



**JAMES D. KALB**  
MAYOR

**CITY OF PORTSMOUTH**  
**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

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May 12, 2008

Bob Mollette  
Third Ward Councilman  
1705 Franklin Avenue  
Portsmouth, Ohio 45662

RE: Correspondence Number 08-016  
2008 Capital Improvement Budget for 2008 (sic)

Dear Mr. Mollette,

I beg to differ with your first two paragraphs of the above mentioned correspondence that we need a "plan". In fact, we are in the middle of a 5 / 10 year plan. Without listing everything we are currently working on to prepare for the future, I will name a few: Ameresco, Miex, Wastewater plant upgrades, Police Department equipment and technology improvements, Community Development downtown revitalization, new city office facilities, Fire Department building and equipment upgrades, Service Department trash compactor trucks and large machinery (replacements), Health Department expansion of programs, and virtually every department is working within a long-term plan.

Of course all of these plans require funding. My plan involves improving the City to attract business, residents and tourists, which are necessary to increase revenues. We have implemented programs to improve our neighborhoods, make investments to cut our expenses, educate employees to reduce injuries, encourage good health habits and to reduce healthcare costs, restructure departments for increased efficiency, etc.

What is your plan? Please advise what you are doing as Councilman to prepare the City for the future.



May 12, 2008  
Robert Mollette  
Page Two

The last part of your correspondence 'preamble' that I'll address is your ongoing accusations of violations of the Sunshine Laws. I have never asked for any "deliberation by Council members outside of the public's view." What I did ask is that Council members ask questions, get answers and be prepared to have an informed discussion in public meetings, and make educated votes on important issues. Would you want any less? I have yet to see any law stating that one elected official is prohibited from asking another elected official for information. If you are aware of a law that would impair the fact-gathering ability of any elected official, please advise.

Your specific questions are asking for descriptions, timelines and intended uses, status reports and evaluations. Many of your questions require much more than a simple answer and require more of a narrative. Therefore, you may direct all of your questions to my department heads at the Council meeting. They will be available, as they were at the last Council meeting.

Regards,

  
James D. Kalb, Mayor  
City of Portsmouth

cc: Honorable Council Members  
Trent Williams, Auditor  
Mike Jones, Solicitor  
Jo Ann Aeh, Clerk

JDK/wjj