

To City Clerk: Please send copies of these 3 reports (5 pages) to all City Council members immediately. Thank you. Sean Bennett 12-14-07
City of Ann Arbor

Sean Bennett
Ann Arbor
734-239-3541
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NOV. 30, 07 35

To Mayor and Council Members:

I wrote earlier (Nov. 14) asking about City Human Rights Enforcement performance and reliability; Advisory Commissions proper functioning; and a response to the questions on the conduct of the City Atty. - Has he actually advised people not to talk about H.R.s issues? It should be of concern to the governing body if their City Atty. has engaged in conduct not only not authorized by law, but expressly prohibited by law and the 1st Amendment. I am interested in the role and duties Atty. Pastema has in the Human Rights Enforcement process. I am concerned about effective protection of civil rights and loyalty to the democratic process and to the Constitution.

City Ord. 9150 stipulates that no person shall be denied the "enjoyment of his or her civil or political rights." Among these rights are the rights to speak and communicate with other people about public affairs without interference, obstruction, discrimination, intimidation or retaliation or any other form of subterfuge. This 1st Am. liberty is both a civil and political right and includes the right of association; non-interference in private relationships, petitioning gov't., and the right of access to justice - the right to talk to others and obtain information about possible legal violations. Equal Protection law's leading fundamental Right concerns political participation, 1st Amendment. Exclusion, prejudice, segregation is why Discrimination laws exist. There are persons here in Ann Arbor who have violated my rights of Communication, and Social and political participation.

People need to understand that interfering with another persons communicating, associating, social and governmental participation is illegal and undemocratic. Discussion of public affairs should be "uninhibited, robust, wide-open" and encouraged not hindered.

by those in public office. The city has laws to vindicate and prevent such violations. Postema has also - in the past - told another city Atty. to not talk to me and has not been friendly. Does he need to be re-trained? replaced?

Is he part of the problem or part of the solution? Please note: Citizen action - direct participation by individuals is the process of promoting political change - is the most critical element of democracy. State and Local Govt, Engel (99).

"Citizen participation is the cornerstone of the democratic process." Participation understood as "helping to build and preserve present and future decision-making capacities or communicative power." Reframing Public Policy, Fischer (03).

Customer/citizen satisfaction should drive the organization. Total Quality Management in Human Service Organizations, Martin (95).

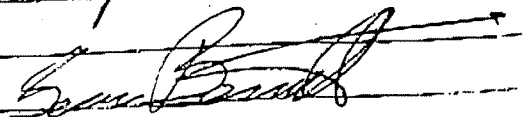
The essential need is the "improvement of methods of debate, discussion and persuasion." S. Dewey (54). "The centrality of two-way discussion to democracy."

Argumentation is the key process through which citizens and policy makers arrive at moral judgments and policy choices." Evidence, Argument and Persuasion in the Policy Process, Majone (89). Democracy exists "for all the people, not just for those in positions of authority - but especially for those who do not hold such positions." Issues of Democratic Governance, Wayne (04).

"Here lies the crucial practical, ethical issue for policy analysts. In a democratic society, citizens should be able not only to find out about issues... but also to communicate with other citizens about those issues." Values, Ethics and

The Practice of Policy Analysis, Forester (83). "Political corruption attacks democracy by excluding people from decisions that affect them." Political Corruption As Duplicitous Exclusion, Mark Warren (06). Civic engagement is about

making connections among citizens and connecting citizens to the political system. Good communication is the key to making connections and working relationships. National Civic Review, McCoy, Scully (02).

Sam P...


To Mayor and City Council
City of Ann Arbor

ANN ARBOR

07DEC14 All: 41

Office of The Mayor:

Nov. 14, 07

1. I am concerned about the Civil Rights enforcement process with the City govt. Please be aware of the report I sent to the City Attorney 9-19-07.

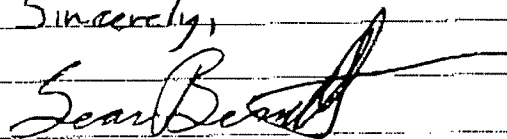
Can the Human Rights Commission and City Atty. be relied on to protect and defend citizens civil rights? Can they be expected to be loyal to the cause of democracy and liberty? I seek transparency and accountability.

2. I am requesting information on general procedural guidelines for Citizen Advisory Commissions.

Should these commissions welcome citizen input, citizen opinions, and citizens pursuit of information? Should they be open, receptive and interested in public input? Should they be there to exchange information and ideas with citizens? What should Commissions relationship be with citizens? Are there any City, State or Federal guidelines on the matter?

3. I also want the Mayor to be aware of that I was informed that City Atty. Postema has actually advised members of H.R. Commission to not talk with citizens except at the monthly meetings. Is this consistent with democracy and the Commissions purpose? Is this consistent with the First Amendment? I request an explanation.

Thank you. Sincerely,



To Mayor Hieftje, City of Ann Arbor:

Sean Bennett
727 Miller Ave, 314
Ann Arbor, Mich
48103

On the issue of performance of H.R. Commission,
performance of Atty. Postema, and proper functioning
of the Human Rights Enforcement Process, please be aware
of these issues filed with City Atty. Office (9-19-07.)

(2 pages)

Notice of Possible H.R. Ordinance Violations and Possible
Misconduct on H.R. Commission

11-20-07 Sean Bennett

As a citizen interested and concerned about
civil rights, human rights and the performance of democratic
process, and as a victim of civil rights violations
I previously attended a H.R.s Commission Meeting (a few
months ago) with hopes of generating support and solutions
in protecting my rights specifically and better protecting all
persons rights more generally. However, just as soon as I
identified one of my concerns as mental disability rights
protecting I began getting antagonistic and even hostile
attitudes from Commissioner Ramirez. It is most imp-
roper for a H.R.s Commissioner to be perpetuating dis-
ability prejudices in a meeting against victims of discrim-
ination. Note City Ordinances 9.150, 9.159. After I
conveyed my concerns about making sure that I can
protect my Constitutional rights of freedom of speech,
political participation and equal protection of the laws
and preventing discrimination in public services and
accommodations and named some potential violators/defis
Ramirez become adversarial asserting that my issues
were not something the Commission would be interested in.
He even appeared retaliatory and suggested that
I should leave the meeting. Note 9.153, 9.155(4)
At the next H.R. meeting I said little. When
I did attempt to say something Ramirez appeared angry
about it and Starbaugh interrupted him. He also attempted
to interfere with me talking to Commissioner Starbaugh
after the meeting was over. Subsequently some of the
H.R. commissioners seem mysteriously reluctant to talk

to me. I do want to ensure that Ramirez has not induced or advocated the other commissioners to obstruct communications and political dialogue between us. Those who do not respect the fundamental rights of all persons, including those that have been singled out for special protection under Federal, State, and City law, and instead perpetrate and perpetuate prejudicial attitudes and seek to exclude instead of include citizens in the Human Rights Commission's Business have no business being on the Human Rights Commission. The last place we need interference and intimidation is from a H.R.s commissioner.

I have a substantial stake in effective, honest, customer-friendly and accountable civil rights enforcement from the city of Ann Arbor. Discriminatory interference and obstruction of political, social, and legal communications have occurred, in a number of instances, however I am not submitting these complaints here today. I do want to put Complaint Process on notice of these concerns so that if and when I file complaint I will obtain an effective and fair to all response. Interference with a persons political participation, 1st Amend rights and the democratic process is no small violation in the U.S.A. I have done much research in the Civil Rights area, and I have much to contribute to H.R.s Commission's work and noble mission.

Reforming Mich Hate Crimes law to include persons with Disabilities is among my goals. I should be encouraged instead of discouraged to participate in H.R.s Commission's meetings. Commissioners need to be loyal to the cause of Human Rights. Interference, obstruction, intimidation in democratic processes should not be allowed by any person - especially H.R.s commissioners.

H.R.s Commission and Enforcement

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