

8/12/08 BOS Public Comment – Ethics/Henderson

Mr. Chairman, members of the Board. Robert Richardson 2786 Lake Powell Road.

I watched today's Work Session about the Code of Ethics Policy with great interest. Placing the responsibility of enforcement on the individual makes the policy ineffective. Of course all public officials should aspire to live up to the Policy, but when an individual does not live up to the policy, just what makes you expect that they will police themselves? If you drive DUI, do you go to the police and turn yourself in?

Quite the opposite has been shown to be true in the case of the appointment of Mr. Henderson to the Planning Commission. Both the appointment of Mr. Henderson to the Planning Commission after \$18,500 of undue financial influence plus and his recent behavior from behind the dais at the last Planning Commission meeting clearly violate the Code of Ethics.

The former violates the public trust in the fact that it leaves the clear impression that money bought Mr. Henderson's appointment and the latter directly violates paragraph 3 – Conduct of Members. This is where in your work session, you voted to move "public" ahead of all other categories to show the importance of and focus on the public trust.

Just why should political campaign contributions be any different than other financial influences. Campaign contributions are clearly made to influence political decisions by influencing the outcome of elections. There can't be any more direct linkage between money and influence than that.

Mr. Henderson's 7 minute long commentary was nothing more than a character assault and defamation of character. He clearly slandered me by making false and misleading statements. This flagrant violation of the Code of Ethics clearly shows what low moral character Mr. Henderson has, and what unethical behavior he is willing to undergo to advance his agenda. Although I have asked Mr. Henderson to reevaluate his comments and to make appropriate corrections, none have been forthcoming.

So what makes you think that Mr. Henderson or a person of his character should be allowed to be the final determinant of what is ethical and what is not?

Similarly, what would it take to convince the 3 supervisors to admit that a mistake was made when they betrayed the public trust by appointing an individual with low moral standards and brought their own decision into question.

Mr. Henderson must go. He is an embarrassment to himself, the Planning Commission and to the Supervisors and citizens of James City County.

Mr. Goodson, the Code of Ethics requires intervention in regard to Mr. Henderson's comments, a clear violation of the Code of Ethics.

Finally, I remind Mr. Goodson of the Code of Ethics violation that I brought against him in my last public comment and provide you with a copy of those comments as found on my website JCCEGov.org.