic hell, the budget is still red ink, the bridge on 8th street is still pepto bismol pink, the cities reputation has a black eye, and everyone in city hall is still too yellow to take a stand, and this gives the red faced irate populace a case of the blues. Stephanie Heck Huntington West Virginia

Posted by Huntington West Virginia in Huntington WV at 14:47