

Bob Mollette

3rd Ward Councilman

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Correspondence#: 07-034

March 20, 2007

Howard Baughman, Council President
728 Second Street
Portsmouth, Ohio 45662

Re: Direction for the City of Portsmouth, Ohio

The City of Portsmouth must establish a *plan* for our future and seize challenges as opportunities to move forward as a community. Council must create a paradigm shift to inform the public and encourage involvement. I am perplexed by the outrageous behavior and the false accusations made by our Police Chief and supported by our Mayor. These accusations are an attempt to unjustifiably question my integrity and discredit my website www.mollette.info. I am frustrated by the documented uncontrolled poor conduct by our elected and appointed officials during our City Council meetings. This type of poor conduct and total lack of control has encouraged the “*circus sideshow*” atmosphere that hampers our future.

City Council must take control of our destiny and encourage a *plan* for our future. There are many challenges facing our community and I am positive by maintaining a questioning attitude and involving the public we will meet those challenges. We must find ways to create an environment that encourages public involvement. Our City government must maintain clear communication and transparent managing to encourage accountability. This will only occur if citizens are well informed and believe their opinion matters. As elected officials, we must not *fear* the public. We must encourage and involve the public to gain commitment for a *plan* with prioritized achievable goals.

City Council must create a paradigm shift to inform and involve the public. I am guided by the fact I am a servant and not a ruler. I still believe the best opportunity to inform the public exists with replaying City Council meetings on Time Warner Cable Television. I have been pleased with the fair and balanced reporting of City Council Meetings by the Portsmouth Daily Times. I wish to thank the Portsmouth Daily Times for raising expectations of our City government by reporting disruptive actions of those involved; this will encourage positive change. I also feel our community would significantly benefit by allowing the public to testify, pro or con, on proposed legislation affecting our City during the Work Conference Sessions. The City of Portsmouth’s government website www.portsmouth.oh.us.index.html should be updated to include all public records that are presented to Council prior to meetings and passed legislation; examples include proposed Ordinances, Council Letters, legislation etc. The City website should create an environment of easy access for elected officials by including electronic mail and phone numbers.

At the March 12, 2007 Work Conference Session the Council President permitted an outrageous display of behavior and threatening accusations by our Police Chief involving me and my website www.mollette.info. This behavior disrupted an official meeting and attempted to intimidate me and others from participating in a public forum. False statements made by our Police Chief implied I deliberately published a *confidential* document to the public through my website www.mollette.info. The document in question is Council Letter No. 07-16 and was listed on the Agenda for public discussion at the March 12, 2007 Work Conference Session. Just to clarify, I have published the City Council Packet on my website www.mollette.info for the last two (2) years. The public records include documents for the Legislative portion of the meeting and the Work Conference Session.

My website www.mollette.info provides open public access and encourages involvement. If Council Letter No 07-16 is considered *confidential* it should have been stamped appropriately for proper handling. A simple suggestion could have been made to remove this item from the agenda to avoid discussion; no attempt was made to directly contact me prior to the public meeting. Keep in mind, I have received documents stamped *confidential* in the past and although I disagreed with the classification, I did not post the material. I have enclosed a diagram to address other outrageous false remarks made by our Police Chief. This diagram will help to explain the inaccurate remarks and implied wrongdoing made by our Police Chief concerning the nature of my website, www.mollette.info, as it relates to Teresa's website www.portsmouthcitizens.info/blog, my public record data storage space on the World Wide Web www.portsmouthcitizens.info, and the *domain name* dougdeepe.com.

I raise objections to the false accusations implied by our Police Chief and supported by our Mayor. I assure you, I welcome any investigation by Council for ending such conduct by elected officials and for raising expectations. All I request is adequate time to allow proper representation and notification of witnesses, as needed. Keep in mind; there are many examples of bad conduct to discuss including actions and inactions of appointed or elected officials. I expect the disruptions at official meetings, the intimidation tactics, and the disrespect shown by elected and appointed officials to cease.


The "*circus sideshow*" atmosphere and reputation can only be contributed to the continued uncontrolled poor conduct by our elected and appointed officials during public meetings. Let me make myself clear, the problem is not the reporting of poor conduct, it is the poor conduct itself. Accurate reporting will support accountability and transparency of our City government. Keep in mind, *public* debate is healthy and required by the Ohio Sunshine Laws. Intimidation suppresses public debate and is unlawful, unprofessional, unwarranted, and unacceptable. The only thing I am guilty of is doing my job.

I am honored to be an advocate and representative on City Council for the citizens of the 3rd Ward. The City of Portsmouth has many challenges ahead and I am positive we will meet those challenges by maintaining an informed public with a responsive, transparent, and accountable City government.

"Know the true value of time; snatch, seize, and enjoy every moment of it. No idleness, no laziness, no procrastination; never put off till tomorrow what you can do today." - *Lord Chesterfield*

If you should have any additional comments, contact me.

Respectfully,



Bob Mollette, 3rd Ward Advocate and Representative on City Council

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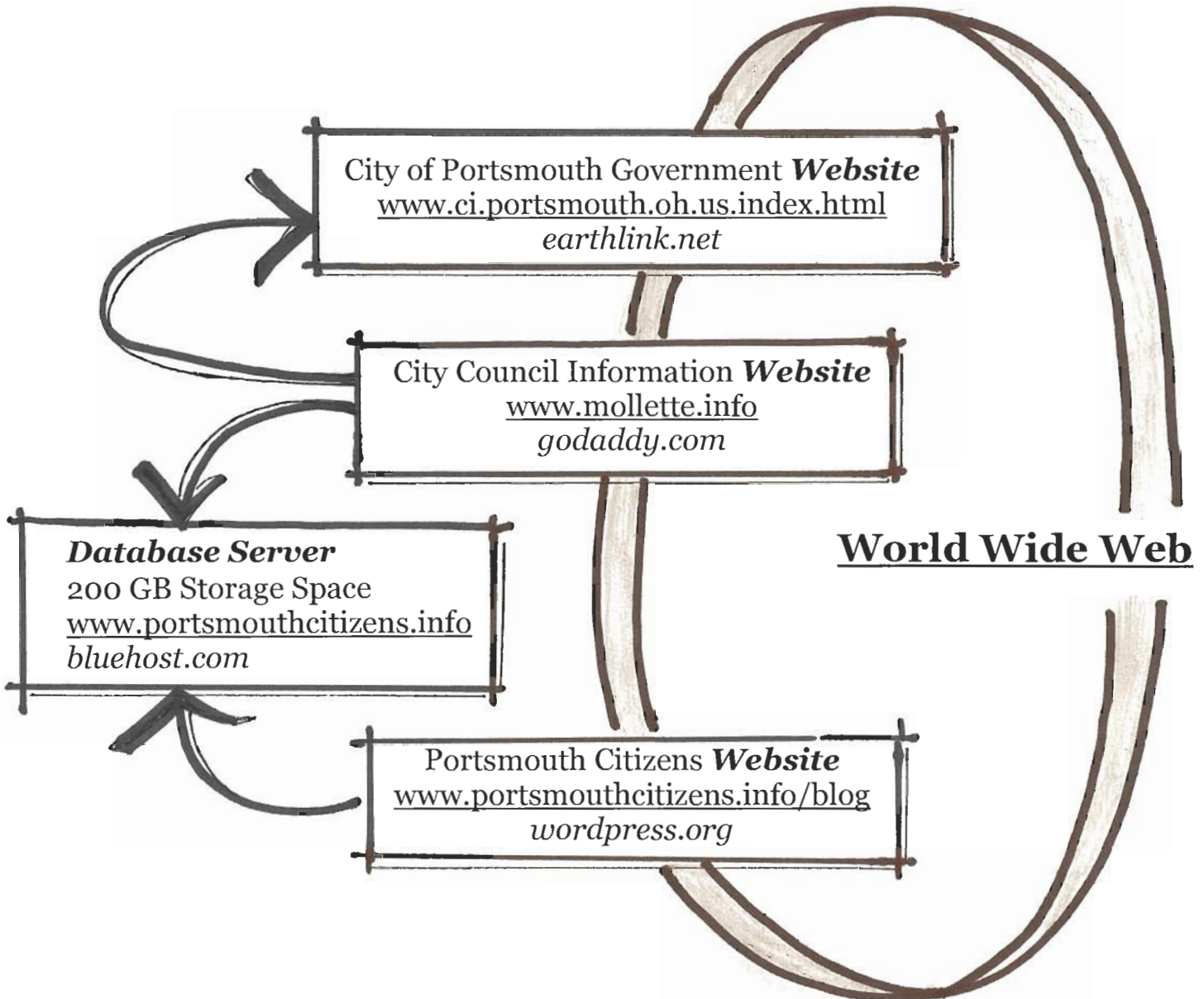
Enclosure

cc: Honorable Council Members
David Kuhn, Solicitor
Jim Kalb, Mayor
Charles Horner, Police Chief
Trent Williams, Auditor
Portsmouth Daily Times
Joe Griffith, *Dagger, Johnson, Miller, Ogilvie & Hampson LLP*
Jo Ann Aeh, Clerk (Record)

World Wide Web

A system of Internet servers that support specially formatted documents. The documents are formatted in a markup language called HTML (*HyperText Markup Language*) that supports links to other documents, as well as graphics, audio, and video files. This means you can jump from one document to another simply by clicking on hot spots. Not all Internet servers are part of the World Wide Web.

A **website** (or **Web site**) is a collection of web pages, images, videos and other digital assets and hosted on a particular domain or subdomain on the World Wide Web.



dougdeepe.com is a *domain name*. A *domain name* is an address on the World Wide Web. The *website* and *domain name* was owned by John Welton until October 2006 when both expired. Teresa purchased the *domain name* in October 2006 through godaddy.com for ten (\$10) after the domain name (address) was available on the World Wide Web. The *website* remains **expired**.