



CITY OF DISTRICT HEIGHTS

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When I campaigned for the office of Commissioner in April of 2006, I stated that I would work hard to address real issues; issues that affect all of us in District Heights. I have had both success and some failure, and as my first year in office comes to an end I want to share with you what I have been working on.

~~I have attached a few documents that will give you specific projects I have focused on.~~ In May of 2006, I was assigned the position of Liaison Commissioner for the General Government Department. I did not realize at that time that our City finances were not in good shape; specifically, the budget was wrong, accounts had not been reconciled, and monies that were claimed to be in the unreserved fund were not there. I worked with our City manager to bring on board a top-shelf Treasurer. Our search produced Dan Baden, who is well respected in the Municipal arena. Within 6 months, he has our finances back on track. Please see Dan's memo dated December 6, 2006 *ON MY WERDIT*

My next task was to begin having regular staff meetings with the General Government department, as I realized they had not been given consistent leadership or expectations. I can honestly say that this department has more than risen to the occasion. During my meetings however, I learned that all of the grants that the Commission was touting had problems; they were not on schedule due to paperwork not being filed and approvals not obtained. I felt strongly that we could not afford to lose one grant. I arranged the grants: Project Open Space 1 (Hudson Park), Project Open Space 2 (renovations in the recreation department for which the proper documents had not been filed in almost a year, thus no money was recouped), Street Lights Upgrade, and Façade Restoration Program for the business district. I am happy to report that 3 of 4 projects have been saved. The restoration of the business district is a big one and honestly, I am not sure how it will turn out. We did not spend grant monies for 3 plus years and HUD is not pleased with this, and is considering taking back some of the grant awards.

Finally, I worked with Chief Nesky to co-write a grant called Safe Routes To School; worked with the police department to increase patrols in " hot spot " areas of the City; worked to improve our relationship with our lobbyist (G.S. Proctor) and with our State Delegates (Melony Griffith, Derrick Davis, and Aisha Braveboy), and attempted to let the Alcohol Licensing Board know that we are watching how many liquor stores are in our community.

I look forward to serving you in the coming years, and admit that there is much more to be done. I would appreciate your comments and concern. I can be reached at 301-741-6811 or by email at collinstime@comcast.net.

Sincerely,

Lee Collins

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