



Charlotte Webmaster <webmaster@charlottemi.org>

Contact Form Submission

Joe Daly <wordpress@www.charlottemi.org>
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To: webmaster@charlottemi.org

Fri, Dec 18, 2015 at 11:46 AM

Your Name: Joe Daly
Your Address: 223 Pleasant St. Apt. 4 Charlotte, MI 48813
Your Email: joedaly@russellschrader.com
Comment: To Mayor Lewis and the Charlotte City Council:

My name is Joe Daly and I am writing this letter regarding the contract negotiations with our City Manager, Gregg Guetschow. During my campaign for Mayor, I challenged myself to learn how our local government conducts business. I reached out and spoke to many individuals whose job is to grow, protect, and serve our community. I listened to those individuals because I knew that, whether I agreed with them or not, had a much better understand of the process, the laws, and the financial impact change can bring upon our city. After digesting that information over a period of time, I knew our city was blessed to have many individuals who are dedicated to the success of Charlotte. Many folks don't understand the amount of planning and investment our city has seen in the last couple of years.

In my opinion, I believe we have two different issues. First, I believe we have a council that promised to bring positive change to this community by being transparent and accountable. What I fear, is that the pressure to provide this change has led some to believe that replacing Gregg at his position is the first order of business. Some feel that in order to make change, you need to start from the top down. These council members and many voters who elected them feel our community is not performing as well as it can. These folks see damaged roads and sidewalks throughout the community. They see storefront's downtown that have been vacant as long as I've had the ability to vote. They see a rise in their water bill, when the product they are receiving has seen little to no change.

This brings me to the second issue, what they can't see.

What many folks don't see is the amount of work the employees of this city put in. The dedication across the board in different areas of our government is there, it is real. We have so many individuals, both city officials and residents, involved in bringing big, important changes to Charlotte. But these things take time. It requires an enormous amount of time, energy, and people to develop, implement, and finance the type of changes our residents want to see.

My conclusion from this matter is simple. Restructuring a contract with Gregg is a must and I personally feel offering anything less than what the current contracts contains would be an insult to a man that has worked hard for our community. I developed this conclusion based on the word of so many who work and interact with Gregg on a consistent basis. But, I also feel there should be discussion pertaining to the relationship the residences have with city hall. Improvement of that relationship is necessary and I feel that most of that effort should come from the management level. Most that know Gregg, support him. Most that do not support Gregg, do not know him. Do I feel our residence can do a better job in understanding how government works, and who is responsible for what, absolutely. But city hall can do a much better job advertising the types of changes that are coming to this community. I have spoken to multiple business owners in town, one of which has been here for 20+ years, who have said neither Gregg nor Bryan Mrykle have been to their businesses. I support retaining our city manager and the efforts and work of Bryan Mrykle 100%, but that is because I have worked with them and with others you share the same feelings. With my support, I ask that our city government do a better job in advertising the future. I appreciate your time this evening and respect each and every city employee and elected official that represents our city. WE can do better. Go Charlotte.

Thank you,

Joe Daly