

A CITIZEN'S RESPONSE TO ARPA FUNDS COMMUNICATIONS

I am hopeful the day will come when citizens can rely on clear, accurate, and unbiased communications from our elected officials.

I am responding to a posting on social media by Mayor Reverend pertaining to ARPA funds distributions and a "strategic plan" template.

Was the "strategic plan" template presented to the entire Board in close session? I do not see this attachment to any Board agenda, or anywhere else on our website prior to December 2023. I spoke with Board members who do not recall seeing this document. Was this a group assignment (7), or an individual assignment? Did the staff complete this assignment? Did ANY Board member compete this assignment? What were the results? *see emails*
Attached

"The majority of the Board (4) chose NOT to meet and discuss." (ARPA funds) True, BUT, according to Board President, there was not a request for a Board meeting. Individual Board members were asked to meet with Mayor Reverend individually to discuss these public funds. Some members felt uncomfortable with these optics and felt this discussion should be public. So to be clear, four(4) members choose not to meet PRIVATELY with Mayor Reverend. The above statement wording is incomplete. The words 'meet with me' would have been accurate. *see email April 27 2023, 3:18 PM*

"i proposed that \$100,000 to be allocated per Ward to HELP citizens." I 100% disagree with that proposal. I see opportunities for mismanagement and questionable accountability. These public funds should be managed from City Hall, not individuals. What does "HELP" mean? I need HELP right now with yard cleanup. Does that qualify? Vague is an understatement.

"ALL departments have taken advantage of the proposal." This is confusing. No department has ANY authority to approve ANY public funds, so how are they "taking advantage" of this (\$100,000?) proposal unless the Board approves the expenditures? Again, without a current budget (2023-2024 budget). Perhaps I just don't understand this. *didn't say they approve*
Allocations were approved in the 2022-2023 budget pages 18, 19
I am aware it has become popular to throw the Board of Aldermen under the bus for all that ails our city. From my view, that is unsubstantiated criticism. Everyone is entitled to their own opinions, but facts are facts. Misleading words/phrases may make something appear to be something that it isn't, and

people often believe what they WANT to believe, but facts are still facts. NO ONE rules: "The mayor AND board of aldermen of each city governed by this chapter shall have the care, management and control of the city and its finances..." Mo.Rev.Stat. 79.110. The word "and" is a conjunction used to connect words that are to be taken JOINTLY. Citizens are not misinformed, they are BEING misinformed. It is past time for "me" and "I." This is OURS. But everybody wants to rule the world. (THIS is why I was removed from social media. LOL!)

?!

Wanda Lane

Citizen

Dinah Tatman

From: Dinah Tatman
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2023 2:43 PM
To: James Thomas
Cc: Alease Dailes; alease.dailes@gmail.com; Alicia Smith; Alicia Smith; Dorothy White-Coleman; Theresa Hester; Theresa Hester; Peg Warnusz; Peg Warnusz; Lynette VonSeggern; lynette2656; james thomas; Regina Harmon-Ward; Regina Harmon; Semmie Ruffin-Hall; pkelly@stlmuni.org
Subject: Re: Meeting

Good Afternoon Everybody:
I pray you and your family are safe and healthy:

Thank you for responding:

So there won't be any ambiguity in what I was proposing and why, I'll attempt to explain the process I chose for meeting with the Board of Alderman.

As you know I held a citywide employee meeting on Tuesday, April 25, 2023 where I casted the vision I had for our city. Employees were able to share their ideas and concerns as well.

I wanted to meet with the BOA to give you the same opportunity. After consultation with Pat Kelly the Executive Director, Municipal League of Metro St. Louis it was suggested that I meet with each Ward.

I regret that we missed this opportunity. For those who do not want to meet, I'm still open to having an open session with the BOA without public comments.

Unity is always my goal and my hopes are that we keep the lines of communication open and clear and ask questions when there's not clarity.

YOUR SERVANT LEADER
Mayor Dinah Tatman

From: James Thomas
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2023 1:23 PM
To: Dinah Tatman
Cc: Alease Dailes; alease.dailes@gmail.com; Alicia Smith; Alicia Smith; Dorothy White-Coleman; Theresa Hester; Theresa Hester; Peg Warnusz; Peg Warnusz; Lynette VonSeggern; lynette2656; james thomas; Regina Harmon-Ward; Regina Harmon; Semmie Ruffin-Hall
Subject: Re: Meeting

Good afternoon,
After careful consideration and our need as a Board of Alderman to continue to be transparent and unified. Myself and Alderman Harmon Ward regret that we will not be attending the scheduled meeting on Wednesday May 3, 2023 1100am til 1200pm.

On Apr 27, 2023 3:18 PM, Dinah Tatman <DTatman@cityofbn.com> wrote:

Dear Alderwoman Dailes and Smith:

I pray you and your families are safe and healthy!

I've requested times to meet with representatives from each Ward. I asked Alderwomen Dailes and Warnuz and Aldermen Thomas to assist me by reaching out to their counterpart. They agreed. Alderwoman Hester is out of town.

Meeting times that have already been scheduled are:

Monday, May 1, 2023 @ 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Alderwomen Peg Warnuz and Lynette Serggern

Wednesday, May 3, 2023 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 noon

Aldermen James Thomas and Alderwoman Regina Harmon.

I would like to have these meetings completed by our first scheduled BOA meeting Thursdsy, May 4, 2023.

Please let me know what dates and times you are available.

YOUR SERVANT

Mayor Dinah Tatman

Semmie Ruffin-Hall

From: Semmie Ruffin-Hall
Sent: Monday, May 1, 2023 11:04 AM
To: Peg Warnusz; Peg Warnusz; lynette2656; Lynette VonSeggern; James Thomas; james thomas; Regina Harmon; Regina Harmon-Ward; Alease Dailes; Alease Dailes; Alicia Smith; Alicia Smith; Theresa Hester; Theresa Hester; Theresa Hester
Cc: Dinah Tatman; Dinah Tatman; Jeff Ross; James Kirincich; Jeremy Ihler
Subject: Strategic Plan
Attachments: City of Bellefontaine Neighbors Strategic Plan.docx

Tracking:	Recipient	Read
	Peg Warnusz	
	Peg Warnusz	
	lynette2656	
	Lynette VonSeggern	
	James Thomas	Read: 5/1/2023 11:17 AM
	james thomas	
	Regina Harmon	
	Regina Harmon-Ward	
	Alease Dailes	
	Alease Dailes	
	Alicia Smith	
	Alicia Smith	
	Theresa Hester	
	Theresa Hester	
	Theresa Hester	Read: 5/1/2023 1:30 PM
	Dinah Tatman	
	Dinah Tatman	Read: 5/1/2023 2:46 PM
	Jeff Ross	Read: 5/2/2023 11:08 AM
	James Kirincich	
	Jeremy Ihler	Read: 5/1/2023 4:38 PM

Good morning. Attached is the strategic Plan Mayor Tatman asked me to send to everyone.

Have a great day,

Semmie

Thanking you in advance,

Semmie

Mrs. Semmie A. Ruffin-Hall

From: Semmie Ruffin-Hall
Sent: Monday, May 1, 2023 11:04 AM
To: 'Peg Warnusz' <mawarnusz@yahoo.com>; Peg Warnusz <PWarnusz@cityofbn.com>; 'lynette2656' <lynette2656@att.net>; Lynette VonSeggern <LVonSeggern@cityofbn.com>; James Thomas <JThomas@cityofbn.com>; 'james thomas' <minjwthomas@hotmail.com>; 'Regina Harmon' <harmruk@gmail.com>; Regina Harmon-Ward <RHarmon-Ward@cityofbn.com>; 'Alease Dailes' <alease.dailes@gmail.com>; Alease Dailes <ADailes@cityofbn.com>; Alicia Smith <ASmith@cityofbn.com>; 'Alicia Smith' <4smith.alicia@gmail.com>; 'Theresa Hester' <hesteronpurpose@gmail.com>; 'Theresa Hester' <hestert404@gmail.com>; Theresa Hester <THester@cityofbn.com>
Cc: 'Dinah Tatman' <ward1communityfirst@gmail.com>; Dinah Tatman <DTatman@cityofbn.com>; Jeff Ross <jross@cityofbn.com>; James Kirincich <JKirincich@cityofbn.com>; Jeremy Ihler <jihler@cityofbn.com>
Subject: Strategic Plan

Good morning. Attached is the strategic Plan Mayor Tatman asked me to send to everyone.

Have a great day,

Semmie

Thanking you in advance,

Semmie

Mrs. Semmie A. Ruffin-Hall

City Clerk

Bellefontaine Neighbors City Hall

9641 Bellefontaine Road

St. Louis, MO. 63137

Sruffin-hall@cityofbn.com