

April 12, 2010

Mr. Tom Bullock
Lakewood City Council
12650 Detroit Avenue
Lakewood OH 44107

Dear Mr. Bullock:

On the evening of Monday, April 5 you as a member of Lakewood City Council proposed for the first time a series of three supposed "campaign finance reforms." As fellow members of City Council, we were puzzled by these proposals, for several reasons. First, the inflammatory wording of your communication created the false impression that public servants in Lakewood may have been receiving improper compensation or have otherwise been associated with the county corruption scandal. Second, portions of your proposals are likely unconstitutional and are therefore a waste of Council's time and taxpayers' money. Third, although you have been on City Council for over two years, you waited to introduce these proposals until less than a month before your upcoming primary election date against another member of our Council. Fourth, campaign finance reform is more effectively done at the county level, rather than piecemeal at the suburban municipal level, because our elections are conducted by a County Board of Elections, not by the City of Lakewood. For these reasons and more, many people in the room that night were confused by your out-of-left-field proposals.

The confusion was cleared up the very next day, on April 6, when voters in Lakewood and Cleveland received campaign literature from you, attacking a fellow member of Lakewood City Council. This slick campaign flier proclaimed that you "*pushed for tough new campaign finance reforms in Lakewood.*" In support of this specious claim, the political piece cited the meeting minutes of Lakewood City Council. But your campaign literature was printed and sitting at the mail house **BEFORE you even introduced these proposals.** The flier makes reference to meeting minutes that did not yet exist **because the meeting did not yet occur.**

You call yourself "an honest reformer" campaigning for "tougher ethics laws." But your political actions are neither honest nor ethical. You have made a mockery of Lakewood City Council by using our legislative process to introduce unwarranted, unworkable, and potentially unconstitutional ordinances, purely to score cheap political points. You have traded the integrity of our legislative body for a weak punch-line in your campaign literature.

As Lakewood taxpayers in a time of fiscal crisis, we are appalled that you chose to introduce legislation that, if passed, would surely require us to spend huge sums of money defending these ill-conceived ordinances against constitutional challenges. As Democrats, we are embarrassed that you as president of our Lakewood Democratic Club would engage in slimeball attack-style negative campaigning against a dedicated public servant. And, most important, as members of Lakewood City Council, we are outraged that you would so blatantly abuse our legislative process for your own short-sighted personal political gain.

You, sir, should be ashamed. The people of Lakewood deserve better than these political games from an elected representative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. E. Powers", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Mary Louise Madigan

Brian E. Powers