

Friends of Bill Lynn
1935 Walling Ct.
Davenport, IA 52803

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5th Ward Meeting *with* ***Alderman Bill Lynn***



Tuesday, March 6, at 6:00 p.m.

Adler Education Center, 1236 E. Rusholme
in the Genesis Heart Institute Building

Paid for by Friends of Bill Lynn

Let's Keep in touch!

You can reach me

Phone: 326-3359

1935 Walling Court

Cell: 563-320-3675

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E-mail: Bill@ProfBillLynn.com

www.ProfBillLynn.com

Or just come to one of the quarterly ward meetings.

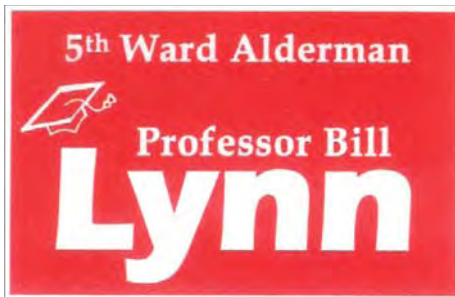
How can I reach you?

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail _____

___ Please e-mail my future newsletters (Please return this form or e-mail me. Thanks.)



TIME JUST GETS AWAY FROM ME

As I begin the writing of this newsletter, I want to apologize for the lateness. A very demanding work schedule this semester at the University has made it difficult for me to get the newsletter out.

Because of work, the council, and the season during the month of December, I may have missed some of your calls and I **apologize** for that.

POSITIVE ECONOMIC NEWS

Five Hundred Jobs Coming to Davenport

The biggest story must be the decision of **Cingular** to locate a Call Center in Davenport. A new building will be built near 53rd and Elmore. The company plans on completing the building by July, and will begin operations shortly thereafter. The company should be hiring soon to begin training for these good jobs.

Industrial Park

Over the last year we have had **three companies locate** in the industrial park. Most recently we have had a local company expand operations, and they will be building in the park. All of these companies provide good jobs and are important to our economic future.

Tenant for Freight House

Penguins Comedy Club will be moving into the Freight House downtown. They will pay \$38,000 per year in lease payments as well as the property taxes on the building. They have also committed in the contract to spend \$500,000 to renovate the building. In exchange for use of part of the building, the city will make some exterior improvements. Some council members felt it obligated us to large amounts of spending, but I do not see that it does. I opposed the original proposal that would have committed the city to over \$500,000 in spending. I will oppose large expenditures on the building, as I believe they should be done by private investors **not taxpayers**.

Great News in the Village of East Davenport

In January the Village of East Davenport made a presentation to over 100 interested persons explaining the vision that the **Merchant and Property Owner Committee** had developed for the Village. At this meeting they asked for volunteers to work on their subcommittees. Many people volunteered. Since that well-publicized meeting, **six new businesses** have committed to opening in the Village. I am very optimistic that things will begin to show improvement in the Village very soon. **Many hours of time were donated** to help the Village reach this point, and I want to **thank all of those people**. I am very happy I was able to be a part of this.

Three Business Openings in 5th Ward

The USA Café has opened on Locust where Johnny's was previously. The **Hilltop Diner** has opened on Harrison, just south of 16th Street. The **Dollar General Store** has opened in the building next to Save-A-Lot. Hopefully this means an economic revival in our neighborhood and I hope you will patronize these local businesses.

I do believe we are making progress in the economic development area, but much more needs to be done. We must create more businesses and jobs in the private sector. I have repeatedly said we must grow our way out of these problems. Our population is stagnant and has not really changed in 30 years. I believe you must begin to develop more businesses before you can grow your economy, and these businesses should be locally owned. It is nice to attract a company like Cingular, but we simply can't attract enough. Most of the job growth in this country is in small businesses, so we must grow these businesses.

CRIME

Unfortunately in every newsletter I am compelled to discuss crime in our city, and I know it comes as no surprise to many of you that we have a crime problem. Since I have been alderman, I have brought this to the council's attention. They have repeatedly denied it, but finally the council has been awakened to the fact that we have a serious problem. Based on FBI statistics, our crime rate is **about 60% above the national average**, and it is growing faster than the national average. This high crime rate has a negative impact on property values and business development.

Is There a Police Shortage?

Ever since I have been on the council, I have been told that we do not have enough police. Recently I announced I would study that issue and provide a report. I have obtained some preliminary information. Based on comparisons to other cities in Iowa and Illinois, we have about the average number of police per capita and three times more civilian employees in the police department per capita as other cities. Many cities actually have fewer police and much lower crime rates. I believe we must ask **why this is true**. A copy of the study is on my website (www.ProfBillLynn.com).

Proposed Solutions to Crime Problem

First, it is proposed that the solution is to **add more police**. It is often assumed in government that if there is a problem the obvious answer is to spend more money. I have often found that that is not the solution; because if you are not using your resources well, spending more money will not solve the problem.

I believe we need to ask the question, **why we don't seem to be able to get results** with the resources we have? As I indicated earlier, the population of Davenport has not changed for about 30 years, but the police department has grown significantly. So, why has the crime rate increased so much? We have supposedly civilianized police jobs, we have only about 68 patrol officers out of a total of about 170 officers, and response time is slower. I think we need to look at this situation carefully before throwing money at the problem.

Second, recently I was told that one explanation for our high crime rate is that **we are not gathering the statistics correctly** and that **we are going to change our method** of collecting this information. While this may be true, there is still a serious problem with slow response in parts of the ward, and this **can't be explained** by the fact we are not keeping the statistics correctly.

Guardian Angels Public Meeting

In an attempt to help decrease the city's crime problem, I announced last fall that I would be inviting the Guardian Angels to Davenport to help us establish a chapter. **On March 9-11 Curtis Sliwa with the Guardian Angels will be in town** for a presentation and to begin the development of a Davenport chapter. **Mr. Sliwa** will hold a public informational meeting on **Saturday, March 10** (time and place to be announced). If you want more information about the Guardian Angels, please go to their website (www.guardianangel.org).

RED LIGHT CAMERA ISSUE

Red light cameras have been a big issue recently in Davenport. In a law suit the judge ruled that our fine structure was **inconsistent** with the states fine structure, and that we were not reporting these tickets to the state. He **did not say** they were **unconstitutional**. According to the police chief, the cameras **have reduced accidents significantly** at the intersections where they are used, and **overall accidents are down** in the city. I do not believe that the cameras were used for revenue generation, because after paying expenses they are not really generating much revenue (although there is more than we anticipated).

RED LIGHT CAMERA ISSUE (continued)

I have some concerns about the 'big brother' issue that many of you have expressed to me. I do believe that eventually most cities will have these, but I have spoken to some people and there is no consensus on this. Many oppose and many favor the cameras. **Your comments would be appreciated.**

CITY BUDGET -- NOT WHAT I HAD HOPED FOR

We are in the process of determining the budget for the next fiscal year beginning in July. As some of you may remember a few months ago, it was reported that the city was running a surplus. I had predicted this would happen last year. There is no reason the city could not provide some fee or tax cuts in this budget, but **that was not even considered.** The city simply decided to spend the extra money and expand staff. There was **no consideration** of reducing or eliminating the storm water fee, but with the current level of revenues **it could have been done.**

There was very **limited discussion on the budget**, and we only had one work session. We **added expenditures by resolution** instead of discussing it in the larger budget discussion. This is no way to make a budget. Even though there is no tax increase, I believe the process was not followed properly. I believe the citizens of the city should ask **why no fee or tax cuts** were considered, **why public discussion was shortened** so much, and **why some aldermen were not included** in the process? It appears certain there will be a small sewer rate increase.

ABANDONED VEHICLES

Many of you have reported abandoned vehicles in your neighborhoods. Several have been removed. Please continue to provide information to me. Also keep me informed on any abandoned shopping carts. I will see to it they are picked up. Please call: **563-320-3675.**

SPRING CLEANUP TIME JUST AROUND THE CORNER

We are moving into spring, and that is a good time for neighborhoods to do cleanups. If you need dumpsters for a cleanup in your neighborhood, please let me know (**563-320-3675**).

YOUR SUPPORT IS APPRECIATED

Thank you to all who have given contributions towards financing this newsletter. Your support is greatly appreciated, as I would not be able to continue it without all of your contributions. As you know, I **will not use** city money to publish this newsletter. If you can make a contribution, no matter how small, it would be greatly appreciated (please do not send cash—make checks payable to *Friends of Bill Lynn*). I also appreciate my wife and son assisting me with this newsletter—their assistance helps keep the cost down.

NEXT WARD MEETING

There is a Fifth Ward meeting this **Tuesday, March 6 at 6:00 p.m.** at the **Adler Education Center** in the **Genesis Heart Institute** at **1236 East Rusholme Street, Davenport.**

Hope to see you Tuesday night!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Lynn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.