



Portsmouth Municipal Court

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Judge Richard Schisler
Judge Russell D. Kegley

R. Leroy Kegley, Clerk

July 6, 2006

Bob Mollette
3rd Ward Councilman
1705 Franklin Blvd.
Portsmouth, OH 45662

Dear Mr. Mollette:

I am in receipt of your letter dated June 30, 2006. While your interest is noted, one cannot help but wonder how you have not noticed that we have had an ongoing community service program that for years has performed the work around the city and county that the legislative bodies have been unwilling to fund. In fact, we have performed so much work in the city that our community service workers have been accosted by city employees who accuse them of taking their or their colleagues' jobs.

For all of the time that I have been on this bench, we have provided community service workers to the city and county. Our probation department works hand-in-hand with the executive branches of the city and county to clean up long-blighted areas. One need only to have read the paper in the last year to know that we have been involved in several projects that have garnered publicity. All of this has been accomplished without a shred of assistance from City Council. You have refused to provide a penny in funding to our probation department. Our probation staff has to work under incredible pressure and strain because, after I arrived, the court could not fill two vacancies because you **give our probation department NO funds whatsoever**. Even though this court in the last several years has consistently provided the city with increasing revenues and services and consistently reduced costs to the city, the city council will not consider supplying us with much needed employees. In fact, although we need three more employees in our clerk's office and two more in our probation department, we have been asked to eliminate positions. Certainly, we could provide even more services to the community if we had those employees.

Again, while your interest is noted, one is compelled to ask why you do not turn your attention and efforts to the serious needs of the city. The city building and the controversy surrounding it, much of which you have helped foster, is an embarrassment to this city, its citizens and this court; yet, you fiddle away at duplicative efforts while the fire burns around us. Everyday, we work in an environment where asbestos floats down among us. Large chunks of plaster and ceiling tiles fall on a regular basis. It is not unusual to have five trash cans catching water on a rainy day – in the second floor hallway alone. It has become quite apparent to us who work here everyday that you, who do not work here everyday, not only do not have the urgency necessary on this issue, you have no urgency at all. After several years, decades of Council's dawdling and neglect of the building, your proposed solution is to study the matter further. Two months after the referendum and you have put forth not one concrete proposal to end this deplorable episode.

Your thoughts, although already put into action, are appreciated. Please, now consider helping to fund this court at the proper levels and providing us with an appropriate, safe and clean work space. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Kegley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Russell D. Kegley, Judge

cc: Jim Kalb, Mayor
Council members
Jo Ann Aeh, City Clerk