

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

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5th Ward Meeting

with
Alderman Bill Lynn



Tuesday, July 17, 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

Cell Phone: 563-320-3675

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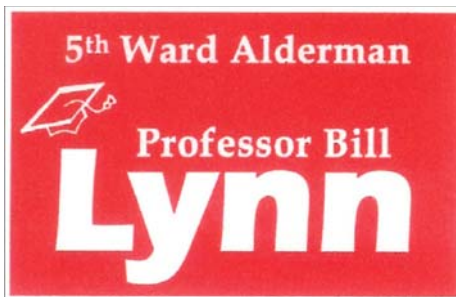
Or just come to one of the ward meetings.

How can I reach you?

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail _____



DID YOU THINK I HAD FORGOTTEN?!?!?

It is time for another update for the ward. The time passes quickly and because of some personal issues I have gotten behind. (My wife was in the hospital and had surgery.)

GUARDIAN ANGELS UPDATE

In the last issue I reported we had enacted the Guardian Angels come to Davenport to make a presentation. As you may now know, **the response was overwhelmingly positive**. There was some resistance from city officials but that has declined. We originally had 45 volunteers, but that has declined to between 10 and 20. The training is demanding and very physical. Once we become more established we will develop driving patrols and some other programs. I have patrolled with them several times, and I can tell you the response from people in the areas is about 90% positive.

They have made a citizen's arrest at Third and Gaines. As it turned out the person that was arrested had been nuisance abated out of a house at 522 Gaines and had moved back. Wonder where the follow-up on this is by our city officials? What you haven't heard is that one Saturday the Guardian Angels patrol assisted police in breaking up a large brawl downtown. I was told there were about 50 people involved and the police were greatly outnumbered. They also patrolled during Sturgis on the River and there were no incidents.

We are always looking for recruits, so if anyone is interested please contact me at 320-3675. There was a Guardian Angels fund raiser that raised enough money to pay off all the bills and have some left over. **Donations are always helpful.**

Several neighborhoods have contacted me asking for patrols. Until now we have been limited in what patrols we could do because our patrols could only be done when a trainer from Chicago was here. That is no longer necessary, so **I will provide the requests to the patrol leaders**. It will need to be their decision.

THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT ISSUE

As some of you may remember, there was a great furor over the proposed hiring of Judge Nahra to head the legal department. The problem was the **lack of communication**. We did receive a memo indicating they were discussing this, but that was all I had heard. Suddenly we were called to a special meeting to ratify this hiring.

While communication was the major issue, **the contract we offered him was diamond plated**. First, I don't believe we should give anyone in administration a contract. Most companies hire under the concept of employment at will and we should do that. Second, the contract was for twenty years and some of the benefits would continue even upon death. Further, all provisions became effective the first day on the job.

I find that we do a poor job of negotiating. We give away too much to get what we want. I guess that falls under 'it's not their money.'

CITY BONUSES

It was reported in the Quad City Times that the city administrator had given out about **\$100,000 in bonuses to city employees**. This comes back to the issue of communication. **The council did not know this, and a simple memo would have been sufficient**. We never received this. While I generally support bonuses for good work, I believe there needs to be **two conditions**. First, the **system must be well defined**. We have no idea what criteria was used for the bonuses. Second, **they need to be done in lieu of salary**. This amounts to pay for performance, and I agree with this. The problem is that our employees tend to be well paid so they are receiving good pay and receiving bonuses. I don't believe these bonuses met either criterion.

CITY BONUSES continued

Some time ago I asked that we complete a salary study for city employees. It was my feeling that some of the salaries were out of line. St. Ambrose completed the study (no charge to the city). I have not seen the study, but I will try to obtain a copy.

SKATEBOARD PARK/GRAFFITI/PROBLEMS

Last year we dedicated the skateboard park. It cost the city around \$1,000,000 to build this, and it is very well used, but **I don't believe the council and citizens were prepared for the graffiti problem--**I wasn't. I am now told it is **part of 'the culture.'** I am troubled by this and concerned about anything else we build in that park. Will it become another 'canvas?' I find it interesting that the ice skating rink does not have this problem nor does the skateboard park in Bettendorf.

I believe this is a problem throughout the city. We have tolerated too much bad behavior. I believe the only way we will get the crime problem under control (and I think this is related to it) is to have a zero tolerance policy. I receive complaints that when police show up in many instances the police simply warn people. If this happens too often, people lose respect for the police and they know they can get away with anything. **New York City brought their crime problem under control by practicing 'zero tolerance.'** This proved to reduce the problem dramatically. If you allow people to get away with the little things, they keep pushing to see what they can get away with and things get worse.

You may have heard we are planning a 'managed graffiti' program for the park. I know some of these people are very artistic, but I am still concerned about the people that just want to destroy everything. We will see how this works.

AN IDEA TO REDUCE CRIME

One idea I have promoted that I believe would reduce crime is to send someone through the neighborhoods to check license plate numbers. We should see if there are any warrants outstanding. We also could check to see if the plate matches the car, because we find drug dealers and people committing crimes tend to switch plates on cars. If we ticketed and towed these cars I believe many people involved in illegal activities would leave. Not only that, **this does not need to be done by a police officer.**

CASINO/RIVER CENTER

The casino has been in the news lately. Since the governor signed the bill allowing casino gambling on land, the entire discussion has changed. Some people believe that the casino deal has been made. **It has not.** They are proposing leasing the south side of the River Center and they would build a 100 room hotel next to it. At this point I will take a wait and see attitude. One thing that does bother me is the offer of the **lease payment of \$138,000 per year.** This seems low. If we build on to the north part of the River Center, I am afraid this lease amount will not even begin to cover the debt service for the addition. To me this amounts to a **subsidy to the casino.**

On the other hand, the River Center is a big expense to the city. **It loses \$600,000 per year.** This is money that could be spent elsewhere. I have been very critical of this loss, and would like to see it reduced. In many ways our River Center is not very functional as a convention center and needs updating.

CASINO/RIVER CENTER

Finally, it is my feeling that the only thing the Casino does is provide some tax revenue. While it has provided some jobs, it has not done much to help downtown. Thus, it may be better for them to move to the freeway which was originally proposed. We will see what happens in the negotiations, but be assured **this is not 'a done deal'** as some people have said. **I will try to protect the taxpayers** as well as possible in this situation.

CITY AWARD

You recently read that Davenport received an award for 'The most livable city under 100,000.' This was awarded by the Conference of Mayors and we edged out a lot of cities. **This is a great honor.** I think its greatest importance is that it improves the perception people in the country have of Davenport. This is important to attracting new people. On the other hand, we still have much to do to improve our city, but that will always be true.

PROMISE PROGRAM

Some of you may have read about the proposed Promise Program that would provide scholarships to students in Davenport. I cannot tell you much about this now, but we have established a task force that is studying it. I will update you on my website as I know more.

Related to this, I have been **discussing the issue of workforce development** with people that work in this area. I am told that companies now tend to go where there is a workforce instead of vice versa. I believe the City of Davenport needs to facilitate this discussion. Working in education, I can tell you many students today are not ready for the workforce. Skills are needed today that did not exist a few years ago, and the need for math and language is greater than ever. Computers have increased this need—not reduced it.

LAST NEWSLETTER BEFORE ELECTION

As you know there will be a city election this November. For that reason this will be my last newsletter. I am still pondering whether I will run again. It has been very interesting, and I have really enjoyed serving the ward. I feel I have had some success while in office, but as most people find out government works very slowly. On the other hand it is very demanding. **Stay tuned for further announcements.**

NEXT WARD MEETING

There is a Fifth Ward meeting this **Tuesday, July 17 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.