

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

Sunday, June 17, 2007

Politics and the Pink Bridge

Local politics in Cabell County WV is pretty much business as usual as we approach election 2008. there is not too much to report because every political fiasco in the county seems to be professionally covered up and well whitewashed. So much for political commentery from a liberal democrat. I often wonder if I am the last remaining liberal democrat in West Virginia.As I was driving across the famous pink bridge in Huntington the other day. I could not help but notice how much it looked like a big bottle of Pepto Bismol. I have no idea how that particular obnoxious shade of pink was obtained. I can only speculate in the political blog that operates as a sub section of my main blog.I do have a theory as to how the blasted bridge got so pink.1, Somebody went to city hall and said the blasted bridge needed to be painted.2. The Mayor said it has to be painted from existing colors in the city paint inventory.3. So the prospective painter said "give me all the paint you have".4. City council came up with 20 gallons of white-wash. the same stuff they use to white wash budget errors and scandals and foul ups with purchasing contracts. 5. The painter said this not enough paint. We are a quart of paint short of the amount I need to do the job.6. The city finance department then came up with a quart of red ink, the very same red ink that the use to write the city budget with. 7. The painter said "Oh my Gawd" as he poured the red ink into the whitewash. I want to paint a bridge in the park, and this hideous pink color is worthy of the out-house at a cat-house! Is this the best the city can do?8. The Mayor then told the guy that he should be grateful for the whitewash and the red ink. That was the first time the finance department and city council had ever cooperated on anything! That shade of pink was symbolic of a new era of cooperation at city hall.9. The frustrated painter then asked the Mayor as to the date of the next election. The Mayor replied that the election is a ways off in the future but I hope you will remember me on election day.10 The painter then told the Mayor that in the next election, he and all of his friends would "help the Mayor out".

Posted by Huntington West Virginia in West Virginia Politics at 08:13

Friday, June 8, 2007

Paris Hilton in Jail

I wish to thank a California Judge for removing Paris Hilton from our face for a while. This will give the girls at the jailhouse hair salon something to gossip about.

Posted by Huntington West Virginia in Personal Blogs at 19:59