

To my representatives on the Council,

As you may already know, I have offered my legal services for free to mediate the dispute created by the City Council when it failed to honor its agreement with Waterford Township. To date, I have not heard from any of you regarding this offer - either to accept it or to reject it.

From my 4 years on the Council, I was never clear as to why the Council wanted to reject an agreement that yielded so much benefit at no cost to the City. If it was for the money, the amount of additional tax money coming to us is paltry. If it was for annexation reasons, we have 530 acres of land for annexation on the west side of Northfield. It always struck me as an act of aggression and bullying because I could think of no other reason for treating our neighbors, friends, and even family, so shabbily, and so dishonorably.

This dispute is a negative sum game. There are no additional monies to be had; there is no additional land to be made or produced. The only people making money are the attorneys - and they are doing it using our tax dollars - NOT THE COUNCIL'S MONEY, the PEOPLE'S MONEY. And, yes, I am shouting at you to use common sense.

The Council's actions have hurt Waterford Township and every single citizen in it. Waterford is 1/40th the size of Northfield. Put into perspective, if Northfield has a claimed outstanding bill of \$40,000.00, that same amount is equivalent to \$1,600,000.00 to Waterford.

These people that you are hurting are my friends. They go to the same churches, the same library, the same schools, the same restaurants, and they grow the food that we eat. In many cases, there are members of families on both sides of this civil war that the Council started. In the view of many, including me, this war could aptly be called, the War of Northfield Aggression. In more moderate terms, it could be referred to as the Case of Northfield Bullying. The fact that the law may permit our acts of aggression and/or bullying does not morally justify how our neighbors are being treated by the Council.

I am sure that you are aware that there are movements underfoot to try stop future acts of aggression by Northfield. I have encouraged all of my township neighbors to not attend the Intergovernmental meetings. What purpose is served attending such meetings if Northfield is unwilling to honor its agreements?

I feel compelled by the Christian ideal of "love thy neighbor", by my past experience on the Council, and by my legal experience to beg, plead, and warn you of the harm that the Council is causing Waterford and the harm the Council is causing to Northfield, and its reputation. In any of my capacities, I cannot stand by while my representatives allow this to happen.

I offer my services for free so you can see that my involvement is real, heartfelt, and without promise of any reward. Because it is mediation, there would be nothing binding on either side. I have already received a warm reception from the Waterford town supervisors when I attended

their meeting and made this offer. There is nothing to lose, and much that could possibly be gained.

I make only one request - that if you decide that Chris Hood will attend the mediation, that he will not be allowed to speak for the Council, and that the Council not speak with him on what course of action to pursue. You represent the people, not he. It was his advice that created this controversy; he stands to gain the most if the litigation continues; and, he has no vested interest in settlement.

I thank you for your consideration. I am hopeful that my intervention can save money, repair the relationship, and restore integrity to the Council. I request an answer from each of you individually, and not as a collective group. I have copied KYMN Radio and the Northfield News with the expectation that they will hold you accountable for a response.

A friend of Northfield,
A friend of Waterford,
A believer in justice and fairness,
David Ludescher

P.S. I encourage all of those whom I have blind copied to share this with your Waterford friends, and all surrounding townships residents. I encourage my Northfield friends to do the same. Perhaps with citizen participation, we can encourage a resolution short of lining the pockets of the attorneys. ;-)

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