

**Ann Arbor City Council Session: March 21, 2011
Email Redactions List Pursuant to Council Resolution R-09-386**

<u>Received Time</u>	<u>Sent Time</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>CC</u>	<u>Redactions</u>	<u>Reason for Redaction</u>
9:57 PM	9:55 PM	Hohnke, Carsten	Rosencrans, Scott		Email address	Privacy
9:15 PM	9:14 PM	Rapundalo, Stephen	Larcom, Kristen		Omitted complete email	Attorney-Client Privilege
9:15 PM	9:14 PM	Rapundalo, Stephen	Larcom, Kristen		Omitted complete email	Attorney-Client Privilege
9:15 PM	9:15 PM	Rapundalo, Stephen	Larcom, Kristen		Omitted complete email	Attorney-Client Privilege
9:15 PM	9:15 PM	Rapundalo, Stephen	Larcom, Kristen		Omitted complete email	Attorney-Client Privilege
9:15 PM	9:15 PM	Rapundalo, Stephen	Larcom, Kristen		Omitted complete email	Attorney-Client Privilege
8:59 PM	8:59 PM	Hieftje, John	Vtext.com		Email address	Privacy
8:18 PM	8:18 PM	Smith, Sandi	Leaf, William		Email address	Privacy

Greenshields, Rachel

From: Rosencrans, Scott (PAC) [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 9:55 PM
To: Hohnke, Carsten
Subject: TFG

Thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you.
Scott

Greenshields, Rachel

From: audio@mygovernmentconferences.com
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 9:21 PM
To: Rapundalo, Stephen
Subject: Customer Service in the Public Sector: How to WOW Your Citizens: 4/12 Webinar

Dear Stephen Rapundalo,

For those concerned with improving your customer service efforts and WOWing your citizens, there will be a live, 60-minute Webinar Conference:

"Customer Service in the Public Sector: How to WOW Your Citizens"
Tuesday, April 12, 1:00-2:00 p.m. ET
<http://www.mygovernmentconferences.com/1KB/0/2/p5XJ8Pc/p5WKHZH9i/p0e>

Service Excellence through the "Lens of YOUR Public Sector Customer"

- ** Tips & tricks to develop customer friendly processes at your agency
- ** Implement service mapping: How it works & examples of effective maps
- ** Ways to understand customers' emotions: Alter your strategy for them!

"WOW" Your Customer: Make them Feel Important Even at a Dreaded Agency

- ** How to move from a task mentality to an experience mentality
- ** Ways to consistently create a great experience: Hierarchy of expectations
- ** Techniques to ensure great customer service becomes "non-negotiable"

Rely on Employees & Hold Them Accountable: Responsibility & Empowerment

- ** How Disney uses formal & informal accountability tools effectively
- ** Five-step coaching: How to address service issues in the public sector
- ** Conquer service barriers in the public sector: Raise the bar for service

Your Expert Presenter:

Dennis Snow's customer service abilities expand over 20 years with the Walt Disney World Company. There, he developed his passion for service excellence and the experience he brings to the worldwide speaking and consulting he does today.

- ** Dennis launched a division of the Disney Institute responsible for consulting with some of the world's largest companies including ExxonMobil, AT&T, and Coca Cola.
- ** He also spent several years with the Disney University, teaching corporate philosophy and business practices to cast members and the leadership team.
- ** Dennis is also full-time speaker; trainer and consultant who has helped organizations achieve goals related to customer service, employee development and leadership. Some of his clients include American Express, Cummins, Florida State University and Johns Hopkins Hospital.
- ** He also has several articles that appear in a number of industry publications in addition to being a featured guest "expert" on customer

service, for several business news-talk radio shows.

Earn HRCI Credit:

This program has been approved for 1 re-certification credit hour toward PHR and SPHR re-certification through the Human Resource Certification Institute (HRCI).

As a leader in fast-read, actionable advice on workplace issues, the conference gives you the opportunity to add immediate impact to your human resource efforts in a manner that is:

FAST - No wasted time here. Get right to the heart of the matter in a 1-hour block designed to easily fit into your busy schedule.

CONVENIENT - No airlines. No travel. No time out of the office. Listen from the comfort and convenience of your desk.

EASY - A telephone and computer with access to the Internet is all the equipment you need. Just dial in, punch-in your access code, then click the link to access the website and you're in. That's it. Follow along with the Webinar handouts provided in advance.

ACTIONABLE - Our conferences provide money-saving tactics you can start using right when you hang up the phone.

IDEAL FOR MULTIPLE LISTENERS - Use a speakerphone and as many people as you want can listen in - at no extra cost to you. A projector is suggested for the video portion for multiple attendees. Many professionals use these sessions as a cost-effective, time-efficient means of training supervisors, managers, and staff while reinforcing key issues in a fresh, new manner that they will remember and act on.

AFFORDABLE - Priced at \$199, it is a fraction of the cost of travel and attendance fees for other high-priced conferences or seminars.

* "Customer Service in the Public Sector: How to WOW Your Citizens" *

* Live, 60-Minute Webinar Conference *

* Tuesday, April 12 – (1:00-2:00 p.m. ET) *

Register now for this exciting event by clicking the following link or calling 1-888-669-6067:

<http://www.mygovernmentconferences.com/1KB/0/2/p5XJ8Pc/p5WKHZH9i/p0e>

We hope you'll join us.

Sincerely,

Executive Education
P.O. Box 31
Devault, PA 19432

P.S. If not satisfied, a full refund will be given from now until 7 days after the event.

If you do not wish to receive further notices about this conference or future conferences, please click here:

<http://www.mygovernmentconferences.com/1KB/9K/2/p5XJ8Pc/p5WKHZH9i/p0e>

Please do not reply directly to this e-mail, as we are unable to process it. We sent this using a "send only" address.

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Contact ID#: -1851740419

Greenshields, Rachel

From: Fraser, Roger
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 9:13 PM
To: *City Council Members (All)
Cc: Beaudry, Jacqueline; Dempkowski, Angela A; Wondrash, Lisa
Subject: Clerk's Office

Council:

FYI, the Clerk's Office reopened in their 2nd Floor office last Thursday. We are still planning for the April 4 meeting of City Council in the 2nd Floor Chambers.

Roger W. Fraser

City Administrator
734-794-6110
rfraser@a2gov.org

Greenshields, Rachel

From: CheapCaribbean.com [email@cheapcaribbean.messages3.com]
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 9:01 PM
To: Hieftje, John
Subject: Jamaica Up to 60% OFF Sale - Hurry, Ends Friday!

From \$459* w/ Air -- Jamaica All Inclusive Vacation Sale
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Infant Taxes

Infant taxes are not pre-collected. These taxes are typically \$12 per child and will be due from the airline carrier at the airport on the day of departure.

For Hotel-Only Bookings

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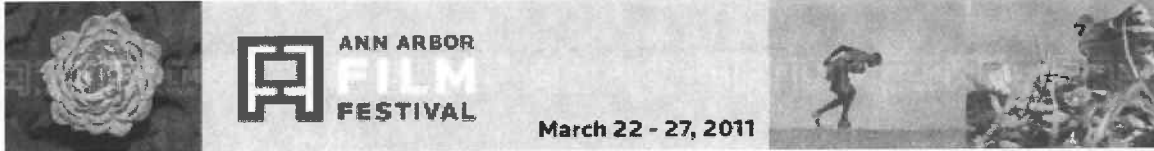
Greenshields, Rachel

From: [REDACTED]@EXT.COM
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 8:59 PM
To: Hieftje, John
Subject: Turn off your mikes during

Turn off your mikes during the breaks including the podium. We can hear you!

Greenshields, Rachel

From: Ann Arbor Film Festival [mailto:aafilmfest.org@mcsv138.net] on behalf of Ann Arbor Film Festival [mailto:aafilmfest.org]
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 8:59 PM
To: Teall, Margie
Subject: AAFF News: 49th Festival Begins Tomorrow



49th Ann Arbor Film Festival Overview and Highlights

- Opening Night: March 22, 2011
- Vanessa Renwick || Music Videos in Competition
- Sonic Acts || Love's Secret Domain
- Genesis and Lady Jaye || Heaps, Layers, Curls
- Looking Ahead

Opening Night: March 22, 2011

The 49th Ann Arbor Film Festival opens tomorrow, March 22nd. This year's program features 188 films, videos and live performances, representing more than 25 countries and over 30 U.S., world and North American premieres.

Please join us as we celebrate the start of a remarkable week of independent, experimental and artist-made cinema! The [Opening Night Reception](#) takes place Tuesday from 6 - 8pm in the Michigan Theater's grand foyer, with appetizers and open bar provided by local favorites.

Or, you can guarantee yourself great seats, a full dinner and help directly support our free public programs by purchasing tickets for our [Opening Night Fundraiser Dinner](#).

The [Opening Night Screening](#) features seven short works, including the



Looking Ahead

[Opening](#)

[Night](#)

[Reception](#)

Tue. March
22 @ 6pm
Grand Foyer
Michigan
Theater
603 E.
Liberty
Ann Arbor,
MI

[Fundraiser](#)

[Dinner](#)

Tue. March
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Backstage
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[Opening](#)

[Night](#)

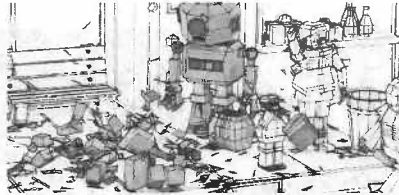
[Screening](#)

Tue. March

world premiere of [The Florestine Collection](#), the final film by Helen Hill completed by Paul Gailiunas, who will be in attendance. Deborah Stratman will also be in attendance for audience Q&A, with her film [Ray's Birds](#).

Vanessa Renwick || Music Videos in Competition

The first full day of programming begins at 12:30pm, with a free screening of three decades of film work by AAFF award juror [Vanessa Renwick](#). At 5pm new music videos, featuring songs by Flying Lotus, Benoit Piolard, Oval and Roommate, screen in the [Amplitude and Scale: Music Video](#) program for only \$5!



Sonic Acts || Love's Secret Domain

At 7pm, [Sonic Acts: Modulating the Human Sensory Apparatus](#) takes a closer look at how artists, over the last fifty years, have been using a broad range of cinematic techniques to investigate the analog and electronically induced play at the boundaries of perception. This program is guest curated by the Amsterdam based Sonic Acts festival, and presented by Sonic Acts' co-founders and curators Lucas van der Velden and Gideon Kiers and co-presented by UM School of Art and Design Roman J. Witt Residency Program. More information on Sonic Acts festival, [here](#).



[Love's Secret Domain](#), screening in the Michigan Theater's Main Auditorium at 7:15pm, features the North American premieres of [V Našich Kinech Uvidíte \(Coming To This Theater\)](#) by Ryusuke Ito and Basma Alsharif's [Turkish Delight](#). In attendance, Braden King with *Home Movie* and Michael Robinson with *These Hammer Don't Hurt Us*.

Heaps, Layers, Curls || Genesis and Lady Jaye

22 @
8:15pm
Michigan
Theater
603 E.
Liberty
Ann Arbor,
MI

Thank you
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Filmmaker Alexis Bravos presents the world premiere of her newest work, *Hepworth*, in the [Heaps, Layers, Curls](#) program screening at 9:15pm in the Michigan Theater Screening Room. Also in attendance, Laida Lertxundi with *Cry When It Happens*, Jonathan Schwartz with *New Year Sun*, and Shambhavi Kaul with *Place for Landing*.



[The Ballad of Genesis and Lady Jaye](#) is an intimate portrait of Genesis P-Orridge (founding member of Throbbing Gristle and Psychic TV), his lover and collaborator Lady Jaye, and their shared radical artistic endeavor "Creating the Pandrogyné", achieved through sex reassignment surgeries. Genesis P-Orridge and director Marie Losier are in attendance for Q&A, following the 9:30pm screening in the Michigan Theater's Main Auditorium.

Looking Ahead - Thursday

[New Directions in Documentary: Panel 1](#)

[Penny Stamps presents "Utopia in Four Movements"](#)

[Ben Rivers: "Slow Action"](#)

[Telcosystems: Live Multimedia Performance](#)

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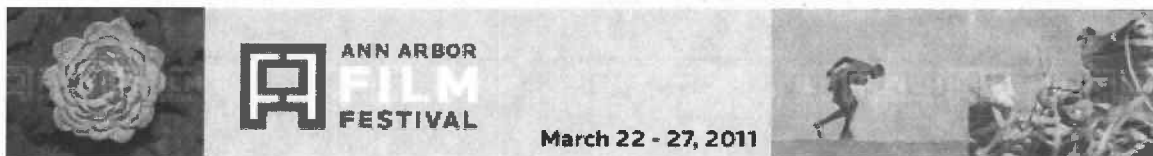
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Greenshields, Rachel

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To: Higgins, Marcia
Subject: AAFF News: 49th Festival Begins Tomorrow



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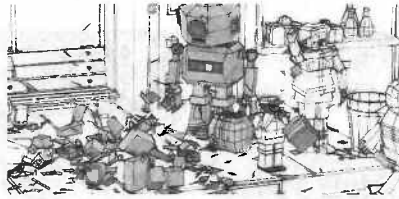
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[Design](#)
[VqKids](#)
[Whole](#)
[Foods](#)
[Market](#)
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Greenshields, Rachel

From: Portside Moderator [moderator@PORTSIDE.ORG]
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 8:50 PM
To: PORTSIDE@LISTS.PORTSIDE.ORG
Subject: Beyond Fukushima: A World in Denial About Nuclear Risks

Beyond Fukushima: A World in Denial About Nuclear Risks

by Danny Schechter

Published on Monday, March 21, 2011 by CommonDreams.org

<http://www.commondreams.org/view/2011/03/21-0>

What will it take for our world to recognize the dangers that nuclear scientists and even Albert Einstein were warning about at the "dawn" of the nuclear age? [Nuclear power and nuclear weapons have been sold to the public relentlessly, in the first instance as necessary, and the second, as safe. Rory O' Connor and Richard Bell coined the term "Nuke Speak" to describe the Orwellian methods deployed by the nuclear industry's PR offensive in a book length analysis of a well funded campaign that continues to this day using euphemistic language to mask its real agenda.] Nuclear power and nuclear weapons have been sold to the public relentlessly, in the first instance as necessary, and the second, as safe. Rory O' Connor and Richard Bell coined the term "Nuke Speak" to describe the Orwellian methods deployed by the nuclear industry's PR offensive in a book length analysis of a well funded campaign that continues to this day using euphemistic language to mask its real agenda.

Amy Goodman reminds us of the prophetic statement by Australian journalist Wilfred Burchett who tried to find words to describe the horror he was seeing in Hiroshima in 1945 after the bomb fell.

"It looks as if a monster steamroller had passed over it and squashed it out of existence. I write these facts ... as a warning to the world."

The world heard his warning, but seems to have ignored it. In fact, what followed has been decades of nuclear proliferation, the spread of nuclear power plants and the escalation of the arms race with new higher tech weaponry.

As Hiroshima becomes yesterday's distant memory and Fukushima the current threat, the full extent of the casualties and body count are not yet in, partly because the Japanese government and the power companies don't want to alarm the public.

Years earlier, a similar cover-up was in effect at Thee Mile Island complex in Pennsylvania where reports of the damage people suffered from a serious accident was minimized, never examined in depth by some of the very same media outlets who are today criticizing Japan for a lack of transparency.

On August, 6, 2008, the anniversary of the dropping of the first nuclear bomb, Alternet.org reported that the government and media were complicit in minimizing public awareness of the extensive suffering that did take place:

"But the word never crossed the conceptual chasm between the "mainstream" media and the "alternative."
Despite a federal class action lawsuit filed by 2400 Pennsylvania families claiming damages from the accident, despite at least \$15 million quietly paid to parents children with birth defects, despite three decades of official admissions that nobody knows how much radiation escaped from TMI, where it went or who it affected, not a mention of the fact that people might have been killed there made its way into a corporate report"

Was this just accidental or is there a deeper pattern of denial? The great expert on psycho history, Robert J. Lifton, wrote a book, *Hiroshima In America*, with journalist Greg Mitchell about the aftermath of Hiroshima in America exploring what they call "50 years of denial."

One reviewer explained, "The authors examine what they perceive to be a conspiracy by the government to mislead and suppress information about the actual bombing, Truman's decision to drop the bomb, and the birth and mismanagement of the beginning of the nuclear age. The authors claim that Americans then, and now, are haunted by the devastating psychological effects of the bomb."

Lifton and Mitchell are evidence-based writers, not conspiratologists, but they could find no other explanation for how such a seminal event could have been distorted and misrepresented for a half century.

Nuclear power and nuclear weapons have been sold to the public relentlessly, in the first instance as necessary, and the second, as safe. Rory O' Connor and Richard Bell coined the term "Nuke Speak" to describe the Orwellian methods deployed by the nuclear industry's PR offensive in a book length analysis of a well funded campaign that continues to this day using euphemistic language to mask its real agenda.

And today, as the world watches the dreadful and even Darwinian struggle for survival by the earthquake and tsunami victims in Japan, as information about the extent of the nuclear danger trickles out, President Obama has reaffirmed his commitment to build new nuclear plants.

Others stress more parochial concerns. The TV Production community fears a shortage in Japanese made magnetic and recording tape. Consumers are being told that they may face a delay in ordering new iPads so get your orders in now. And, the Israeli new service YNET says people there worry about a sushi shortage.

Meanwhile, in Germany, more than 50,000 activists took to the streets in protest, but, so far, there has been no organized outcry here in the U.S. At the Left Forum in New York, the issue was barely addressed in the opening plenary.

On the right, flamboyant talking head/provocateur Ann Coulter defended the imagined health benefits of a release of radiation to counter what she calls the alarmism of the environmentalists. She calls it a "cancer vaccine."

In a talk during a recent visit to Iran, which insists it is not making nuclear weapons, I raised questions about what their government said they want to do: expand their nuclear power plants. When I questioned the wisdom of that approach, I was jeered because they felt I was challenging their "right" to have what other countries have, their right to "progress." The thought that the plants could be dangerous was dismissed.

What they don't seem to know and what millions in Japan are finding out is this technology--with spent rods that are never "spent" and the nuclear waste that will outlive us all-- is inherently unsafe. Jonathan Schell makes this point well in a recent essay in *The Nation*:

"The chain of events at the reactors now running out of control provides a case history of the underlying mismatch between human nature and the force we imagine we can control. Nuclear power is a complex, high technology. But the things that endemically malfunction are of a humble kind.

The art of nuclear power is to boil water with the incredible heat generated by a nuclear chain reaction. But such temperatures necessitate continuous cooling.

Cooling requires pumps. Pumps require conventional power. These are the things that habitually go wrong--and have gone wrong in Japan. A backup generator shuts down. A battery runs out. The pump grinds to a halt. You might

suppose that it is easy to pump water into a big container, and that is usually true, but the best-laid plans go awry from time to time. Sometimes the problem is a tsunami, and sometimes it is an operator asleep at the switch."

As the "incident" records of our own Nuclear Regulatory Agency make clear, these are not just Japanese problems. The Christian Science Monitor reports, "The Nuclear Regulatory Commission failed to resolve known safety problems, leading to 14 'near-misses' in US nuclear power plants in 2009 and 2010, according to a new report from a nuclear watchdog group."

We don't even know the full of the extent of the accidents, unintentional releases of radiation and other problems in this country much less in others with fewer rules and less oversight. No one expected Chernobyl to explode, claiming so many lives; no one knows where the next disaster will occur.

Bernie Sanders is calling for a full investigation of nuclear safety here. Ralph Nader writes, ""The unfolding multiple nuclear reactor catastrophe in Japan is prompting overdue attention to the 104 nuclear plants in the United States - many of them aging, many of them near earthquake faults, some on the west coast exposed to potential tsunamis."

The global nuclear roulette game goes on. Even moderate and restrained criticisms are dismissed until there is an "event" that cannot be denied. Nuclear energy supporters promise that "Gen 4," the next generation of reactors, will be much safer.

Problem solved? Not everyone thinks so. The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists carries an assessment by Hugh Gusterson on "The Lessons of Fukushima."

"To this anthropologist, then, the lesson of Fukushima is not that we now know what we need to know to design the perfectly safe reactor, but that the perfectly safe reactor is always just around the corner. It is technoscientific hubris to think otherwise.

This leaves us with a choice between walking back from a technology that we decide is too dangerous or normalizing the risks of nuclear energy and accepting that an occasional Fukushima is the price we have to pay for a world with less carbon dioxide. It is wishful thinking to believe there is a third choice of nuclear energy without nuclear accidents."

We are still debating if nuclear power is worth the risk as irradiated clouds float over Los Angeles and there is a panicked run in the public to buy iodine pills. The industry's marketing machine is in crisis response mode and hasn't missed a beat, while many of us look on with a sense of impotence as we are told, once again, what's in our best interest. Danny Schechter

Mediachannel's News Dissector Danny Schechter investigates the origins of the economic crisis in his book *Plunder: Investigating Our Economic Calamity and the Subprime Scandal* (Cosimo Books via Amazon).
Comments to dissector@mediachannel.org

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Greenshields, Rachel

From: Portside Moderator [moderator@PORTSIDE.ORG]
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 8:47 PM
To: PORTSIDE@LISTS.PORTSIDE.ORG
Subject: Libya, Atoms, and a State Election

Libya, Atoms, and a State Election

By Victor Grossman

Berlin Bulletin No. 22

Submitted to portside by the author

This report was supposed to concentrate on results of the vote in Saxony-Anhalt, the second in a long string of German state elections in 2011. But outside that East German state itself it got less attention than expected, which wasn't much to begin with. It was largely overshadowed by the news from Japan and, far more, from Libya.

Despite weeks of propaganda and preparations, the final Security Council decision and the almost immediate attacks left many almost breathless if not in shock.

The abstention by Germany in the UN decision was a great surprise to nearly everyone. It had the weird result of suddenly placing the Left party in the same boat with Angela Merkel's Christian Democrats and Foreign Minister Westerwelle from the right-wing Free Democrats (FDP). But there was sharp controversy not only between the parties but inside nearly all of them.

In the Left, one wing of the party had always insisted that all military actions outside Germany must be rejected, even when the UN called for them. It felt this view confirmed: that the UN rarely represented the true and peaceful interests of people everywhere but stood largely under the sway of the USA and its closest allies. This wing of the party stated that the decision on Libya defied the UN Charter forbidding any intervention in civil wars within a member country and charged that the Council ignored attempts by Venezuela and the African Union to find a peaceful, probably face-saving solution to the Libyan conflict and must have prepared the attacks for many weeks. And while it neither praised nor supported Gaddafi, it asked why no such alleged attempt to rescue a popular uprising was considered or even mentioned when rulers in Bahrain or Yemen resorted to violent repression.

The Left hastily organized a protest demonstration at the Brandenburg Gate to support this position. Only about 200 showed up Sunday morning, among them co-president Gesine Loetzsch and other leaders; it was at least a symbol. But a few prominent party members, reflecting the split on the "no military actions ever" issue, did not join in, while former party president Lothar Bisky, now a member of the European Parliament, had already broken ranks and voted to support the intervention in Libya. Most attention within the party was focused on the state election, but possible disagreement on Libya may play a greater role in coming weeks.

The Greens, almost completely pacifist in their early years, supported the Libyan action, at least the more vocal leaders did. What the membership says on the question, if anything, remains to be seen.

Like the Greens, most Social Democrats (SPD) seemed to believe that being in opposition to the government meant opposing the decision by Merkel and Westerwelle.

In the end, only the Left praised their abstention in the Security Council vote, a strange turn of events.

However, most of the media agreed that the abstention did not really mean disagreement with the USA, France and Britain, nor did it reflect previous links to Gaddafi and Libyan gas and oil wells which had been just as cozy as those of the other major powers before the current rupture.

The main motivation, it was felt, was rather the state election next Sunday (March 27) in the extremely important state of Baden-Wuerttemberg, where the Christian Democrats have ruled the roost since 1953 and fear its very possible loss this time. Although it is relatively prosperous (with the main Daimler-Benz works), Merkel's party lost face after the Stuttgart railway station violence and is also aware that most people, regardless of their views on Gaddafi, do not want any more German soldiers fighting and dying in other continents. Merkel probably hoped that a cool response on Libya might win anti-war voters, even though the USA command is firmly welcomed on German soil.

And then there was the other main issue of the day:

atomic power. Events in Japan shook the whole country even more than those in Libya. It was partly the shock and empathy with those suffering from the quake and tsunami but also because people, watching the fearful battle with the reactors, also thought of the seventeen atomic reactors in Germany, many of them 30 years old or older and four of them in Baden-Wuerttemberg.

Just last autumn it was the Merkel government which insisted on lengthening the active lives of these reactors, reversing even the relatively weak limitations by the Greens and Social Democrats in 2000.

Her move was the embarrassingly transparent result of pressure from three or four giant energy companies and caused huge and growing concern in the country, with angry and dramatic demonstrations reaching the 100,000 level. But the government ignored them and extended the deadlines for as much as 20 years, claiming that they were completely safe.

The events in Japan forced the government to shamefacedly climb down, and to do it fast, with those elections looming close. Merkel therefore shut down seven reactors from the 1970s (another one was shut down in 2007 because of leaks and other problems) and issued a "moratorium" of three months on any decisions about the other ten. But even the seven could be opened up again, nothing was really decided, the official in charge came from the atomic industry, and it was crystal clear that the three months were based on getting past the remaining elections (except the one in Berlin in September).

Such shenanigans were expected to hurt the two parties running the national government, while helping the opposition Social Democrats and especially the Greens.

The Left called for an immediate suspension of all atomic reactors in light of the Japanese tragedy, but was given, as usual, little media attention.

And so back to the election in Saxony-Anhalt. The state's name was born in 1945 but its traditions are ancient. It includes parts of old Saxony seized by Prussia after the Napoleonic wars and its two main centers are Halle, where George Frederick Handel was born, and the capital Magdeburg, once famous due to the scientist Otto von Guericke who joined two copper hemispheres, pumped the air out of them and showed that two eight-horse teams could not tear them apart, proving the power of air pressure. That was in 1650, but the Magdeburgers are still proud of him. Also in this state, aside from the Harz Mountains, are Dessau, where the Bauhaus school of architecture and design had its home before the Nazis forced it out, and Wittenberg, where Luther is supposed to have nailed his famous 95 theses against the pope on the Palace Church door.

Up to now the state has been ruled by a so-called "grand coalition" of the Christian Democrats and the Social Democrats as junior partners. As expected, the Merkel party did lose 3.5 % of its former vote, but remained strongest all the same. The Social Democrats neither lost nor gained in strength and it seemed almost certain that this same friendly coalition of the two parties - who seemed such sharp opponents on the national scene - would continue its cozy existence in Saxony-Anhalt.

The Left, which a while ago had been first in the polls, was now back to the same position as in the elections four years earlier, somewhat ahead of the third-place Social Democrats. A left-SPD coalition was possible, but the Social Democrats always refused to form a state government as junior partners, with the Left holding the post of Minister President.

So, once again, they preferred to be junior partners with the right-wing Christian Democrats.

The only real winners in terms of votes were the Geens, who returned to the legislature after a thirteen year absence with 7 percent, almost double their vote in the last election. The Free Democrats of Foreign Minister Westerwelle missed the required five percent, and get no deputies.

Luckily, in perhaps the most important result of all, this also applies to the neo-Nazis in the National Democratic Party (NPD). The unexpectedly large number of voters in a state election (52 %) kept them down to 4.7 percent, close but not quite enough to get into the legislature.

In other words, there were no big changes. The Left held its own with 23.8 %, making no gains but losing only 0.3 percent since the last election. Its big trial is next week in southwestern Germany in both Baden- Wuerttemberg and Rhineland-Palatinate, where it hopes against hope to get past the 5 percent hurdle. Aside from Bavaria, where it could not quite make it, these are the last two states where it is not yet represented. It will be no easy matter; the polls give it 4 % in both states.

Perhaps I may end on a sad note, an item which probably gained the attention of more Berliners than events in all the other continents. Their beloved polar bear Knut, whose growth and amazingly close relationship with his extremely popular, handsome bearded "substitute mother" fascinated the city, was found dead in the water of his enclosure, only four years old. His human friend died just as suddenly two years ago, and countless Berliners mourned the two as if they were part of their own families. They were closer to home than other events and headline news for much of the media.

Anhalt-Saxony Election results:

Christian Democrats 32.7 (down 3.5); the Left 23.8 (down 0.3), SPD 21.5 (up 0.1), Greens 7.0 (up 3.4), FDP 3.9 (down 2.8), NPD 4.7 (up from 0.0).

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From: Portside Moderator [moderator@PORTSIDE.ORG]
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 8:47 PM
To: PORTSIDE@LISTS.PORTSIDE.ORG
Subject: Why I'm Not Hailing the Chief in San Salvador

Why I'm Not Hailing the Chief in San Salvador

By Alexandra Early

Resistance and Repression

CounterPunch March 18, 2011

<http://www.counterpunch.org/early06302008.html>

San Salvador.

President Obama's visit to El Salvador this week has become a focal point for protest organizing by Central American social movement organizations and their North American allies, who are equally outraged about U.S. trade policy and military meddling in the region. Local environmental and community organizations have joined together with allies like U.S. - El Salvador Sister Cities and CISPES to help mobilize students and workers for rallies in the U.S. and El Salvador on Tuesday, March 22, when Obama arrives for a meeting with Salvadoran President Mauricio Funes, whose election two years ago ended decades of right-wing rule.

Despite initial jubilation over the election of Obama and Funes, both the Salvadoran left and members of the international solidarity community are now deeply disappointed and frustrated with Obama's stance toward Central America. The purpose of Obama's visit is ostensibly to support the eradication of poverty, violence and governmental corruption. Yet the president's own administration is perpetuating these problems (and their natural result, emigration) by following in the footsteps of Bill Clinton, both George Bushes, and even Ronald Reagan, who spent billions of dollars wreaking human rights havoc in El Salvador and its neighbors.

Current U.S. policy on Central America reflects more continuity than change, particularly with regard to the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) and the 2009 military coup in Honduras that forced then-president Manuel ("Mel") Zelaya out of office and into exile.

It has been six years since the passage of CAFTA. As predicted by its critics, free trade has not reduced economic inequality or created many new jobs. Exports from El Salvador and foreign investment in the country have both decreased; meanwhile, the price of goods has dramatically increased while the number of small businesses able to sell products to the U.S. has not.

Thanks to CAFTA, which supersedes national law, North American mining companies are now suing El Salvador for \$100 million because the new FMLN administration has blocked environmentally dangerous resource extraction schemes approved by the previous right-wing government.

Next door in Honduras, President Obama initially opposed the army's overthrow of Zelaya as a threat to democracy throughout the region. But now his administration has become the leading ally and cheerleader for Zelaya's conservative successor, de-facto President Porfirio Lobo. Hillary Clinton's State Department is campaigning for re-admission of Honduras to the Organization of American States, which strongly condemned the ouster of Zelaya.

Since the military coup 21 months ago, and Lobo's tainted election in November, 2009, the U.S. has built two new military bases in Honduras and increased its training of local police. Meanwhile, nearly all sectors of Honduran society—union organizers, farmers and teachers, women and young people, gays, journalists, political activists,—have faced violent repression under Lobo's corrupt regime. With its worsening record of murders, disappearances and rabid resistance to land reform, Honduras is beginning to look more and more like El Salvador before it slipped into full-scale civil warfare three decades ago, with the U.S. backing the wrong side then and now.

In January, I witnessed first-hand what life is like under the "golpistas" of Honduras as part of a fact-finding delegation led by the Honduras Accompaniment Project. We spent a week in the Honduran capitol and countryside interviewing multiple victims of recent political threats, beatings, jailings, and kidnappings.

Human rights groups estimate that more than 4,000 serious human rights violations and sixty-four political assassinations have occurred in Honduras since the coup. Many organizers have been forced to leave the country as the threats against themselves and their families increase.

Young people are now a frequent target of death threats and actual violence, often from police or resurgent of death squads seemingly bent on "social cleansing." Like El Salvador, Honduras has very strong "anti-gang" legislation that enables cops to arrest youth who gather in groups or on the basis of their appearance. Since the coup, it's not just suspicious tattoos that draw police attention. Police drag-nets now target anyone wearing t-shirts or hats with anti-government messages, not to mention the threatening visages of Che or Chavez. As youth organizer Victor Alejandro explained, "many Honduran youth woke up politically when the coup began, when they were beaten up or arrested by the police at a march or just for walking down the street. And now they are one of the driving forces behind the resistance, and as a result they are one of the main targets of state repression."

As always in Central America, organized campesinos are a target of repression. During our stay, we visited Zacate Grande, a sparsely populated peninsula in the Gulf of Fonseca where small tenant farmers and fisherman are fighting eviction by rich businessmen who want to build luxury hotels and summer homes on their land. One source of hope and optimism for Hondurans like these was Decree 18-2008, the land reform measure enacted under President Zelaya. It created a mechanism for the expropriation of unused private lands for subsistence farming and a way for the poor to gain title to land they had worked for years. Not surprisingly, in January, the Supreme Court of Honduras ruled that Zelaya's land reform decree was unconstitutional.

This, combined with the rampant corruption of local authorities since the coup, means that campesinos in places like Zacate Grande and the embattled Bajo Aguan region in Northern Honduras are in a constant fight for their lives and land.

Because they are part of the opposition to Lobo's regime, public school teachers have come under similar attack. We saw an example of their repression during our stay in Honduras. On January 25, four teachers were arrested after a peaceful protest march in the capital.

During their detention, our delegation got a call from a teachers' union leader requesting that we check on the safety of his members. When three of us neared the jail where they were being held we encountered a line of riot police with night sticks blocking the street.

After cell phone negotiations with the police commander in charge, we were finally admitted to the police station and allowed to talk to the detainees in a waiting area. Although none of the teachers had been beaten or otherwise badly treated, they were all clearly frightened. They were released later that same afternoon, but only on the condition that they refrain from participating in further protests.

Two days later, we joined another peaceful and massively attended demonstration in Tegucigalpa held on the first anniversary of Lobo's inauguration. The turn-out reflected a resistance movement that draws from diverse sectors of society and whose goals go far beyond ending the exile of Manuel Zelaya. There were young people spray-painting the walls with slogans against U.S. military intervention, teachers shielding themselves from the sun under multi-colored umbrellas, and embattled gay activists waiving rainbow flags. Some people were holding banners and signs with the

message "Urge Mel!" ("We need Mel!"), but they were no more prominent in the crowd than those demanding democracy and human rights.

This is not reflected in mainstream media coverage in the U.S., which makes Honduras seem like just another case of caudillo politics, with the population blindly following one populist leader after another. In typical fashion, the Washington Post described the January 27 marches in the capital and two other cities simply as "protests by supporters of ousted former leader Manuel Zelaya." As one gay activist explained, however, "Zelaya is part of the movement, but the movement transcends Zelaya. He gave people hope and started a process, but it is our goal to continue and finish that process, the process of re-founding Honduras."

That's why we're greeting Obama on Tuesday with the message that his regional track record so far includes little change that Central Americans can believe in.

Salvadorans still labor under the burden of CAFTA and its costly barrage of big business litigation aimed at punishing even the smallest exercises of national sovereignty. Meanwhile, Hondurans are experiencing a rapid U.S.-assisted return to the past, in the form of a country that is poor, militarized, and terrorized-- the same set of conditions that so many Central Americans have long struggled to escape.

Alexandra Early is a 2007 graduate of Wesleyan University. A former union staffer in California, she now works for U.S.- El Salvador Sister Cities, an organization that promotes cross-border solidarity between communities in North and Central America. She can be reached at earlyave@gmail.com

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From: Portside Moderator [moderator@PORTSIDE.ORG]
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 8:49 PM
To: PORTSIDE@LISTS.PORTSIDE.ORG
Subject: Haiti, Wisconsin, Videos and Commentaries

Haiti, Wisconsin, Videos and Commentaries

Videos and Commentaries on Haiti from Ezili Danto

and

'On Stopping the Wisconsin Steamroller' Laura Flanders

====

1.
From: Ezili DantÃ²s Haitian Lawyers Leadership Network

The media lack of coverage of Aristide's return is highlighted as we watch Democracy Now! coverage of the huge and historic celebrity welcome for Aristide

Itâ€™s very telling how little mainstream media coverage and attention there is to Aristideâ€™s return and the huge celebrity welcome he received from the people of Haiti. In contrast to the almost complete news blackout about Aristideâ€™s force and power in Haiti, the bloody dictator, Baby Doc Duvalier, got much coverage and massive print and spin, misleading readers to think Haitiâ€™s poor majority want bygones to be bygones because theyâ€™re â€œtoo young and donâ€™t remember Duvalierâ€™s atrocitiesâ€!

Itâ€™s also telling to know that the presidents of the U.S. and France and the secretary general of the U.N. made phone calls to South Africa in an attempt to block Aristideâ€™s return to Haiti, despite the welcome you see and that they knew he would receive. In contrast, France allowed bloody dictator, Baby Doc Duvalier, to return to Haiti without any problems. Obama and Ban Ki-moon made no phone calls to stop it. In fact, the U.N. provided security for the brutal Duvalier from the airport to his luxurious Haiti hotel.

You will see in the video, the U.N. soldiers are nowhere visible on the trip home from the airport with Haitiâ€™s first democratically elected president! These powerful but brutally warmongering forces are only exposing their own indefensibility as representatives of civilized peoples of the world. The worldâ€™s eyes are wide open.

Recommended HLLN Links:

VIDEO:
The Historic Return of the Aristide Family to Haiti. Democracy Now! Special Report: Part 1 of 2

Part1: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hLjlrW4LRJk>

Part2: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nY-OqCVJwUE>

Beating back the elite's rabid rage: Against all odds Aristide returns to Haiti by Ezili DantÃ² of HLLN
<http://bit.ly/giJowf>

Don't be distracted by Aristide in Haiti: Demand Justice not Gestures <http://bit.ly/gbIETL>

Aljazeera Video: Aristide returns to Haiti http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xA_Xc3t44Ko

Former President Aristide on His Party's Exclusion from Haiti's Election:
"Exclusion is the Problem, Inclusion is the Solution"
http://www.democracynow.org/2011/3/21/former_president_aristide_on_his_partys

Haiti 2011 presidential election
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FA9mYfQY3ck>

====

2.

Date: Mon, 21 Mar 2011

From: Sarah Jaffe

Subject: Laura Flanders' F Word: Stopping Walker's Steamroller In Wisconsin

<http://grittv.org/2011/03/21/the-f-word-stopping-walkers-steamroller-in-wisconsin/>

The night that the Wisconsin Senate Republicans got together and forced through Scott Walker's union-busting bill, many Wisconsinites cried foul. The state's open-meetings law required more notice unless there was a true emergency.

Last week, a Republican-appointed judge ruled with the protesters that the session that passed the bill may have violated the law, which requires 24 hours notice on a vote. Judge Maryann Sumi put a stay on the bill, blocking its implementation. Teachers and other state employees retain their union rights.

The people of Wisconsin, I told the Left Forum on Friday, stopped a steamroller. Their willingness to fight, to keep showing up in greater and greater numbers, not only held off the bill but put the GOP in a place where they were desperate enough that they violated the law. They inspired the fight back in other states--Indiana's state Democrats are still out of state, holding up a vote on a similar bill.

And Judge Sumi's decision puts paid to all those who say progress is achieved through one set of tactics OR another. Voting or protest, law or disobedience -- Wisconsin stopped this Walker steamroller through a combination of them all: direct action/legislators' actions/legal challenges/protest and above all organizing.

The fight isn't over--Republicans plan to appeal the decision, and the legislature has a chance to take up the bill again. Meanwhile, the recall organizing efforts go on, and Walker's budget makes mincemeat of desperately-needed healthcare and education programs in the state. It's going to take every tactic in the book to turn back the steamroller for good.

But it's worth it right now, I think, to stop for just a minute and acknowledge what's happening in this country.

When was the last time you heard about a tea party rally?

The F Word is a regular commentary by Laura Flanders, the host of GRITtv and editor of At The Tea Party, out now from OR Books. GRITtv broadcasts weekdays on DISH Network and DIRECTv, on cable, and online at GRITtv.org and TheNation.com. Follow GRITtv or GRITlaura on Twitter and be our friend on Facebook.

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Greenshields, Rachel

From: Portside Moderator [moderator@PORTSIDE.ORG]
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 8:49 PM
To: PORTSIDE@LISTS.PORTSIDE.ORG
Subject: Wars Should Be Declared by Congress, Not Merely Launched by Presidents

Wars Should Be Declared by Congress, Not Merely Launched by Presidents

John Nichols | March 20, 2011

The Nation

<http://www.thenation.com/blog/159353/wars-should-be-declared-congress-not-merely-launched-presidents>

The grotesque extremes to which Muammar Qaddafi[1] has gone to threaten the people of Libya--and to act on those threats--have left the self-proclaimed "king of kings" with few defenders in northern Africa, the Middle East or the international community.

Even among frequent critics of US interventions abroad, there is disgust with Qaddafi, and with the palpable disdain he has expressed for the legitimate aspirations of his own people.

So it is that the advocacy for military intervention has spread far beyond the usual circle of neoconservative hawks.

The circumstance is made easier by the fact that the bombing of Libya by US and allied planes is being carried out under the auspices of the United Nations.

And with his words and his initial reluctance with regard to taking military action, President Obama has seemed to avoid many of the excesses of his predecessors.

Yet, now the headline on CNN reads "Libya War."

And anyone who takes the Constitution seriously should have a problem with the fact that, once again, the United States is involved in a war that has neither been debated nor declared by the Congress of the United States.

The penchant of presidents of embark upon military adventures without consulting Congress is now so pronounced that it is barely noted anymore that the Constitution says [2] "Congress shall have power to...declare War."

Unless the United States is immediately threatened, presidents aren't supposed to declare wars or launch them on their own.

Of all the checks and balances outlined in the Constitution, none is more significant than the power to declare war.

Yet, since World War II, presidents have launched attacks, interventions and wars without declarations. And now that has happened again.

There are plenty of explanations for why this happens.

Treaties that require to bind the United States to the United Nations [3]. The War Powers Act. The general sense that members of Congress would prefer to let presidents call the shots.

But the Constitution does not establish any exit strategies for members of the Congress, They are supposed to provide advice and consent--or to deny it.

Unfortunately, that just does not happen anymore.

When the United States ratified the United Nations treaty after World War II, Henrik Shipstead and William Langer were the only senators to cast "no" votes on the UN Charter. Other senators, California's Hiram Johnson and Wisconsin's Robert M. La Follette Jr., expressed reservations.

What was their fear? The senators worried that, under the agreement with the United Nations, presidents would involve US troops in wars launched by the United Nations--without ever consulting Congress.

That fear proved to be well founded, as history would soon confirm, when President Truman sent US troops to Korea as part of a UN mission--but without a Congressional declaration.

President Obama's approval of an intervention in Libya has also skipped the Congress.

Was this necessary? Of course not. Obama could have consulted Congress; indeed, if the issue was pressing, he could have asked that the House and Senate be called into session over the weekend.

That is what Congressman Dennis Kucinich proposed, when he declared last week that "Congress should be called back into session immediately to decide whether or not to authorize the United States' participation in a military strike. If it does not, the action of the President is contrary to [the] US Constitution. Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution clearly states that the United States Congress has the power to declare war. The President does not. That was the Founders' intent."

The Ohio Democrat sent a letter to Congressional leaders "indicating that the national interest requires that Congress be called back quickly to Washington to exercise its Constitutional authority to determine whether our armed forces should participate in the UN mission."

"Both houses of Congress must weigh in," Kucinich added. "This is not for the President alone, or for a few high ranking Members of Congress to decide."

Consulting Congress does not mean that Congress will block a war. The constitutional system of checks and balances was not established merely to stop wars, although the wisest of the founders did hope that the requirements they imposed would "chain the dogs of war."

The decision to place the power to declare wars was placed with the House and Senate in order to allow members of Congress to add their insights, to propose timelines, to set limits and parameters for military initiatives.

The debate, the discussion, the sifting and winnowing of information: This is the point.

Unfortunately, it is a point that Obama has missed.

The United States is now deep into what CNN calls the "Libya War," yet there has been no Congressional debate, no advice or consent, no checks and balances.

The Republic was well served by the drafters of a constitution, who gave the war-making power to Congress.

They were wise, and right, to do so. And any president who steers the country into an offensive war without consulting Congress ill serves the founding document and the republic.

Links:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muammar_Qaddafi

<http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/constitution.html>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_and_the_United_Nations

<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/nationnow/id399704758?mt=8>

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Greenshields, Rachel

From: Kirk Profit [profit.k@gcsionline.com]
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 8:40 PM
To: Pollay, Susan
Cc: 'Adrian Hemond'; 'Cole. K'; farrah.b@gcsionline.com; Hieftje, John; Fraser, Roger; Crawford, Tom
Subject: RE: HB 4317 - DDA Opt-Outs Bill

Anytime !! I will watch for an opportunity when we are out in A2 !!
Kirk

-----Original Message-----

From: Susan Pollay [mailto:SPollay@a2dda.org]
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 6:17 PM
To: profit.k@gcsionline.com
Cc: Adrian Hemond; Cole. K; farrah.b@gcsionline.com; Hieftje, John; Fraser, Roger; Crawford, Tom
Subject: RE: HB 4317 - DDA Opt-Outs Bill

Hi Kirk. This is very good news. Thank you so much for keeping an eye on things for us. Best wishes - hope to see you when you are in Ann Arbor next. Susan

-----Original Message-----

From: Kirk Profit [mailto:profit.k@gcsionline.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2011 10:19 PM
To: Susan Pollay
Cc: 'Adrian Hemond'; 'Cole. K'; farrah.b@gcsionline.com; 'Hieftje, John'; 'Fraser, Roger'; 'Crawford, Tom'
Subject: RE: HB 4317 - DDA Opt-Outs Bill

I met with the Committee Chair last week. He told me that he has no plans to take up the bill -- to be sure, he said that Traverse City would have his head if he did !!

We will keep an eye on it just the same --
Kirk

-----Original Message-----

From: Susan Pollay [mailto:SPollay@a2dda.org]
Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2011 4:10 PM
To: profit.k@gcsionline.com
Cc: Adrian Hemond; Cole. K; farrah.b@gcsionline.com
Subject: RE: HB 4317 - DDA Opt-Outs Bill

MUCH appreciated!

-----Original Message-----

From: Kirk Profit [mailto:profit.k@gcsionline.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2011 7:04 PM
To: Susan Pollay
Cc: 'Adrian Hemond'; 'Cole. K'; farrah.b@gcsionline.com
Subject: RE: HB 4317 - DDA Opt-Outs Bill

We will get you a prognosis for this --

Thanks !!

Kirk

-----Original Message-----

From: Susan Pollay [<mailto:SPollay@a2dda.org>]

Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2011 6:56 PM

To: profit.k@gcsionline.com

Subject: FW: HB 4317 - DDA Opt-Outs Bill

Hi Kirk. Hope you are well. Word came to me today from the Michigan Downtown Association listserv that legislation has been submitted that would allow units of government to opt out of existing DDA TIF captures.

Do you know much about this? Here is what little I know thus far....

Many thanks for any/all information - and advice. Best wishes. Hope to see you soon. Susan Pollay, Ann Arbor DDA

-----Original Message-----

From: Michigan Downtown Association

[\[mailto:MICHIGAN-DOWNTOWNS@PEACH.EASE.LSOFT.COM\]](mailto:MICHIGAN-DOWNTOWNS@PEACH.EASE.LSOFT.COM) On Behalf Of Larry Nielsen

Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2011 6:48 AM

To: MICHIGAN-DOWNTOWNS@PEACH.EASE.LSOFT.COM

Subject: HB 4317 - DDA Opt-Outs Bill

DDA Opt-Outs Bill Information

March 8, 2011 07:52 by Andy Schor

As many already know, HB 4317 was introduced which would allow for any governmental unit to opt-out of existing DDA's. This legislation would effectively kill many DDA's throughout the state. I had a very good meeting with Rep. Mike Callton (R-Nashville), who is the sponsor of the bill.

First, his intention was not to allow immediate opt-outs. He is a former county commissioner and has concerns with tax capture by DDA's. His original intent was to allow pre-1993 DDA's to have an option to opt-out. I explained to him how a DDA captures only incremental growth and that the development would not have happened otherwise. I also explained how post-1993 DDA's only have the opportunity to opt-out before the DDA is set up, and that any opt-outs after the creation of a DDA could have tremendous negative effect on jobs and economic development. We had a good discussion about the ins and outs of DDA's and TIF's, including how they are structured and funded. We also talked about the need for regionalism in economic development and the burdens being placed on all entities.

In the end, the discussion focused around the possibility of allowing DDA's to return dollars raised from special millages back for those purposes. Under current law, a DDA can reduce a total tax capture but cannot send money from a special millage back to the source. The final discussion also centered around the possibility of units of government being able to recapture the natural inflation of the district (and not the growth created by the DDA).

Rep. Callton was very open to what the League had to present, and expressed an interest in continuing to talk about these issues before moving forward with the legislation. I will continue to talk with him and his staff to see if there are appropriate ways to compromise moving forward.

Andy Schor is the Assistant Director of State Affairs for the Michigan Municipal League.

#####

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or click the following link:

<http://peach.ease.lsoft.com/scripts/wa.exe?SUBED1=MICHIGAN-DOWNTOWNS&A=1>

Greenshields, Rachel

From: William Goodenough Leaf [willlea@redacted]
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 8:18 PM
To: Smith, Sandi
Subject: RE: How do we keep up the pressure?

Great! Ideally it would be

Monday or Friday Before 10AM or after 1pm

Wednesday Anytime

or tuesday or thursday before 10AM or after 4PM

However, If none of these times work, I can do any time that works for you.

Do you have any idea what to expect at the meeting?

Is it ok if I bring a few people from my group?

-Will

Greenshields, Rachel

From: Ryan Stanton [stant1rj@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 7:50 PM
To: Rapundalo, Stephen
Subject: your comments just now

Stephen,

I think you should re-read the sentence you just publicly took issue with. It states two things (1) you were shaking your head (you were), and (2) your response was one of distaste (it was and is supported by the quote you gave me).

"Distaste" is defined in the dictionary as "mild dislike or aversion."

It's early on a Friday morning and Ann Arbor City Council Member Stephen Rapundalo is shaking his head, a look of distaste frozen in his eyes.

"Where do I sign up?" says Rapundalo, D-2nd Ward and chairman of the council's labor committee. "It's unbelievable. In this day and age, this is kind of unrealistic."

--

Ryan J. Stanton
AnnArbor.com digital journalist
734.623.2529 (work)
989.220.6764 (cell)
734.956.0584 (google voice)
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twitter.com/ryanjstanton
facebook.com/ryanjstanton

Greenshields, Rachel

From: Kirk Profit [profit.k@gcsionline.com]
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 7:36 PM
To: Crawford, Tom; Hohnke, Carsten; Taylor, Christopher (Council); Hieftje, John; Higgins, Marcia; Teall, Margie; Anglin, Mike; Briere, Sabra; Smith, Sandi; Kunselman, Stephen; Rapundalo, Stephen; Derezinski, Tony
Subject: FW: Special Message re Community Development/Local Govt Reforms.PDF
Attachments: Special Message re Community Development_Local GovtReforms.pdf

This is the text of the message the Governor delivered on local government reform. Other than the amount that is recommended for statutory revenue sharing (and the brief statement of history that is offered, which I am not sure I agree with), I would be interested in your thoughts on whether this framework of reform is workable (again, if the size of the appropriation for statutory revenue sharing was increased).

**Your thoughts ??
Kirk**



STATE OF MICHIGAN
EXECUTIVE OFFICE
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

BRIAN CALLEY
LT. GOVERNOR

March 21, 2011

*A Special Message from Governor Rick Snyder:
Community Development and Local Government Reforms*

To the Michigan Legislature:

Throughout my term as Governor, I will deliver Special Messages on policy issues that are vital to Michigan's future. They will be delivered to my partners in the Michigan House and Senate so that we can initiate discussion and action on innovative reforms that best serve the people of Michigan. Today, I am offering the first such message.

Following is a series of ideas for transforming government in a manner that will strengthen communities, help rebuild the kind of downtowns and neighborhoods that Michigan needs in order to compete in the 21st century, and promote a sense of cooperation and regionalism across the state.

Neighborhoods, cities and regions are awakening to the importance of "place" in economic development. They are planning for a future that recognizes the critical importance of quality of life to attracting talent, entrepreneurship and encouraging local businesses. Competing for success in a global marketplace means creating places where workers, entrepreneurs, and businesses want to locate, invest and expand. This work has been described as a "sense of place" or "place-based economic development" or simply "placemaking." Economic development and community development are two sides of the same coin. A community without place amenities will have a difficult time attracting and retaining talented workers and entrepreneurs, or being attractive to business.

Each community contributes to the overall success of its region. People, companies and talent do not move to specific communities – they move to regions. Being globally competitive as a region requires understanding, mapping and pooling regional resources and assets. Local governments, the private sector, schools, higher education and nongovernmental and civic organizations must collaborate to make Michigan's economic regions, and ultimately the state, competitive.

There are several efforts already underway that merge public and private resources in a manner that builds a new future for Michigan's communities and regions.

In Traverse City, a unique partnership called “Grand Vision” has engaged the entire Traverse Bay Region in developing a new blueprint for cooperation on building the transportation, educational and broadband infrastructure necessary to compete in the global economy. Integrating agriculture and tourism to the economy of the region, it also renews efforts to strengthen the region’s downtowns.

Another example of regional cooperation is the West Michigan Strategic Alliance, an eight-county partnership that includes Grand Rapids, Muskegon, and Holland, and all other communities in that area. WMSA is creating a regional mindset, developing a shared vision for the region and offering access to common Information Technology systems and tackling critical talent initiatives.

And, in Southeast Michigan, Detroit’s Live Midtown program is a piece of a larger program called 15x15 that strives to attract 15,000 young people with at least a bachelor’s degree to live in the city of Detroit by 2015. Coupled with the city’s Detroit Works Project, which is working to seek young, talented Detroiters to move to areas including Eastern Market, Corktown and the New Center area, a powerful coalition is developing that can help reinvent Detroit as part of our larger effort to reinvent Michigan. Michigan succeeds when Detroit succeeds.

Finally, I am strongly encouraged by the voluntary efforts underway in our local government associations. The Michigan Municipal League has developed a “Center for 21st Century Communities” to work with local officials, and private sector and non-profits. It will help identify, develop and implement new programs and strategies for communities so they can become vibrant. And, the Michigan Townships Association, in partnership with Michigan State University, has adopted six “Pillars of Prosperity” that endorse the need for attractive communities, a strong agricultural economy, utilizing natural resources for recreation and job creation, lifelong education, the development of an inclusive entrepreneurial culture, and the necessity of embracing 21st century technology.

State Government Actions

We are restructuring state government so that it can more effectively enable these efforts. State agencies need to be formally connected in a way that promotes interagency teamwork, and collaboration with local government and regional leaders.

That is why I created the Economic Development Executive Group which includes the Department of Transportation, Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, Michigan State Housing Development Authority, Unemployment Insurance Agency, Office of Financial Insurance Regulation,

Workers Compensation, Michigan Administrative Hearing System, Office of Regulatory Reinvention, and Public Service Commission.

In the past these agencies were “siloed” — demonstrating little connectivity, uncoordinated programs, and duplication of outreach and staff. Structurally, we are able to refocus our economic development activities, streamline services and better coordinate economic, work force, housing, and community development functions – all under one roof.

Today, I am announcing our next steps to help communities build the kind of places that will enable them to compete in a global economy.

I have asked Mike Finney, director of the MEDC and leader of the Economic Development Executive Group, to engage the directors of the Michigan Department of Transportation, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulation, Michigan State Housing Development Authority, the Michigan Land Bank Fast Track Authority, and other state departments and agencies to prioritize the following and issue a report on their progress by the end of the year:

- Identify ways to foster and promote collaboration among entities engaged in economic development and placemaking activities.
- Maximize under-utilized resources throughout the state, particularly in urban communities and rural communities.
- Establish a process for evaluating the performance of economic development and placemaking activities.
- Support investment programs that deliver measurable, positive results.
- Encourage new initiatives that support local and regional programs involved in economic development and placemaking.
- Recognize successful state, regional, and local economic development and placemaking programs that can be role models for groups around the state.
- Promote best practices for local and regional economic development and for placemaking activities.
- Partner with local economic development and civic groups to fully understand the needs of the community.

State government must collaborate if we are to transform Michigan’s economy. Rather than scattered and competitive efforts at research, planning and development, Director Finney’s work group will assess and align these efforts. Michigan’s economic development and placemaking activities will produce jobs, spur regional economies and elevate the quality of life for all our state’s citizens.

This group will ensure that state government will become a better partner with local government, the private sector, and regional development organizations across Michigan to promote and invest in economic development and placemaking. Financial

and human resources will be more effectively leveraged and targeted to create real value.

Legislative Priorities

Local governments are facing enormous challenges. The repercussions of a decade-long one-state recession and its effect on property values are still being felt at the local government level. Local officials are working hard to offer innovative solutions to the difficult problems facing their community, including consideration of consolidation of services between governments. The economic case for intergovernmental cooperation is clear. It can help lead Michigan in the direction of creating places that recognize regionalism, while at the same time saving taxpayers' money. Unfortunately, Michigan is hamstrung by antiquated state laws that are not conducive to cooperation. They impede the development of regional solutions to regional problems, service-sharing or service-consolidations (such as combined dispatch centers), and prevent municipalities from capitalizing on the economic savings that intergovernmental cooperation can create. It is time for the state to update these laws so that they reflect the realities of today's needs.

In addition, it is critical that all local government adopt best practices to ensure that state and local dollars are delivering the best value for their citizens.

I urge the legislature to take several important steps:

1. Revenue Sharing

Michigan currently has two forms of revenue sharing—payments from state funds to local units of government. The first is constitutional. Article IX, section 10, of the Michigan constitution requires that “Fifteen percent of all taxes imposed on retailers on taxable sales at retail of tangible personal property at a rate of not more than 4% shall be used exclusively for assistance to townships, cities and villages, on a population basis as provided by law.” The 2011-12 budget projects a total distribution under that constitutional provision of \$659 million, a 4 percent increase over the last fiscal year.

The second program, formerly known as “statutory revenue sharing,” was implemented with Public Act 140 in 1971. The formula was adopted to distribute revenue on the basis of relative local tax effort and population and was used to help major cities receive additional state aid. In the 40 years that have passed, subsequent legislatures have changed the formula to shift funds back and forth between cities, townships and villages numerous times. The end result is that more than 700 communities could receive statutory revenue sharing next year. The benefits of this system are questionable as 100 municipalities are projected to receive less than \$1,000 next year and three of them less than \$10 paid in six installments.

In this global economy, cities and urban areas are crucial to the economic vitality of any region or state. The provision of public infrastructure and public safety is a key element in the business competitiveness of any region. The most important reforms to the local public finance system in the past 30 years have been the Headlee Amendment and Proposal A. These reforms were designed to ensure that Michigan's tax system remains fair and in proportion to changes in the economy. In these troubled economic times, Michigan needs to focus its discretionary spending on strengthening the core regions of the state in order to move forward.

In my budget message I proposed that the program formerly known as statutory revenue sharing come to an end and be replaced by a new Economic Vitality Incentive Program. This program will reward best practices and lead to more prosperous communities over the next few decades. It will give municipalities in our commercial centers the incentives and flexibility to engage in serious cost control measures. Such measures will help ensure that vital public services are not cut in the face of economic difficulties. By consolidating our efforts to build strong centers of commerce we are investing in a stronger Michigan.

Funding in the first year will change by limiting allocation to communities that are expected to receive over \$6,000 of the new reduced funding under the existing formula. However, to continue to qualify for the Economic Vitality Incentive, eligible municipalities must meet certain requirements and implement serious reforms. These requirements are all based on best practices, many of which have already been implemented by some municipalities and the State. But these requirements should be considered the first steps in local government reform and not the end solution. Many communities will find they already comply with some or all of the following requirements.

First, municipalities must embrace accountability and transparency. By October 1, 2011 local governments must produce a citizens guide to their finances and a performance "dashboard" that is readily available to the public. My administration has worked closely with the Michigan Municipal League to develop the model dashboard that is included in this message. The dashboard can be customized for specific communities but I find the recommended metrics most important.

In January I released the Citizen's Guide to Michigan's Financial Health. I now ask all local governments to do the same by October 1, 2011. A template can be found on my website at www.michigan.gov/gov in the citizens guide section. Municipalities should use the chart-building tool and citizens guide template to make their local finances, including a recognition of their unfunded liabilities, available to the public.

Second, by January 1, 2012, municipalities must develop plans to consolidate services that will result in taxpayer savings. The plans should make a good-faith effort to

estimate potential savings and costs associated with sharing critical services at the local level.

Finally, municipalities must begin to address employee compensation in order to continue to qualify for the Economic Vitality Incentive Program. For any new, modified or extended contract, all public employee compensation should be subject to the following criteria:

- a) Placing all new hires are on a defined contribution plan or a hybrid retirement plan that caps annual employer contributions at 10 percent of base salary.
- b) Where applicable a 1.5 percent multiplier should be used to determine employee pensions. A 2 percent multiplier should be used for employees who are not eligible for social security benefits.
- c) Implementing controls to avoid pension spiking such as using a three-year salary average that does not include more than a total of 240 hours of paid leave and overtime to determine benefit levels.
- d) If health care is offered, all new hires must be on an 80/20 employer to employee health care premium split. Alternatively, a dollar amount could be assigned to local health care plans and compared to the state healthcare plan if it is an HMO or includes other cost saving measures such as co-pays or deductibles.

Municipalities will receive one-third of their funding for each category of best practices they meet. The three categories are accountability and transparency, consolidation of services and employee compensation. Local units must meet every criteria described in a specific category by the defined timeline to fully benefit from the program.

Municipalities that do not meet the criteria will see reduced funding in their scheduled payments. Until the specified dates and new contracts begin, communities will continue to receive six payments as previously scheduled at the new funding level.

These proposed reforms will accomplish several goals for Michigan. Most importantly, local leaders will have the ability to control short- and long-term costs. By controlling costs, local governments can maintain critical public safety, infrastructure and quality of life services. The continued provision of these services will enhance the long-term competitiveness and economic vitality of Michigan's commercial centers and the entire state.

Also, the Economic Vitality Incentive Program should include funds to be allocated to municipalities that combine government operations completely. Of the \$200 million funding level, I propose \$5 million be set aside in the first year to help overcome costs associated with mergers for those local government entities that decide to merge. This will help save taxpayers money in the long run.

The reforms that I have outlined above are just the first steps in a continuous improvement process. Over time the state and its largest communities will work together to achieve best practices in government reform. State and local government should be viewed as partners working to make Michigan a better place and these reforms will start us down that path.

2. Enabling Consolidation of Jurisdictions

It is time to create a new opportunity for the merger and consolidation of local governments in Michigan. Such consolidation should not be mandated, but should be allowed by law, as contemplated in various sections of the state constitution. Counties, cities, villages and townships face significant challenges in providing services to their citizens within the limitations of their financial resources. I am convinced that the state must move forward to permit intense dialogue at the local and regional levels about how these governments can reinvent themselves.

We should permit open minds across the state to not only enter into collaborations, but to consolidate governmental units and activities as appropriate in their respective communities. The final decision regarding such consolidation should be left at the local level, but the consideration of such consolidation must not be prevented or discouraged by state government. I will support new legislation that permits the establishment of metropolitan government as a metropolitan authority in Michigan. Under such legislation, existing county government would be superseded by the new metropolitan government, with all the functions of the county and city government performed instead by the metropolitan government. In addition, the legislative and executive powers of the city would be transferred to the metropolitan government.

I want to emphasize again that such legislation cannot and should not be mandatory. Rather, it should be drafted in a way that permits broader discussion about consolidation at the local level.

3. Ensure collective bargaining at the appropriate time

Michigan currently has several laws that enable consolidation and cooperation between local units of government. These include such acts as the Urban Cooperation Act, the Intergovernmental Transfer of Functions and Responsibilities Act, the Metropolitan Councils Act and the Emergency Services to Municipalities Act. The problem is that each of those acts includes clauses that prevent the immediate negotiation of new contracts. This stands in the way of even the consideration of mergers by many local units, and when the current acts are implemented, the end result is an unmanageable

multi-layer set of work rules, wages and benefits which effectively eliminate the economic efficiencies that are the very reason to consolidate.

These laws should be amended to provide that upon merger of services, management and employees should immediately begin the collective bargaining process for the new entity and complete this within an appropriate time.

Such a change would permit municipalities to avoid multi-layer bargaining while creating certainty on costs, wages and benefits for both employers and employees.

The question should not be “if” collective bargaining occurs; the question should be “when” such bargaining occurs. A simple change in each of these acts would remove an important impediment to consolidation of services across the state.

4. Amend Public Employment Relations Act

In order for local governments to better work together I am proposing to amend the Public Employment Relations Act (PERA). If we are to encourage intergovernmental cooperation, the consideration of an intergovernmental cooperation agreement by local units of government should not be considered an unfair labor practice under PERA. I urge the adoption of legislation that amends PERA to make it clear that nothing in that act limits a public employer from exploring the options of entering into an agreement with another public employer. However, when the discussions proceed to specific implementations, union representatives should be notified.

5. Reform Binding Arbitration

Binding arbitration was adopted into law in 1969 and serves an important function. If a local government employer and police or fire employees cannot come to terms through collective bargaining, the next step is binding arbitration. PA 312 prevents public safety employees from going on strike and bringing critical services to a halt.

The concept of binding arbitration is not the problem – the problem is the way it is applied. Binding arbitration should be viewed as the last option and not the inevitable last step in a collective bargaining process.

Too often during negotiations one side will look ahead to the binding arbitration process and act on what it believes an arbitrator would rule. This is because the current process was enacted in 1969 and is now outdated. To remedy this, PA 312 needs to be enhanced and clarified to include the following provisions:

- a) A community’s ability to pay should be a fundamental factor in an arbitrator’s decision.

- b) Internal salary and benefit comparisons should also be considered by an arbitrator.
- c) Both sides should be required to submit a last best offer before entering into binding arbitration.
- d) The process of binding arbitration should last no more than 90 days.

These reforms will improve the process of arbitration, while making certain that the system is fair and equitable for both employers and employees.

6. Prohibit Minimum Staffing Requirements

As the result of petition drives, several cities have amended their charters to establish minimum staffing levels for public employees. Some communities regularly violate their own charter provisions because they simply cannot fiscally meet those requirements. Management decisions in a democracy should be made by those elected to manage—local officials. Staffing levels should be part of the collective bargaining process, not mandated by city, county or village charters. Charter amendments that set minimum staffing requirements circumvent the collective bargaining process and management decisions and should not be allowed. I propose that the Home Rule City Act, the Home Rule County Act, and the Home Rule Village Act be amended by adding a new subsection to clarify that any new city, village, or county charters may not contain minimum staffing requirements for personnel of any type. In addition no new amendments to existing charters shall establish minimum staffing requirements in the future.

7. Implement Local Pension Board Best Practices

Across the state local pension boards make investment decisions that can total in the hundreds of millions of dollars. Ultimately, the pension payments are a liability of the municipality that agreed to the plan. As such these funds need to be managed responsibly because taxpayer money is at risk – both now and in the future. To protect taxpayer money there are three areas of pension board reform I would ask the legislature to address.

First, local pension boards should be subject to transparency rules. They should be required to report their annual performance and funding level in a standard format. This would allow all plans to be benchmarked against all others. Also, strict restrictions and disclosure requirements should be in place for all board member travel and expenses.

Second, local pension boards should have to meet certain best practice requirements. Modeled after recent Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) rules, the state should adopt a strict prohibition against the practice known as “pay to play.” The SEC regulations that apply to the largest organizations should be applied at all levels – including third-party advisors. If anyone contributes to government officials in a position to influence the decision of a pension board they should be banned from conducting any business with the board for two years. Also, a financial advisor or anyone acting on their behalf should be prohibited from making or soliciting political contributions to a local or state political party where they wish to conduct business.

Finally, local pension boards should be subject to accountability reforms. Boards should be allowed to self-police and act to remove a member. Also, a set of triggers is needed to act as an early detection system for fraud, significant SEC violations or losses. These triggers would allow for state intervention and the possible oversight of a local pension board. Furthermore, board members who are found guilty of a breach of public trust should be required to reimburse the fund for any defense costs that were covered. In the private sector, individuals accused of securities fraud are subject to civil and criminal charges. An executive’s signature on a financial statement implies an individual responsibility for the integrity of the document and that same standard should apply to public pension boards.

8. Unfunded mandates

The state is prohibited from imposing new mandates on local units without appropriating and disbursing funds to pay for them. This prohibition is made clear under Article IX, sections 25 and 29 of the state’s constitution (sections of the “Headlee Amendment” approved by voters in 1978). However, state government’s observance to those standards has been sorely lacking. In today’s economy we have now reached the time where the state’s non-adherence to those standards has exacerbated the challenges that financially strapped local communities already face.

The checks and balances contemplated by the Headlee Amendment in the relationship between state and local government must be restored and vigorously adhered to by the state. To do that, PA 101 of 1979 – the original act adopted by the legislature to implement the Headlee Amendment – must be amended.

I will support legislation that amends PA 101 with the following provisions:

- a. Establish and require a fiscal note process to be developed by the House and Senate fiscal agencies for legislation that affects local governments.

- b. State that in the event legislation is enacted which imposes new, costly requirements on local governments without complying with a fiscal note process, such legislation will have no force or effect until compliance is achieved.

Conclusion

It is clear that we need to look beyond our own immediate township, city and county boundaries in order to build a stronger Michigan. We need to look beyond the dividing lines of yesterday to build dynamic communities that will foster job growth and attract world-class talent.

In order to make this a reality, local officials need the tools to share services and merge operations when they believe it makes sense. In many cases communities can pool resources and allow for consolidation to take place without sacrificing the level of service. But in order to do so we need to remember that in today's economy our communities are intertwined in more ways than we realize. It's time to leverage this concept to our advantage by insisting on best practices at all levels of government.

I ask the people of Michigan to be open to the idea of sharing critical services and embrace the concept of regionalism so that we can successfully confront the economic challenges facing us today.

Michigan needs to become a place where our children – and theirs – can live, work, play and prosper. State government can enable and encourage, but communities themselves must lead the way.

Greenshields, Rachel

From: Derezinski, Tony
To: Horning, Matthew
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 7:36 PM
Subject: Read: Studio 4

Your message

To: West, Robert
Cc: Derezinski, Tony; Rapundalo, Stephen; Beaudry, Jacqueline
Subject: RE: Studio 4
Sent: 3/21/2011 2:05 PM

was read on 3/21/2011 7:36 PM.

Greenshields, Rachel

From: audio@mygovernmentconferences.com
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 7:28 PM
To: Smith, Sandi
Subject: Customer Service in the Public Sector: How to WOW Your Citizens: 4/12 Webinar

Dear Sandi Smith,

For those concerned with improving your customer service efforts and WOWing your citizens, there will be a live, 60-minute Webinar Conference:

"Customer Service in the Public Sector: How to WOW Your Citizens"

Tuesday, April 12, 1:00-2:00 p.m. ET

<http://www.mygovernmentconferences.com/1KB/0/2/p5XJ8Pc/p5WKHZH8i/p0e>

Service Excellence through the "Lens of YOUR Public Sector Customer"

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- ** Implement service mapping: How it works & examples of effective maps
- ** Ways to understand customers' emotions: Alter your strategy for them!

"WOW" Your Customer: Make them Feel Important Even at a Dreaded Agency

- ** How to move from a task mentality to an experience mentality
- ** Ways to consistently create a great experience: Hierarchy of expectations
- ** Techniques to ensure great customer service becomes "non-negotiable"

Rely on Employees & Hold Them Accountable: Responsibility & Empowerment

- ** How Disney uses formal & informal accountability tools effectively
- ** Five-step coaching: How to address service issues in the public sector
- ** Conquer service barriers in the public sector: Raise the bar for service

Your Expert Presenter:

Dennis Snow's customer service abilities expand over 20 years with the Walt Disney World Company. There, he developed his passion for service excellence and the experience he brings to the worldwide speaking and consulting he does today.

- ** Dennis launched a division of the Disney Institute responsible for consulting with some of the world's largest companies including ExxonMobil, AT&T, and Coca Cola.
- ** He also spent several years with the Disney University, teaching corporate philosophy and business practices to cast members and the leadership team.
- ** Dennis is also full-time speaker; trainer and consultant who has helped organizations achieve goals related to customer service, employee development and leadership. Some of his clients include American Express, Cummins, Florida State University and Johns Hopkins Hospital.
- ** He also has several articles that appear in a number of industry publications in addition to being a featured guest "expert" on customer

service, for several business news-talk radio shows.

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