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Greenshields, Rachel

From: Portside Moderator [moderator@PORTSIDE.ORG]
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2010 9:44 PM
To: PORTSIDE@LISTS.PORTSIDE.ORG
Subject: From Busboys to Taxi Drivers, Workers Find New Ways to Organize.

The new face of labor From busboys to taxi drivers, workers find new ways to organize.

By Daniel Massey

Published: September 19, 2010

<http://www.crainsnewyork.com/article/20100919/FREE/309199986>

Late last month, as Gov. David Paterson signed the Domestic Workers Bill of Rights into law at a Harlem community center, Barbara Young, a nanny for 17 years, could barely contain her glee.

"After so many years and so many people depending on us, we are now recognized as part of the work force," the 62-year-old Barbados native recalls thinking.

The signing marked the climax of a six-year campaign by Domestic Workers United to gain long-denied rights for nannies and housekeepers. But the 200,000 workers who stand to gain from the new law are not the only group whose prospects look brighter. Organizations that represent workers ranging from busboys to freelance writers are increasing their clout, winning rights for low-wage, immigrant and contingent workers who had for years fallen outside the scope of mainstream labor and its collective bargaining agreements.

The groups, often referred to as worker centers, typically represent workers in industries not covered under existing labor laws or that are difficult to organize due to workers' immigration status. They initially focused on workers who had their wages skimmed or who did not receive minimum wage. But recently, they've become more sophisticated, forming strategic partnerships with unions and the state Department of Labor, establishing health and benefits programs, flexing political muscle and championing legislation that bolsters workers' rights. Meanwhile, they're forcing established unions to embrace them and prodding employers to engage them. Employers paying attention

With private-sector unions on the decline, representing just 16% of workers in New York City, many experts believe worker centers will play a pivotal role in the future of the labor movement. Across the state, at least 26 groups are operating, with those in the city directly representing more than 150,000 workers and reaching hundreds of thousands more. Several have expanded nationwide, and many are headed by women, with immigrant members playing key roles in decision-making.

"Groups that were considered marginal to the future of the labor movement are now seen as quite essential to the future of unions," says Janice Fine, an expert on worker centers at the Rutgers University School of Management and Labor Relations. Some traditional unions have begun reaching out beyond their core membership:

The United Federation of Teachers brought 28,000 home-based child-care providers into its ranks, and 32BJ SEIU has launched an aggressive campaign among school cafeteria workers.

Increasingly, employers are paying attention. While some have been forced to deal directly with centers that have waged legal challenges against them, others now have to contend with the prospect of new laws--such as the paid sick leave bill before the City Council and a bill in Albany that would penalize employers who stiff freelancers--that challenge their business practices. In some

cases, employers have welcomed the centers' work as leveling the playing field by forcing all companies to comply with wage and hour laws.

Worker groups have made significant progress on the legislative front, through a combination of sheer perseverance and moral suasion. In addition to the new domestic worker law and the paid sick leave and freelancer proposals, a bill championed by immigrant worker center Make the Road New York that increases penalties on employers who violate wage and hour laws won passage in the state Senate and Assembly last session. And a near-unanimous margin in both houses passed a measure to increase penalties for assaults against taxi drivers that the Taxi Workers Alliance pushed. Pressing for back pay

The groups have also become increasingly adept at winning big chunks of back pay for their members. For example, Make the Road secured some \$13 million a year in unpaid wages and benefits, the Restaurant Opportunities Center of New York has won \$5 million for its members, and the Chinese Staff and Workers' Association last year secured \$550,000 for 25 garment workers who toiled for 80 hours a week for only \$3 an hour.

More and more, battles over lost wages are getting a boost from the Department of Labor, which placed a new emphasis on collaborating with worker centers under former Commissioner M. Patricia Smith.

"We have limited resources, and worker centers can and do play an important role in referring cases to us," says Lorelei Salas, the DOL's director of strategic enforcement.

The worker centers have also started to play politics. Last week, 36-year-old freelance writer Ariane Conrad passed out flyers in support of attorney general candidate Eric Schneiderman, who was endorsed by the Freelancers Union, outside a Brooklyn subway station. The group--which has 90,000 members in the city--set up an affiliated organization so it could endorse and donate to candidates. And Make the Road is following suit. Benefits have increasingly become a rallying cry for the groups. The Freelancers Insurance Company provides health insurance rates 75% below market. A \$100 annual membership fee paid by drivers like Victor Salazar to the Taxi Workers Alliance gets them free legal advice and \$5,000 worth of life insurance. The 15,000-member group's next big campaign is aimed at taking control of the credit card processing fee for cab rides and using the funds received to start a drivers health fund. Long dependent upon foundation funding, many groups are starting to collect modest dues from their members.

Traditional unions, which had initially turned their backs on the worker centers, are now embracing them, as they recognize that union jobs with decent salaries and benefits become unsustainable in a labor market stocked with a multitude of workers with no protections. Immigrants and low-wage workers make up a growing part of the work force that cannot be outsourced abroad.

In response, Make the Road has partnered with the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union to organize low-wage immigrant retail workers. And the Laborers' International Union of North America has joined forces with El Centro del Inmigrante. Negotiations, of a sort

The worker centers might not be collectively bargaining in the traditional sense, but taxi workers now sit down regularly with the city to discuss working conditions, freelancers now negotiate for their health care, and domestic workers have rights mandated by law that other workers have gained only via collective bargaining.

"We're looking at a growing disparity of income with no end in sight," says Sara Horowitz, executive director of the Freelancers Union. "Groups are saying, 'We have to figure out how to

create a social safety net. And we're going to do it in whatever way works.' " Entire contents (c)
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From: Portside Moderator [moderator@PORTSIDE.ORG]
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2010 9:41 PM
To: PORTSIDE@LISTS.PORTSIDE.ORG
Subject: Boycott Called on Behalf of Detroit Restaurant Workers

UAW President Calls Boycott on Behalf of Detroit Restaurant Workers

By Kari Lydersen

Working In These Times

September 20, 2010

http://www.inthesetimes.com/working/entry/6460/uaw_president_calls_boycott_on_behalf_of_dcetroit_restaaurant_workers/?utm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=twitter

Workers fired from the Andiamo restaurant chain in the Detroit area took their campaign to a new level last week, with United Auto Workers (UAW) president Bob King joining them in calling for a boycott of the restaurant's 11 locations in southeast Michigan.

The UAW has 150,000 members in the area, and is also calling on companies with which it has contracts - including Ford Motor Co. - and elected officials to boycott the chain. On Sept. 16 the UAW, Metro Detroit AFL-CIO and interfaith leaders joined ROC-Michigan and workers in trying to deliver a letter to management of Andiamo's Dearborn location, where workers were fired for organizing with ROC-Michigan, an affiliate of the national Restaurant Opportunity Center.

A manager refused to take the letter, saying the group could send its complaints by mail. An Andiamo manager reportedly also told interfaith and worker leaders she would be out shortly to talk with them; she never showed. The next day, the boycott was called and a diverse crowd of workers and supporters marched carrying signs saying "Hungry for Justice." (See video).
<<http://videos.wittysparks.com/id/740686518>>

UAW Region 1A director Rory Gamble told the crowd:

You have to put your feet to the pavement to tell them you're committed to bring about positive change. And that's what this is all about positive change. We want fair treatment and decent wages, decent standard of living, for these employees. That's the American way, right?

In Motor City itself, the top-level UAW support is a strong statement - and especially significant given the UAW is supporting workers organizing with the Restaurant Opportunity Center, which is not a traditional union. King took office in June, and has been committed to an "ambitious new agenda that calls for broad organizing and social justice work," as a ROC-MIchigan press release describes it.

"Our power is caring about our sisters and brothers and caring about justice for all," said King at the rally.

A letter to UAW Region 1A members from the local leadership invokes legendary UAW organizer Walter Reuther and states:

Workers at Andiamo Restaurant in Dearborn have been

organizing for fair and just treatment on the job, claiming minimum wage, overtime, discrimination, retaliation and other basic violations of their rights. We are leaders of organizations that represent many of Andiamo restaurants' past, present, and future customers. The recent finding by the National Labor Relations Board that Andiamo management engaged in significant violations of the National Labor Relations Act makes continuing our patronage impossible.

The boycott comes in the wake of a summer National Labor Relations Board ruling finding the workers were indeed illegally fired in retaliation for organizing with ROC-Michigan. ROC-Michigan filed a lawsuit charging \$125,000 in wages was withheld from workers, who also suffered discrimination, sexual harassment and other problems. The company settled the NLRB case by paying one worker \$30 in back wages and posting a list of 15 things management will not do in the future. Workers say that's not enough.

They have been holding weekly protests for months, including a large protest during the U.S. Social Forum in June. Soon after Andiamo management began talking with workers and organizers, but no agreement was reached.

<http://www.inthesetimes.com/working/entry/6460/entry/6274/detroit_restaurant_workers_finally_at_the_table_with_management/>

(Read my previous coverage here.)

<<http://www.inthesetimes.com/working/entry/5246/>>

Andiamo owner Joe Vicari has told reporters the company did not withhold tips or wages from workers and denies charges of discrimination or harassment. The company's website refers to it as the "first family of Italian dining" and says of Vicari: <<http://www.andiamoitalia.com/aboutus.html>>

Joe loves the business and can always be found visiting tables and checking the kitchens in all of the restaurants. Joe says the key to his success is having good sound principles in place, treating people fairly so employees stay with him a long time and giving or selling a percentage of each restaurant to his managers.

Metro Detroit AFL-CIO president Sandra Williams said the city's labor community are in the Andiamo struggle for the long haul.

We've been out here, we've been with ROC and we will be with ROC until the end. And we know this is going to end favorably. They will have no peace if there is no justice.

[Kari Lydersen, an In These Times contributing editor, is a Chicago-based journalist writing for various publications, including the Chicago Reader and The Progressive. Her most recent book is Revolt on Goose Island. She can be reached at kari.lydersen@gmail.com]

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Subject: L'affaire Ines Sainz - Sexism and discrimination in sports

Sexism and discrimination in sports
L'affaire Ines Sainz

By Jean Damu

Sept 19, 2010

Unfortunately the Ines Sainz controversy that unfolded in the New York Jets clubhouse, instead of evaporating into thin air is being taken seriously and is gaining traction.

Ines Sainz, a former Miss Spain and a sports "reporter" for Mexico's television Azteca, while recently inside the Jets clubhouse reportedly was treated in an "unprofessional" manner by a number of Jets players. No one has said specifically what happened but we can assume catcalls and hoots were thrown her way. No one has said anything of a physical nature occurred.

If this had happened to anyone other than Ines Sainz, who markets herself on her looks and sexuality, perhaps aspects of this story would be worth investigating. But because it is Ines Sainz were talking about consider the possibility Sainz is nothing more than an agent provocateur, a bomb thrower if you will. She is now nationally known for cheaply exploiting a serious issue. More on Sainz's metaphorical bomb throwing in a moment.

Women's role in the reporting and administration of sports has come a long, long way since 1986 when Oakland A's first baseman Dave Kingman sent a live rat in a pink shoe box with a tag around its neck saying, "My name is Sue," up to the Oakland Coliseum press box to Sacramento Bee reporter Sue Fornoff. According to Kingman's Neanderthal-like reasoning this was a good way to demonstrate his displeasure with the growing role of women in sports reporting.

A's general manager at the time, Roy Eisenhardt, responded telling Kingman, "another stunt like that and you'll be looking for a new job."

But the modern era of women in sports began with the famous Title IX legislation of the Education Amendment Act of 1972 that mandated vastly increased, if not equal, funding of women's sports in high schools and colleges.

This simple amendment, sponsored by Hawaiian congresswoman Patsy Matsu Takemoto Mink, the first Japanese American to graduate from the University of Hawaii and the first minority woman to be elected to the US Congress, completely changed the landscape of sports in the US. The revolutionary impact of Mink's legislation is comparable in many ways to the 1965 Voting Rights Act that for all practical purposes extended the right to vote to African Americans and poor whites in the South.

Mink should be enshrined in all the relevant sports halls of fame that recognize outstanding accomplishments at the high school and collegiate levels.

The increased attention (and money) paid to women's sports resulted in women being hired by newspapers and television broadcast companies to cover sports. Phyllis George, a former Miss Texas and Miss America, was the first woman to be hired by network television to broadcast sports. That was in 1971, but it was not until the development of cable television that significant numbers of women began to be hired as print and electronic sports journalists.

Despite several tawdry incidents in regards to sexual harassment sport network ESPN has led the way in the hiring of female journalists. Erin Andrews, Hannah Storm, Jackie McMullen, Jemelle Hill and former USC high jumper Reishea Canidate are among a solid group of women who now appear on a near daily basis in the broadcast of sports in the US. The professional football, baseball, hockey, tennis, golf and basketball channels have all made progress in the hiring of women.

It should also be noted that the success of women on ESPN has influenced local television broadcast companies to hire female sportscasters. Today few eyebrows are raised when a woman reads the local sports news.

Despite the overwhelming positive impact of Title IX, not everything is on the upswing.

Before being lured to ESPN just several years ago Jemelle Hill was the only black female sports journalist with her own column at a major daily newspaper. Today, though there are numerous women sports columnists, not one is an African American.

Though not as bleak things are not a whole lot better on the sports administration side of the ball.

According to the Women's Sports Foundation website in 2000 there were 171 female athletic directors at the nation's colleges, down from 188 in 1998. Apparently there hasn't been much improvement in the last decade.

Among the very top, largely money driven athletic programs-those schools that participate in the Bowl Championship Series that attempts each year to draw the best football teams in the nation to a series of five bowl games, games that generate huge sums of money to participating schools, only three have female athletic directors; UC-Berkeley's Sandy Barbour, Arizona State's Lisa Love and North Carolina State's Debbie Yow.

A recent Louisiana Weekly article noted the number of African American females in key athletics administration positions is also woefully minimal.

Among all the Division I, II and III schools there are just 13 black, female athletic directors. If you subtract the HBC (Historically Black Colleges) colleges you're down to just one, San Francisco University's Deborah Mann-Gore.

"I think African Americans in general are way behind the curve in terms of getting opportunities in college sport, both in the coaching ranks, athletic director, and senior people in the athletic department," says Richard Lapchick, who heads the Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport at the University of South Florida, "but African American women, or women of color, in general, are even farther behind."

In the professional ranks there is not a lot to say regarding female administrators. In 1997 Raiders owner Al Davis hired Amy Trask to become the CEO of the Raiders organization. In the ensuing years not one professional sports organization has made a similar move, not even those owned by women.

And finally we come to case of Kim Ng, currently the Asst. General Manager of the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Without doing extensive research Ng seems to be one of the few women with the goal of being in charge of the day to day operations of a professional sports franchise. Problem is at the ripe old age of 29 Ng seemed to have hit the glass ceiling.

Ng, as a University of Chicago graduate, began with the Chicago White Sox handling salary arbitration cases.

She then went to work for the American League headquarters and was director of waivers and records, approving all league transactions.

In 1997 she was hired by the New York Yankees as an assistant general manager, making her at 29 the youngest in the major leagues. In 2001 she joined the Dodgers as Assistant General Manager.

Since then she has interviewed for the general manager position with the Dodgers, the Seattle Mariners and the San Diego Padres. Each time being passed over. To this day no female has ever been a general manager of any team in any major sport.

By contrast Brian Cashman was hired by the New York Yankees as a General Manager at the age of 31 without a fraction of Ng's experience and never having worked outside the Yankees organization.

Briefly we have reviewed the trajectory of the role of women in the business of sport in the US. There have been fantastic gains but much remains to be done-which brings us back to the issue of Ines Sainz as a social bomb thrower.

The New York Jets players are being criticized (and investigated by the NFL) for unprofessional and sexist comments toward Sainz while she was in the locker room.

While it's not too much to expect professional athletes to keep it together for the 45 minutes or an hour that the press invades their most private space, Sainz has a long history of unprofessional conduct; conduct intended to garner her attention and to promote her sexuality.

For instance last year she wore a see through blouse to a Los Angeles Lakers game. She went to interview New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady in a wedding dress and asked him to marry her. She went to media day during the last Super Bowl this year with a tape measure to measure the players' biceps. At the World Cup in South Africa she proclaimed she was "the hottest reporter at the World Cup." There are ample videos of Sainz at NFL training camps, in skintight jeans, purposefully sticking her butt out for the cameras.

In short Sainz is not to be taken seriously as a journalist. Her antics are a step backward.

If people are really concerned about sexism in sports consider some of the issues raised above. Or if those issues don't move you consider the NBA's treatment of the WNBA.

Now there's an instance of professional men's basketball grabbing professional women's basketball around the neck and throwing it down the stairs into the cellar of America's consciousness. Domestic violence at its worst.

Forcing the WNBA to play their games in the late spring and summer months when most of the nation is suffering basketball fatigue is a plan designed to achieve failure and force American women to play overseas, thus eliminating possible competition.

What greater issue of sexual discrimination is there than that? But no, we have to discuss Ines Sainz's bootylicious reporting act. What a shame.

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From: Portside Moderator [moderator@PORTSIDE.ORG]
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2010 9:43 PM
To: PORTSIDE@LISTS.PORTSIDE.ORG
Subject: Bradley Manning: American Hero

Bradley Manning: American Hero

Monday 20 September 2010

by: Marjorie Cohn, t r u t h o u t | News Analysis

<http://www.truth-out.org/bradley-manning-american-hero63393>

photo Participants at a Free Bradley Manning Rally.
(Photo: mar is sea Y)

Army Pfc. Bradley Manning is accused of leaking military secrets to the public. This week, his supporters are holding rallies in 21 cities, seeking Manning's release from military custody. Manning is in the brig for allegedly disclosing a classified video depicting US troops shooting civilians from an Apache helicopter in Iraq in July 2007. The video, available at www.collateralmurder.com, was published by WikiLeaks on April 5, 2010. Manning faces 52 years in prison. No charges have been filed against the soldiers in the video.

In October 1969, the most famous whistleblower, Daniel Ellsberg, smuggled out of his office and made public a 7,000-page top secret study of decision-making during the Vietnam War. It became known as the Pentagon Papers. Ellsberg risked his future, knowing that he would likely spend life in prison for his expose.

The release of the Pentagon Papers ultimately helped end not only the Nixon presidency but also the Vietnam War, in which 58,000 Americans and three million Indochinese were killed. Dan's courageous act was essential to holding accountable our leaders who had betrayed American values by starting and perpetuating an illegal and deadly war.

Manning's alleged crimes follow in this tradition. The 2007 video, called "Collateral Murder," has been viewed by millions of people on the Internet. On it, US military Apache helicopter soldiers from Bravo Company 2nd Battalion 16th Infantry Regiment can be seen killing 12 civilians and wounding two children in Iraq. The dead included two employees of the Reuters news agency.

The video shows US forces watching as a van pulled up to evacuate the wounded. They again opened fire from the helicopter, killing more people. During the radio chatter between the helicopter crew members and their supervisors, one crew member gloated after the first shooting, saying, "Oh yeah, look at those dead bastards."

One Iraqi witness told Amy Goodman on Democracy Now!
"The helicopter came yesterday from there and hovered around. Then it came right here where a group of people were standing. They didn't have any weapons or arms of any sort. This area doesn't have armed insurgents. They destroyed the place and shot at people, and they didn't let anyone help the wounded."

Another witness said, "They killed all the wounded and drove over their bodies. Everyone witnessed it. And the journalist was among those who was injured, and the armored vehicle drove over his body."

Journalist Rick Rowley reported that the man who was driven over had crawled out of the van and was still alive when the American tank drove over him and cut him in half.

Commanders decided that the wounded children would not be taken to a US military field hospital. Ethan McCord, one of the soldiers on the scene who picked up one of the children and tried to take him to a military vehicle, was reprimanded for his response.

The US Central Command exonerated the soldiers and refused to reopen the investigation. Reporters Without Borders said, "If this young soldier had not leaked the video, we would have no evidence of what was clearly a serious abuse on the part of the US military."

In fact, the actions depicted in "Collateral Murder" contain evidence of three violations of the laws of war set forth in the Geneva Conventions, which amount to war crimes.

There were civilians standing around, there was no one firing at the American soldiers, and at least two people had cameras. There may have been people armed, as are many in the United States, but this does not create the license to fire on people. That is one violation of the Geneva Conventions -- targeting civilians who do not pose a threat, not for military necessity.

The second and third possible violations of the laws of war are evident in the scene on the tape when the van attempts to rescue the wounded, and a later scene of a US tank rolling over a body on the ground. The soldiers shot the rescuer and those in the van, another possible violation of the Geneva Conventions -- preventing the rescue. Third, when the wounded or dead man was lying on the ground, a US tank rolled over him, effectively splitting him in two. If he was dead, that amounted to disrespecting a body, another violation of the Geneva Conventions.

Josh Steiber, a former US Army specialist and member of the Bravo Company 2nd Battalion 16th Infantry Regiment, was not with his company during the killing of civilians depicted in "Collateral Murder." Steiber told Truthout that such acts were "not isolated incidents" and were "common" during his tour of duty. "After watching the video, I would definitely say that that is, nine times out of 10, the way things ended up," he said.

Steiber explained that during his basic training for the military, "We watched videos celebrating death," and said his commanders would "pull aside soldiers who'd not deployed, and ask us if somebody open fired on us in a market full of unarmed civilians, would we return fire. And if you didn't say 'yes' instantly, you got yelled at for not being a good soldier. The mindset of military training was one based on fear, and the ability to eliminate any threat."

Manning is also being investigated for allegedly leaking the "Afghan War Diary" documents that were posted on WikiLeaks in coordination with the New York Times, the U.K. Guardian, and the German magazine Der Spiegel. But President Obama said, ". . . the fact is, these documents don't reveal any issues that haven't already informed our public debate on Afghanistan."

Those reports expose 20,000 deaths, including thousands of children, according to WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange. Many of them also likely contain evidence of war crimes.

Besides the fact that targeting civilians is illegal, it also makes us less safe. A new study by the National Bureau of Economic Research, which was released by the New America Foundation, concluded that civilian attacks in Afghanistan make our troops more vulnerable due to retaliation. A typical incident that causes two Afghan civilian deaths provokes six revenge attacks by Taliban and other fighters.

Moreover, Marine Col. David Lapan, a senior Pentagon spokesman, said that so far there is no evidence that the Taliban has harmed any Afghan civilians as a result of the WikiLeaks publication of the 76,000 logs this past summer.

Over 1,000 Americans and untold numbers of Afghans have been killed in this war, which is just as illegal, expensive, and counter-productive as the one in Iraq.

The charges against Bradley Manning end with the language, "such conduct being prejudicial to good order and discipline in the armed forces and being of a nature to bring discredit upon the armed forces." On the contrary, if Manning did what he is suspected of doing, he should be honored as an American hero for exposing war crimes and hopefully, ultimately, helping to end this war.

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From: Portside Moderator [moderator@PORTSIDE.ORG]
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2010 9:42 PM
To: PORTSIDE@LISTS.PORTSIDE.ORG
Subject: What Castro Really Means

What Castro really means

The Guardian

September 17 2010

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/cifamerica/2010/sep/17/cuba-raul-castro-new-economic-measures>

Apparent U-turns have led some to declare Cuba's revolution dead. It has life in it yet, however

Richard Gott

The ever-surprising island of Cuba has come up with some fresh economic measures this week that pose the question: is this the end of socialism? For President Raul Castro to sack half a million state employees, and then allow his brother Fidel to hint to an American reporter from the Atlantic that the country's economic model is not working, suggests that there is certainly something significant in the pipeline. But this is not the end of the revolutionary dream, nor is it a simple rectification of policy, of which there have been many over the years. It is, more importantly, the start of a major new programme, long-awaited. How it should be ideologically defined remains to be seen.

Everyone who lives in Cuba and those who follow Cuban affairs closely know that the existing economic model has not been working well. It hardly needs Fidel to spell this out. Ever since the collapse of the Soviet Union 20 years ago, which deprived the island of its principal model and benefactor, the Cuban authorities have improvised brilliantly, breaking every rule in the rulebook, both socialist and capitalist. Tourism has replaced sugar as the country's principal earner of foreign currency. Collective farms have been broken up. Hundreds of thousands of people now work on their own account, soon to be joined by half a million others - or possibly more.

The outlines of the new programme are still barely visible, but will become more so in the months to come, as an embryonic private sector begins to re-emerge. In 1968, at the height of the Prague Spring, Fidel shut down all small enterprises, as well as cafes, bars and nightclubs, accusing them of fostering a counter-revolution. Havana and Cuba's other cities soon lost much of their sophisticated charm. The commanding heights of the economy were already in the hands of the state by then, so the attack on tiny businesses seemed motivated more by ideological severity than economic necessity.

Today the wheel has turned full circle and the small-scale private enterprises that characterise a city, and make it worth living in, will return. Yet the changes outlined this week have more to do with the wider plan for the future economic organisation of the country than any desire to make the cities more attractive. The plan has been worked on and endorsed by the country's powerful state trade union federation, and there is no doubt that the new policies will be well received by most people.

The Cubans are by no means thirsting to embrace the capitalist system, as some commentators have suggested, but they are certainly ready to take more responsibility for their own lives. Unlike

many other people in Latin America (or indeed in the US), they are well educated, well looked after, and healthy. The state will not just throw the workers in at the deep end. There will be programmes of training to ease the move from state employment into the world of private enterprise.

This is the first step in the reorganisation of the Cuban economy, and the Cubans are fortunate in having the powerful backing of oil-rich Venezuela. Hugo Chavez will be helpful during this transition period, not least because the Cubans will be moving closer to the mixed economy that he has always favoured. The current arrangements, with Cuban doctors working in Venezuela and being paid for with subsidised oil, work well for both parties.

But what of the larger question of the wider economic framework? The Cubans, government and population, have been well informed about the collapse of the communist system in Russia and eastern Europe, and its replacement by unbridled capitalism of the most vicious and corrupt kind. There is little enthusiasm to start down that road. Nor does anyone want to see the rich Cuban millionaires in Florida returning to reclaim their homeland. (Nor, to be fair, do most of the millionaires.)

So, with private enterprise back on the agenda, the Cubans will soon have to formulate a strategy for relinking their economy with the wider world. Much has already been done. Cuba trades with Latin America with few problems, as it does with Canada, Europe and Asia, and of course with Russia and China. Even US agricultural produce now arrives by regular boat.

Foreign investment is another matter. Cuba wants a decent relationship with the US, and an end to the economic embargo, but it will be a long time before it welcomes foreign investment without strings attached.

The Cuban revolution was always more nationalist than socialist, and while elements of socialism can be surrendered relatively easily, the nationalist achievements of the past half-century will not be lightly abandoned. The Cuban model, however modified, has life in it yet.

Portside aims to provide material of interest to people on the left that will help them to interpret the world and to change it.

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Greenshields, Rachel

From: Elizabeth Colvin [redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2010 9:45 PM
To: Hieftje, John
Subject: RE: copy of letter of support for the Fuller Road Station sent to the Ann Arbor City Planning Commission

You're welcome, Mayor Hieftje. Thank you for your leadership on the Fuller Road Station project and for your assistance with our neighborhood's issues.

--- On Mon, 9/20/10, Hieftje, John <JHieftje@a2gov.org> wrote:

From: Hieftje, John <JHieftje@a2gov.org>
Subject: RE: copy of letter of support for the Fuller Road Station sent to the Ann Arbor City Planning Commission
To: "Elizabeth Colvin" [redacted], "Cooper, Eli" <ECOoper@a2gov.org>, "Dykman, David" <DDykman@a2gov.org>, "Rampson, Wendy" <WRampson@a2gov.org>, "Briere, Sabra" <SBriere@a2gov.org>, "Smith, Sandi" <SSmith@a2gov.org>, "PAC Distribution" <PAC@a2gov.org>, blackmoret@miwats.org, mFord@theride.org, jab4410@theride.org [redacted]
Cc: "Beaudry, Jacqueline" <JBeaudry@a2gov.org>
Date: Monday, September 20, 2010, 10:04 AM

Thank you.

From: Elizabeth Colvin [mailto:[\[redacted\]](mailto:[redacted])]
Sent: Sunday, September 19, 2010 4:27 PM
To: Hieftje, John; Cooper, Eli; Dykman, David; Rampson, Wendy; Briere, Sabra; Smith, Sandi; PAC_Distribution; blackmoret@miwats.org; mFord@theride.org; jab4410@theride.org [redacted]
Subject: copy of letter of support for the Fuller Road Station sent to the Ann Arbor City Planning Commission

Attached find a letter of support for the Fuller Road Station that we in the Wall Street-Maiden Lane neighborhood sent to the City of Ann Arbor Planning Commission today, in preparation for the Commission's Sept. 21, 2010, meeting.

We are copying you on this letter as our way of letting you know of our support for this project. We recently sent a similar letter addressed to the Regents of the University of Michigan. You were sent a copy of that letter as well.

The points in both letters are the same: We in the Wall Street-Maiden Lane neighborhood support the Fuller Road Station because --

- The project places a parking structure and transit station originally intended for our neighborhood in a more appropriate location.
- The location chosen is well suited to meet the needs of the University, which has legitimate parking needs and is contributing financially to this project.
- The project opens opportunities for intermodal transit, which will directly benefit the city, including rail travel to and from Ann Arbor, which will benefit both the city and the entire southeast Michigan area.

If there are other ways in which we can lend support to the Fuller Road Station project, please let us know how we can help.

Thank you.

Elizabeth Donoghue Colvin
Writing on behalf of the Riverside Park Place Condominium Association and the Nielsen Square Condominium Association in the
Wall Street-Maiden Lane neighborhood

Greenshields, Rachel

From: deldunbar [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2010 9:44 PM
To: Hieftje, John
Subject: Re: City of Ann Arbor wrong to give parkland to University of Michigan for transportation center - AnnArbor.com

Thanks John for the very thorough analysis. I guess it is prudent not to take the blogs and aa.com web site as the gospel. Someday over coffee I will tell you of the difficulty (2 plus years) of dealing with the U over property that the donor (Matthaei family) wanted the Humane Society to have in the first place...A nightmare, but in the end the Regents did the right thing. What I learned in that entanglement was that everything is political and you can't take the discourse personally. Best, del

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

From: Hieftje, John <JHieftje@a2gov.org>
To: deldunbar [REDACTED] anya@hshv.org; sharonrothwell [REDACTED] kpower@homecomm.net; SKORNFELD@BODMANLLP.COM
Sent: Mon, Sep 20, 2010 1:43 pm
Subject: RE: City of Ann Arbor wrong to give parkland to University of Michigan for transportation center - AnnArbor.com

Hi Del:

Hope you are well. Just so you know:

This site has been a parking lot for a long time. A land swap happened years ago. The site was paved over in 1993 after the UM gave the city an easement for a new road in order to save 5 acres of old growth oaks from being cleared. This is the very best location in the county and quite likely the state for an intermodal station.

It is right where the proposed inner-city connector will pass and it is right on the inter-city East-West rail line. It is also one of the most concentrated employment centers in the state. Eighteen thousand people work there, about 12,000 go to work per day plus an average of 6,000- patients/visitors per day. That's 18,000 daily trips to a site that is very close to the bio-medical research center, Central Campus, Downtown, North Campus and the old Pfizer site. There are four bus bays in phase one and the main east/west bike path cuts right through the site. Even without phase two this site makes a lot of sense.

Phase two would add a rail station and an overhead walkway right into the hospital.

There is a lot of momentum building for the East/West rail commuter line. The cars are being refurbished (funded by MDOT) and will be ready next month. They are double-decked stainless steel and will have all new springs, floors, seats, windows, etc.

Demonstration runs will start next year to get people used to the train. The Federal Govt. is putting a lot of money into rail. Dearborn received \$30 million for a new station earlier this year and they are very excited about having a connection to A2. Battle Creek was awarded \$10 million to upgrade their station.

The city and AATA are currently after three federal funding streams with more opportunities set to open up in the future. The UM investment makes the match for the federal funds.

At a high level meeting in May called by Senator Levin and Congressman Dingell, it was announced that Amtrak is negotiating to buy the tracks between Detroit and Kalamazoo for the high speed initiative (110 MPH for AMTRAK). This would also move most of the freights off this line to other routes. One of the main takeaways from the meeting in April was a statement that there is nothing better the federal government could do to assist the economy of SE Michigan than facilitate rail. Our transportation people tell me SE Michigan is about the only major metro area without commuter rail.

The improvements the feds would make for high speed make the commuter line work as well. Just having regular service to Ypsilanti and the airport would be huge for A2 and Ypsi. Transit Oriented Development (TOD) is a major driving force for private investment in regions that are going down this road. Ypsilanti leaders have told me they expect 1,000 people to move in close so they could walk to the station and get off ten minutes later at work. Close to 4,000 people with an Ypsi zip code work at the medical complex. This could make the old Broadway Village site work as a residential, mixed used development. People would be a 12 minute walk from a station that would connect them to the rest of SE Michigan.

According to the Washtenaw Area Transportation study 70,000 workers drive to A2 from outside the city every day. As the world wide economy rebounds gas prices will surely go back to where they were and beyond. Especially if there are carbon controls in place. A2 to the airport or Dearborn will be pushing the range limit for electric cars. How will our employers manage if their workers can't afford the commute?

While we do more to promote alternative transportation than 95% of American cities, parking structures are still required if you want to have jobs. They are also expensive, from \$35,000 to \$55,000 per space above and below ground. The rail component is so important to the UM they have offered to buy a train pass for each employee who will leave their car at home and ride the train just as the DDA does with bus passes for downtown workers.

The city would own the site and structures with multiple users (UM, AATA, AMTRAK, Commuter Line) participating in a use agreement. I could go on for a long time about this project but there is a whole lot of information on the city web site.

John

From: deldunbar [mailto:deldunbar]
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2010 11:58 AM
To: Tanya@hshv.org; sharonrothwell; kpower@homecomm.net; SKORNFIELD@BODMANLLP.COM
Cc: Hieftje, John
Subject: Fwd: City of Ann Arbor wrong to give parkland to University of Michigan for transportation center - AnnArbor.com

Humm, see below. A better perspective. Does this change your thoughts? del

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

From: Cynthia Wilbanks <wilbanks@umich.edu>
To: deldunbar
Sent: Mon, Sep 20, 2010 11:40 am
Subject: Re: City of Ann Arbor wrong to give parkland to University of Michigan for transportation center - AnnArbor.com

Hi Del:

The UM has been leasing this land for many years for surface parking purposes. The city offered this parcel as a location for a joint project to construct a parking structure and eventually build out a proposed city initiative dubbed the intermodal transportation center to eventually accommodate cars, rail & bus. This proposed location was also suggested as a way for the U to abandon plans to build a parking structure on Wall Street, on U property. In this first phase of the Fuller Road structure, the University is paying over 75% of the costs of the joint city/university structure.

Is this helpful?

Cynthia

On Sep 20, 2010, at 11:16 AM, deldunbar wrote:

Hi Cynthia, why doesn't this cut both ways? You get prime City acreage for 75years for nothing and we with a donor intent letter recover from the U a few acres off Cherry Hill road (that the Matthaei family wanted HSHV to have eventually)

for only 65 years for the Humane Society and have to pay \$240,000 in lease payments. Please let me know what I am missing. I am not knowledgeable on this matter having only read the AA News article below. Thanks Del

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

From: deldunbar [REDACTED]

To: deldunbar [REDACTED]

Sent: Mon, Sep 20, 2010 10:54 am

Subject: City of Ann Arbor wrong to give parkland to University of Michigan for transportation center - AnnArbor.com

<http://www.annarbor.com/news/opinion/city-of-ann-arbor-wrong-to-give-parkland-to-university-of-michigan-for-transportation-center/>

Cynthia H. Wilbanks
Vice President for Government Relations
University of Michigan
503 Thompson
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-1340
Phone - 734-763-5554
Fax - 734-734-3316

=

Greenshields, Rachel

From: kathgdsn [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2010 9:43 PM
To: partner [REDACTED] Hieftje, John
Subject: Martin's marrying friends--

Martin and John---

please communicate with each other about Martin's question as to whether John has the power to perform marriage ceremonies. The answer is yes....and he does this generally happily for friends.

Nice to see you tonight---sorry not to answer yesterday. Had a concert and masterclass at WMU promoting a new CD---got back today and went straight to school.

Kathryn

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

From: Martin Katz <partner [REDACTED]>
To: kathgdsn <kathgdsn [REDACTED]>
Sent: Sun, Sep 19, 2010 12:00 pm
Subject: John

Hi Kathryn,

Dear friends of mine are getting married 4/2/11, and I was wondering

if John ever performed wedding ceremonies? I believe any Mayor has

the legal right to marry people, isn't this true?

Of course, there is the election to get thru, but I'm not concerned

about that.

If John is empowered to do this, could you send me his email so I

don't have to bother you about it?

Thanks,

Martin

Greenshields, Rachel

From: Raymond Detter [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2010 9:36 PM
To: Briere, Sabra
Subject: Re: Downtown safety

Sabra,

Great job tonight. Thanks to you, I think everyone understands exactly what we are trying to. I look forward to participating.

Ray

On Sep 20, 2010, at 4:04 PM, Briere, Sabra wrote:

I'm certain they will be speaking about religious tolerance.

Thank you for being there tonight!

Sabra

*Sabra Briere
First Ward Councilmember
(734)995-3518 (home)
(734)277-6578 (cell)*

From: Raymond Detter [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Mon 9/20/2010 12:59 PM
To: Briere, Sabra
Subject: Re: Downtown safety

Sabra,

I just learned that they have put me on the public commentary list as an alternate even though I phoned this morning exactly at 8:00 a.m. Apparently, because I listed my topic as "Panhandling and Downtown Public Safety" they rejected it as not being an agenda item. Since your resolution is about the "Downtown Street Outreach Task Force" they did not make the connection. I will, of course come to the meeting, but there is a good chance that I will not be able to speak. I am the first alternate, but it sounds as though there is a very organized group of people who all got to the Clerk's Office before 8:00 and signed up on some agenda (but not public hearing) item.

Sorry, but I will be there.

Ray

Sabra,

Thank you. I do think that the Task Force membership does need to include Tom Heywood or someone else from State Street. Liberty Plaza is technically in the State Street area as is much of the panhandling problem. Sloan Plaza is as well.

Ray

On Sep 20, 2010, at 9:19 AM, Briere, Sabra wrote:

Dear Ray,

Here it is!

Title

Resolution to appoint members to the Downtown Street Outreach Task Force

Body

Whereas, On September 20, 2001, City Council established the Downtown Street Outreach Task Force to address the larger issue of unmet outreach and service needs in the downtown area; and
Whereas, in May, 2003, this task force recommended neighborhood patrols in the downtown business districts, encouraged increased outreach by social service agencies and proposed a revised ordinance that addressed soliciting for money, which City Council subsequently passed; and
Whereas, in the years since 2003, panhandling has increased in the downtown area and this task force needs to be reinvigorated;

RESOLVED, That Council appoint 10 members to the Downtown Street Outreach Task Force to meet regularly for no longer than six (6) months to identify issues surrounding panhandling and suggest potential solutions that may involve the community, the service sectors and safety services; and

RESOLVED, That the Ann Arbor Police Department shall continue to enforce the existing ordinance on solicitation for money as written.

Name	Organization/Business	Representing
1. Brian Durrance	MISSION/Camp Take Notice	Homeless
2. Mary Jo Callan	Community Development	Service Provider
3. Charles Coleman	Dawn Farm	Service Provider
4. Paul Sher	Legal Services	Service Provider
5. Maura Thompson	Main Street Merchants	Merchants
6. Maggie Ladd or designee	South University Merchants	Merchants
7. Susan Pollay	DDA	Merchants/staff
8. Barnett Jones or designee	Ann Arbor Police	Staff
9. Ray Detter	Citizens Advisory Council	Residents
10. Sabra Briere	Member of Council	Administration

*Sabra Briere
First Ward Councilmember
(734)995-3518 (home)
(734)277-6578 (cell)*

From: Raymond Detter [mailto: [REDACTED]]

Sent: Mon 9/20/2010 8:48 AM

To: Briere, Sabra

Subject: Downtown safety

Sabra,

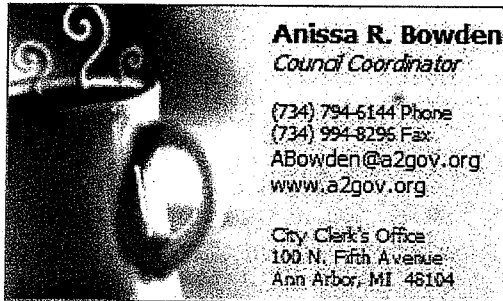
I am signed up to speak at public commentary tonight on the subject of "Panhandling and Public Safety". Would it be possible for me to have a copy of your resolution so I can properly relate my remarks?
Thanks.

Ray

Greenshields, Rachel

From: Bowden (King), Anissa
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2010 8:48 PM
To: Higgins, Marcia
Subject: 9-7 packet
Attachments: Anissa R Bowden.vcf

It's now available to download



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Greenshields, Rachel

From: P. Lesko [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2010 8:19 PM
Subject: A2Politico.com blog mention

You were mentioned in today's A2Politico.com blog entry. To view the link, click here: <http://www.a2politico.com/?p=4384>

A2P

0010 General Total	2,507,688.00
0018 Parks Rehab & Development Mill	64,086.00
0024 Open Space & Park Acq Millage	7,660,213.00
0025 Bandemer Property	22,500.00
0029 Open Space Bonds-2005	3,565,189.00
0034 Parks Memorials & Contributions	41,400.00
0041 Open Space Endowment	2,932.00
0046 Market Fund	172,923.00
0047 Golf Courses Fund	1,685,046.00
0055 Elizabeth R. Dean Trust Fund	95,063.00
0071 Park Maint & Capital Imp Millage	
060 Parks & Recreation	1,073,288.00
061 Field Operations	4,133,703.00
0071 Park Maint & Capital Imp Millage Total	5,206,991.00
Grand Total	21,144,794.00

2. What are the restrictions on the Park Repair and Restoration Millage and the Park Maintenance and Capital Improvement Millage, and how do they differ? **[McKinnon, Kelli]**

[Smith, Colin] *The Park Repair and Restoration Millage expired in 2006, but was the funding source for NAP, forestry and horticulture in Parks, and non-routine repair and restoration activities for the Parks system infrastructure. The current millage, the Park Maintenance and Capital Improvement Millage funds both maintenance and capital. A significant difference, that came about as a result of the public process that helped shape the current millage, is that routine maintenance can be funded. Find attached a PDF that details funding distribution guidelines for the current millage, adopted by City Council in August of 2006.*

3. The 2008-2013 Park Maintenance and Capital Improvement Millage should be up for review and possible renewal in 18 - 24 months. When is the Park Repair and Restoration Millage up for review? **[McKinnon, Kelli]** Colin to Answer

[Smith, Colin] *The Park Repair and Restoration Millage expired in 2006, as did the Park Rehabilitation and Development Millage. During the public process of developing the current millage, feedback from residents was that having two millages was confusing. So, one millage that covered both capital and maintenance was developed.*

4. Are any other funds being used to provide funding for parks maintenance, parks security, or capital improvements in parks?{

[Smith, Colin] I think this is better answered in a written response.

The following funds provide operating and capital budgets for the Parks system:

- *0006 – The expired Park Repair and Restoration Millage – for non-routine maintenance. The remaining balance of this expired millage will be spent down in the next fiscal year.*
- *0010 – General Fund – operational activities*
- *0018 – The expired Park Rehabilitation and Development Millage – for capital projects. The balance of this expired millage will be spent down in the next fiscal year. A decrease in staff, along with a major project that was cancelled, and on-going EAB work is the reason why there is still a balance in this fund.*
- *0024 & 0029 – The Open Space and Parkland Acquisition millage and corresponding bonds.*
- *0025 – Bandemer Fund – for use at Bandemer Park.*
- *0034 – Memorials and Gifts Fund*
- *0046 – Farmer’s Market Enterprise Fund*
- *0047 – Golf Course Enterprise Fund*
- *0071 – Current millage for maintenance and capital*

5. Routine parks maintenance -- mowing grass, maintaining soccer & softball fields, cleaning swimming pools, etc. -- must be separable. I'd like a breakdown or guidance on how we can break this routine maintenance down, by park and activity.]

[Smith, Colin] This question might be best answered by Public Services, or at least shared with them for input. I can tell you that routine maintenance in regards to mowing costs per park is not tracked. There is a line item for mowing, but it is not broken down by park – my assumption is that would require a great deal of tracking time with no real benefit.

Millage funded and General funded maintenance at the recreation facilities is captured at a facility level, so it is possible to say how much was expended for maintenance at Buhr Pool in a fiscal year, for example.

[McKinnon, Kelli]

Marti confirmed this response. Maintenance is tracked at each of the recreation facilities via the millage fund 0071, but mowing and trimming are not tracked by park.

Fund	Revenue
General Fund	
Parks Operation and Forestry	\$ 3,766,533.00
Parks and Recreation	\$ 3,764,087.00
Parks Repair & Restoration Millage	\$ 260,286.00
Golf Enterprise	\$ 1,751,189.00
Park Maintenance and Capital Improvement Millage	\$ 5,315,526.00
Open Space and Parks Acquisition Millage	\$ 6,669,478.00

*Sabra Briere
First Ward Councilmember
(734)995-3518 (home)
(734)277-6578 (cell)*

Adopted by City Council
August 21, 2006

**PARKS MAINTENANCE AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS
FUNDING DISTRIBUTION GUIDELINES**

	General Fund	Millage
General Administration & Park Planning		
General parks & recreation administration	✓	
Park system planning		✓
Park Operations & Forestry		
Athletic Fields		
Maintenance	✓	✓
Repairs & capital improvements, excluding mowing		✓
Cemetery		
Maintenance & repairs	✓	
Game Courts		
Maintenance	✓	✓
Repairs & capital improvements		✓
Park Maintenance Equipment (mowers, snow plows, snow blowers, etc)		
Maintenance & repairs	✓	✓
Replacements & capital improvement investments		✓
Park Mechanical Systems (furnaces, air conditioners, etc)		
Maintenance & repairs	✓	✓
Replacement		✓
Flowers/Shrubs & Horticulture		
Park areas	✓	✓
Non - Park areas	✓	
Litter & Refuse		
Collection & removal from park areas	✓	
Park Amenities (benches, buildings, fountains, gates, grills, picnic tables, restrooms, etc)		
Maintenance & repairs	✓	✓
Replacement & capital improvements		✓
Facility operational utility costs	✓	
Mowing		
Park and non-park areas	✓	
Park Security		
Security staffing		✓
Vandalism repair & maintenance		✓
Forestry (Tree Maintenance, Pruning, Tree & Stump Removals, Storm Damage, Plantings, Disease Management, Hazard Work, etc)		
Park & natural areas maintenance	✓	✓
Non-Park areas	✓	
Park area replanting for Emerald Ash Borer recovery		✓
Tree nursery maintenance	✓	

	General Fund	Millage
Playground Safety		
Inspections, maintenance, repairs, replacement & capital improvements		✓
Sidewalk, Pathway, Trail, Boardwalk, Greenway		
Maintenance & repairs	✓	✓
Replacements & capital improvements		✓
Snow & ice control maintenance	✓	
Park Parking Lots		
Maintenance	✓	✓
Repairs & capital improvements		✓
Snow & ice control maintenance	✓	
Natural Area Preservation		
Stewardship & restoration		✓
Assessment/Monitoring & project review of City-owned natural areas, conservation easements, and ecological monitoring projects		✓
Environmental education coordination		✓
Outreach & volunteer coordination		✓
Prairie Restoration Activities		✓
Restoration of aquatic ecosystem		✓
Recreation Facilities		
Recreation Equipment (canoes, bikes, ice skates, kayaks, etc)		
Maintenance & repairs	✓	✓
Replacements & capital investments		✓
Facility Maintenance Equipment (zambonis, ice edgers, mowers, etc)		
Maintenance & repairs	✓	✓
Replacements & capital investments		✓
Mechanical Systems (furnaces, air conditioners, compressors, pool filtration systems, etc)		
Maintenance & repairs	✓	✓
Replacements & capital improvements		✓
Recreation Facility Structures (buildings, structures, plumbing systems, etc)		
Maintenance & repairs	✓	✓
Replacements & capital improvements		✓
Operational utility costs	✓	
General Park Capital Projects		
Improvements for park shelters, park structures, active parks, neighborhood parks & urban plazas, preservation of historic park amenities, & cemeteries		✓

Greenshields, Rachel

From: Derezinski, Tony
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2010 7:50 PM
To: tderezinski [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Gallup Park

From: Smith, Colin
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2010 9:50 AM
To: Derezinski, Tony
Subject: Gallup Park

Hi Tony -

Thanks for the call and question about Gallup Park.

Amy Kuras and I discussed the situation at some length and are in agreement that improvements regarding accessibility should definitely be considered for that portion of Gallup Park. A key experience at Gallup Park is being able to walk the circle trail around the river, and a wood-chipped portion of the trail limits that opportunity for potentially numerous users. Our assumption is that originally the paths were not paved as it might have been difficult to get asphalt equipment across the connecting bridges. Even if that is still problematic there are alternative solutions to increase accessibility, such as a slag composite that meets ADA standards and is wheelchair accessible.

On a related note, Parks has just started the process of design renovations for Gallup Livery, and one of the components to be addressed is increased accessibility at the facility. For example a barrier free dock for kayaks and canoes will be constructed and access improvements to the canoe livery and the docks will be implemented. So, the timing for improving accessibility on this portion of the trail is good and staff will add it to the CIP project list.

In general, one of the goals throughout the park system is to improve barrier free access, and in the last year improvements were made to the Kempf House and Buhr Pool and Ice Rink entrances, with sloped walkways that are used not only by people in wheelchairs, but those with strollers and other mobility issues.

Please let me know if you need any additional information or follow-up.

Thanks,
Colin

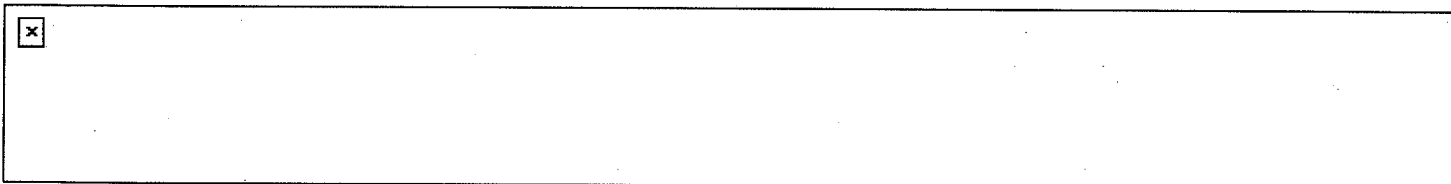
Colin Smith
Parks & Recreation Services Manager
City of Ann Arbor
734.794.6230 ext. 42500
www.a2gov.org/parks
www.a2golf.org
www.twitter.com/a2parks
www.facebook.com/annarborparks

Greenshields, Rachel

From: Congress.org [congressorg@capwiz.com]
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2010 7:48 PM
To: Hieftje, John
Subject: Activist Past Haunts O'Donnell's Bid

Get informed, get involved
Congress.org
This Week in Congress

September 20, 2010



Activist Past Haunts O'Donnell's Bid



Christine O'Donnell made the most fateful decision for her Senate campaign 16 years before she even ran for office.

It was shortly after college when the Delaware Republican embraced an identity aspiring politicians usually avoid: She became an activist.

Though political candidates often work closely with the activists who lobby them, the traits that lead to success in the two fields couldn't be any more different.

Activists are deliberately controversial because it gets them and their causes attention. Politicians do the opposite, choosing their words carefully so they don't alienate constituents.

Get on Your Soapbox

Want to make your voice heard concerning issues important to you? Get on your soapbox and make it happen! Our Soapbox feature allows you to give exposure to your issue and lets other Congress.org users take action on the alerts you create. Registered users are now allowed four free soapbox alerts per month!

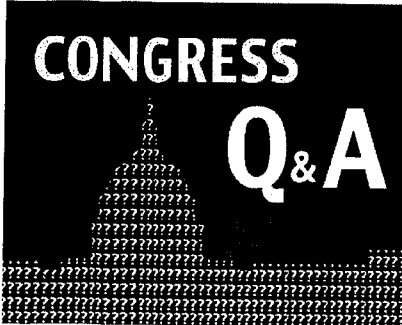
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Want to track votes cast by your Members of Congress? [Sign up](#) for our regular MegaVote newsletter.

Signed, Sealed, Hand-

[Read more about O'Donnell and other activists who run for office.](#)

Congress Q&A: Term Limits



Do you have a question about Congress?

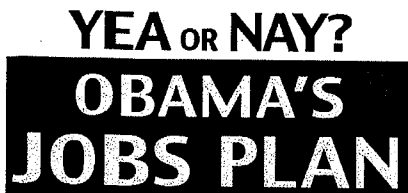
This week researcher Frances Symes answered a question about a chain e-mail which a reader received:

"What would be the process of forcing term limits on Congress?" — Laurel Gallegos, Grand Junction, Colo.

If you have a question you'd like answered, e-mail editor@congress.org. You can also post it on our [Facebook wall](#) or write [@congressorg](#) on Twitter. Please include your name and hometown.

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Tell Congress: Obama's Jobs Plan



President Obama's [latest jobs proposal](#) aims to do a lot more than boost the economy.

The \$50 billion investment in roads, railways and runways is just the first step in a large-scale

Delivered!

Did you know that you can have your message hand-delivered to the door of your Members of Congress? For a small fee, we can give your letter "Extra Impact" to help make your voice heard. Select that option when filling out your message on any topic.

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reform of the nation's transportation sector and accompany earmarks.

Now is the time to tell Congress what you think. Click to e-mail your lawmakers through Facebook:

[Support Obama's Jobs Proposal](#) or [Oppose Obama's Jobs Proposal](#)

You can also post a [virtual bumper sticker](#) on the issue on your wall.

If you do not wish to write through Facebook, you can send a letter through Congress.org instead:

[Support Obama's Jobs Proposal](#) or [Oppose Obama's Job Proposal](#)

On our last question, 52 percent of 887 Congress.org users wrote in favor of switching to a \$1 coin, while 48 percent wrote in favor of keeping the dollar bill.

[Follow Congress.org on Twitter to see the latest news.](#)

Don't Ask Vote Prompts Action



With just days to go until the vote on Don't Ask Don't Tell, advocates on both sides have launched intense campaigns.

Gay-rights activists and their opponents filed through the hallways of Senate buildings Thursday trying to convince members of their position. Some groups used phone calls and e-mails instead to engage activists around the country.

Time is running out for the activists, as the votes are expected to begin Tuesday. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) plans to include a repeal of the military's ban on openly gay Americans

as an amendment to the defense authorization bill.

But he has to go through a filibuster first, and Sen. John McCain has already promised to provide one.

[Read more about Don't Ask Don't Tell.](#)

Immigration Groups Plan Capitol Hill Blitz



Immigration groups are planning a seven-day activism blitz on the DREAM Act.

Most of the liberal groups involved in the fight attended a gathering on Capitol Hill Wednesday morning that was planned before Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) announced that the act would come up for a vote next week.

At the event, activists excitedly plotted out how to secure enough votes to pass the DREAM Act, which gives young immigrants who join the military or go to college a path to legalization.

Reid surprised the activists earlier last week when he announced that it would be part of the defense authorization bill.

[Read more about the DREAM Act.](#)

[A website about the U.S. Constitution relaunched last week.](#)

[Popular musician Lady Gaga continued her efforts to repeal Don't Ask Don't Tell.](#)

Some Tea Partyers have come out in opposition to the DREAM Act.

Abortion activists are targeting Republicans in Congress.

Congress has only a few weeks left to enact bills. Here's what they're considering.



Small Business Jobs and Credit Act of 2010

The Senate passed a bill that would provide for a variety of small-business tax provisions, including a revival of an expired bonus depreciation provision to allow companies to write off assets more quickly.

Vote: 61-38, 1 Not Voting. The bill now returns to the House.

Rural Energy Savings Program Act

The House passed a bill that would authorize \$5 billion over five years to create two energy efficiency loan programs.

Vote: 240-172, 21 Not Voting. The bill now goes to the Senate.

See how your representatives voted. [Sign up for our free weekly email.](#)

Eleven Thousand Fans Can't Be Wrong



This month, Congress.org added its 11,000th fan on Facebook.

Our community of users gets the latest news on Congress and national activism every time they log in to the world's most popular social networking site.

They can also write Members of Congress on the issue of the week through our new "Tell Congress" feature — in less than a minute.

So what are you waiting for? Go to facebook.com/congressorg and click the "Like" button" today!

If you know anyone who might be interested in this newsletter, please forward this email or [subscribe here](#).

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Greenshields, Rachel

From: Margaret Guire [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2010 7:32 PM
To: Kunselman, Stephen
Subject: Huron Hills


Dear Steve,

I have been quite concerned about the proposed alterations to the Huron Hills Golf Course. I have always supported park millages because I value our many oases in our city. Huron Hills is a beautiful treasure that deserves to remain as it is now. Please do not vote to sell off any part of it or subdivide it in any way. A lot of young people learn to play golf on that course because it's not too difficult nor is it too expensive. If Ann Arbor is hurting monetarily, then levee a city income tax, but don't ruin a beautiful asset.

Margaret Guire

Greenshields, Rachel

From: MBA Program [mbaprogram@treadbase.com]
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2010 7:27 PM
To: Hieftje, John
Subject: [POSSIBLE SPAM] Have MBA questions? We have answers
Importance: Low



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Greenshields, Rachel

From: immigration-coalition-owner@lists.riseup.net on behalf of createcoun@comcast.net
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2010 7:21 PM
To: immigration-coalition@lists.riseup.net
Subject: [immigration-coalition] Fwd: The American Dream

Dear WICIR,

Please sign to support the Dream Act. Thanks and Peace, Laur a

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "Change.org Weekly" <mail@change.org>
To: createcoun@comcast.net
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2010 4:55:54 PM
Subject: The American Dream; D.C. Dog Shooting; Cops for Marijuana

change.org *weekly*

September 13 - September 20

TOP ACTIONS THIS WEEK



A Vote on "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" is Imminent - Act Now

by Human Rights Campaign
Sign the Petition »



Support the Student Privacy Protection Act: Prevent unwanted release of student info to the military

by Kevin Haake
Sign the Petition »



Only We Can Stop the Tell

The American Dream

Plus: D.C. Dog Shooting • Cops for Marijuana • Whole Foods Greenwashing • Craigslist's Congressional Testimony • 44 Million Poor Americans

Obama: Protect America's Great Wilderness

by The Wilderness Society
Sign the Petition »

Dear Laura,

More than 60,000 students graduate from high school in America each year wanting nothing more than to be allowed to attend college or serve in the military. **But these students are denied their dreams because of something entirely outside of their control: their immigration status.**

Brought to the United States illegally as minors, often from countries they can't remember, these students have grown up in the U.S. and are American in every way except for their immigration documents. **Many are unaware of their undocumented status until they apply to college, and their parents give them the heartbreaking news that they have no Social Security number** - preventing them from obtaining student loans, joining the military, or legally getting a job.

These students include valedictorians, star athletes, and budding entrepreneurs. But because of decisions made by their parents long ago, they can't even get a job at McDonalds. Instead, **they are constantly threatened with the possibility of deportation to countries they've never known.**

This week we can change this with the passage of a single bill: the DREAM Act.

The DREAM Act would provide a pathway to citizenship for undocumented high school graduates through college attendance or military service. **For the past few years, tens of thousands of these students have built a grassroots movement on their own behalf - in part by using Change.org - to lobby Congress to be recognized as Americans in the country they love.** And their dream might finally be realized. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid has said that this week he will propose the DREAM Act as an amendment to the Defense Authorization Bill.

With the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the U.S. military has been forced to lower its standards for recruits, doing away with the high school diploma requirement and issuing "moral waivers" for convicted criminals. The DREAM Act would enable thousands of smart, committed, patriotic undocumented youth to serve their adopted country.

But the DREAM Act does not yet have the 60 votes needed to pass in the Senate. **These students have done everything they can to be accepted as full members of the country they call home; now they need your help.**

Stand with the President, military leaders like Colin Powell, and the 70% of Americans who support the DREAM Act. Our country will be more just, fair, and secure with this legislation passed.

For more information about how you can get involved, click here. And for more news and commentary from the world of change this week, see the summaries below.



D.C. Dog Shooting in ANIMALS

At a crowded Washington, D.C. festival last weekend, a police officer pinned down a dog who had already been restrained. The officer then threw the dog down a concrete stairwell, pulled out his weapon and shot him. Join the more than 5,000 Change.org community members who have taken action against this excessive use of force. D.C. police need to conduct a full investigation of the shooting and adopt new policies to protect other dogs from suffering the same fate, which happens to thousands of dogs at the hands of police each year.

Read more »



Cops for Marijuana in CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Dozens of retired California law enforcement officers this week came out in strong support of Proposition 19, which would legalize marijuana for adult use -- and there was not a ponytail or Bob Marley t-shirt in sight. As the former judges, prosecutors and cops argued, legalizing pot isn't just about the freedom to get high, it's about making our streets safer by taking away the single greatest source of revenue for organized crime. [Read more »](#)



Whole Foods Greenwashing in SUSTAINABLE FOOD

Whole Foods recently partnered with the Blue Ocean Institute and Monterey Bay Aquarium to implement sustainability labels for its seafood. But instead of using this information to avoid selling threatened fish, the company is instead just adding new colored labels and continuing to sell endangered fish. It says that it will stop selling "red-rated" fish by 2013. But endangered fish can't wait that long. [Read more »](#)



Craigslist's Congressional Testimony in END HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Leading anti-trafficking experts and a representative from Craigslist testified before Congress last week on child sex trafficking in America. It was Craigslist's first public statement since abruptly blocking its controversial "adult services" section due to advertisements for trafficking victims, and the company made it clear that adult services are permanently gone from its U.S. site. But the company said it won't be removing the erotic services sections on the 250 country sites it operates. In less than a week, over 7,000 people on Change.org have signed a petition calling for the full removal of human trafficking advertisements from these international sites, and won't be giving up anytime soon. [Read more »](#)



44 Million Poor Americans in POVERTY IN AMERICA

Last week the Census Bureau released the new poverty statistics for 2009. They were better than expected but that's not saying much, writes Poverty in America blogger Brittany Shoot. Almost 44 million Americans are now poor, the highest number since the government began keeping track in 1959. The poverty rate of 14.3 percent is the highest since 1994. More than a quarter of all blacks and Hispanics live in poverty, as do more than one in five children. And so on. The numbers prove that this recession is causing larger demographic changes than any in history. [Read more »](#)

Have a great week,

– The **Change.org** Team

This email was sent by Change.org to createcoun@comcast.net
Unsubscribe from future weekly updates. Edit your email notification settings.

Greenshields, Rachel

From: Darryl H. Daniels [darryl@jacobsendaniels.com]
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2010 7:12 PM
To: Elizabeth Parkinson
Cc: Dick Beedon; Michael Korybalski; Bogan, Kenneth; Crawford, Tom; Lisa Kurek; Mark Maynard; Phil Tepley; Rapundalo, Stephen; Skip Simms; Theresa Carroll; brian@ypsilantidda.org; fmcnullan@cityofypsilanti.com; Greg Fronizer; KurtRiegger@gmail.com; Skip Simms
Subject: Re: September 21, 2010 LDFA Board Meeting Agenda Packet

I will be unavailable.

darryl daniels, aia
managing partner
jacobsendaniels associates

detroit - chicago - new orleans - cleveland - louisville

(see what's new at www.jacobsendaniels.com)

On Sep 20, 2010, at 5:48 PM, "Elizabeth Parkinson" <Elizabeth@annarborusa.org> wrote:

Dick, we'll call you. What # do you want us to call you on? Does anyone else need to call into the meeting?

Thanks.

Elizabeth Parkinson

VP Marketing and Communications

Ann Arbor SPARK

Cell: (734) 330-1383

Office: (734) 821-0070

ABOUT ANN ARBOR SPARK Ann Arbor SPARK, a non-profit organization, is the driving force in establishing the Ann Arbor region as a destination for business expansion, retention, and location by identifying and meeting the needs of business at every stage, from startups to large organizations. Ann Arbor SPARK represents all communities in the Washtenaw County. Ann Arbor SPARK collaborates with business, academic, government, and community investor partners including the University of Michigan, Eastern Michigan University, Washtenaw Community College, Michigan Works!/ETCS, Washtenaw County, the City of Ann Arbor, the Bank of Ann Arbor and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

From: Dick Beedon [mailto:rbeedon@macbeedon.com]
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2010 5:40 PM
To: 'Michael Korybalski'; 'Bogan, Kenneth'
Cc: 'Crawford, Tom'; darryl@jacobsendaniels.com; 'Lisa Kurek'; 'Mark Maynard'; 'Phil Tepley'; 'Rapundalo, Stephen'; 'Roselyn Zator'; Skip Simms; 'Theresa Carroll'; brian@ypsilantidda.org; 'Edward Vielmetti'; Elizabeth Parkinson; fmcnullan@cityofypsilanti.com; Greg Fronizer; 'King, Richard'; KurtRiegger [REDACTED] Michael Finney; 'Pollay, Susan'; rriesser@picometrix.com; Skip Simms
Subject: RE: September 21, 2010 LDFA Board Meeting Agenda Packet

I am sorry for the late email but I will not make it either. Is there a call in ##?

From: Michael Korybalski [mailto:michael@korybalski.com]
Sent: Saturday, September 18, 2010 6:34 AM
To: Bogan, Kenneth
Cc: Crawford, Tom; darryl@jacobsendaniels.com; Lisa Kurek; Mark Maynard; Phil Tepley; Rapundalo, Stephen; Richard Beedon; Roselyn Zator; Skip Simms; Theresa Carroll; brian@ypsilantidda.org; Edward Vielmetti; Elizabeth@annarborspark.org; fmcnullan@cityofypsilanti.com; Greg Fronizer; King, Richard; KurtRiegger [REDACTED] michaelfinney@annarborspark.org; Pollay, Susan; rriesser@picometrix.com; skip@annarborspark.org
Subject: Re: September 21, 2010 LDFA Board Meeting Agenda Packet

I will not be at the meeting on Tuesday.

Mike Korybalski

On 9/17/2010 2:41 PM, Bogan, Kenneth wrote:

Attached is the agenda packet for next Tuesday's board meeting.

Kenneth J. Bogan, Senior Finance Specialist/Internal Auditor

City of Ann Arbor

(734) 794-6500 x45102

Greenshields, Rachel

From: Betsy de Parry [betsydeparry [REDACTED]]
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2010 7:11 PM
To: Hieftje, John
Subject: Fwd: Please read.....

Mayor Hieftje - Sorry, I was typing too fast and misspelled your name the first time around. My apologies. Betsy

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Betsy de Parry <betsydeparry [REDACTED]>
Date: Mon, Sep 20, 2010 at 7:06 PM
Subject: Please read.....
To: JHieftje@a2gov.org, SSmith@a2gov.org, SRapundalo@a2gov.org, TDerezinski@a2gov.org,
SKunselman@a2gov.org, CTaylor@a2gov.org, MHiggins@a2gov.org, MTeall@a2gov.org, MAnglin@a2gov.org,
CHohnke@a2gov.org
Cc: Alex de Parry <fifthavenuecommunities@gmail.com>

Daer Mayor Heiftje and Council Members,

Alex flew out of town today to attend a business meeting that has been scheduled for months. I tried to get on the agenda but was bumped by people speaking on agenda items.

What I had hoped to say first was thank you for your time, effort and patience throughout the long and often spirited debate on the future of the 400 block of South Fifth Avenue. Alex and I are very appreciative.

I had also hoped to ask you please to bring forward and support a resolution for Heritage Row to be reconsidered at a later date to be determined by Council. The timing of this is critical because of the necessary lead time for a May 2011 construction start. If brought back tonight for later reconsideration, that at least keeps the door open to make any final changes to Heritage Row that might garner enough support and thus possibly save the houses.

As I said at the caucus last night - and had hoped to say to you tonight - every person who participated in the discussions that led Alex to pursue Heritage Row can be proud that their efforts put him on the path to saving the houses. I think we can all agree that there have been times in every one of our lives that we haven't seen the forest for the trees, and it takes others to help us see. Heritage Row is a perfect example of that. A year and 8 months ago, neighbors and other interested citizens proposed we save the houses and add new buildings behind them, something Alex simply had not thought of. We applaud their efforts that have brought us so far and so close to saving them.

With so much input, there are many differing opinions and priorities and it would be impossible for any project to please every individual 100%, and so Heritage Row has been a series of compromises - but the single driving goal on which everyone agreed was that the houses should be saved.

Alex has continued to make compromises hoping that they would bring Heritage Row back for your consideration. He has agreed to the following changes in the Development Agreement and Supplemental Regulations:

- clarification that the number of bedrooms is 154 and the number of units is 79
- application for LEED certification for the new buildings and underground parking structure
- inclusion of 6 units for those earning 50% of less of AMI
- and reducing the height of the rear buildings by 2 feet

No one has responded to these changes. We are thus at a crossroads because of the lead time necessary to prepare for actual construction. I therefore ask you to take this opportunity tonight to bring Heritage Row back for reconsideration so that everyone has an opportunity to work out any final compromises that can be found. I ask this for the sake of Ann Arbor's heritage and for the many constituents who have worked so hard to preserve it.

Thank you,

Betsy de Parry