

10/28/2008 JCC BOS Public Comment #1

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Members of the Board, Mr. Goodson,

As I see it, it comes as no surprise that Chairman Goodson quickly moved to abolish the James City County - Code of Ethics (COE) at the last Supervisor's meeting for he is one of the most flagrant violators of this policy.

Mr. Goodson has repeatedly ignored violations of this policy and the public's trust that it was created to protect. It has become politically intolerable and embarrassing for Mr. Goodson to be repeatedly called to task about his many violations and the violations resulting from the appointment of Mr. Chris Henderson to our Planning Commission.

Mr. Goodson realizing that this was a problem chose to address these concerns by acting as both Judge and Jury and summarily dismissing all accusations against himself and his fellow Republicans. This in itself was a violation of the COE and the public's trust. Don't be surprised if Mr. Goodson and others next try to eliminate Public Comment at our Board and Commission meetings to avoid confrontation on their unethical behavior.

For me, this is not partisan politics; this is about trust, integrity and the future of OUR community.

I first became distressed when I learned that the results of last November's James City County Board of Supervisors elections were fraudulently manipulated by the James City County Republican Committee then under the direction of Mr. Chris Henderson.

The fraud committed was the advancement of a controlled growth platform by the JCCRC out the front door, while at the same time laundering campaign contributions from major developers through the back door. This deceitful act hid from the voters nearly \$20,000 of campaign contributions to the Republican candidates by developers. By funneling these funds through the JCCRC this information was not available until long after the election was decided. Hard as it is to believe, this also allowed the candidates to claim that they did not know the source of these extraordinary funds to their campaigns. With such a record of unethical behavior, just who do you think the Board of Supervisors majority is beholden too; Is it the citizens of JCC, or the developer's interests that financed their campaigns?

Mr. Henderson himself a commercial Real Estate Agent and Developer, contributed \$6000 to the Republican candidates. In his own words, Mr. Henderson waited for 8 years for a seat on the Planning Commission and for 8 years was never selected. It was only after the Republicans whose campaigns he helped deceitfully finance took control that he was immediately appointed to a position on this powerful Commission. Similarly, Mr. Reese Peck, a former vice-chair in the JCCRC was appointed to the other vacant Planning Commission seat.

Integrity is painfully absent in the actions of the majority party controlling our Board of Supervisors and to suggest abolishing the COE is just another example of violating the public's trust. The Republicans are trampling on and tripping over the COE and their answer to this is to abolish the COE. As with the appointment of Mr. Henderson to the PC, this all would be "legal", but entirely unethical. What JCC and the JCCRC need are ethical representatives on our Boards, Commissions and Committees, unlike the likes of Mr. Goodson and Mr. Henderson. The current state of affairs certainly does not instill any confidence of integrity by our current Board of Supervisors in me and I will continue to speak out against this behavior at public comment and on my website, James City Citizens for Ethical Government – jccgov.org. More about my concerns and the many ethics violations by the Republican members of our Board of Supervisors and Mr. Henderson can be found there.