

## LITTLETON, AWAKE!

June 20, 2016

Littleton consistently ranks very high on lists of the best places to live. There's positive energy, nice open space, good schools, a vibrant business community and a City staff that takes pride in providing both quality services and value for the taxpayer's dollar. So on June 14<sup>th</sup>, Mayor Bruce Beckman and Council members Doug Clark, Peggy Cole and Jerry Valdes voted to terminate the City Manager, Michael Penny. Wait...what?

Should you be wondering if that's a line from *Alice Through the Looking Glass*, well join the crowd. Penny was recognized as one of the best City Managers in Colorado and had a demonstrated track record of achievement in Littleton including:

- Revitalized the business environment with new projects including the new King Soopers at Broadway and Littleton Blvd., the Breckenridge Brewery, HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital, Alamo Draft House, Anthem Memory Care Highline Place, CarMax, and others.
- Completed multiple open space and river related projects, the bike / pedestrian master plan and a new South Suburban Parks & Recreation joint master plan.
- Approved the Trailmark fire station, the first new station in 20 years, and deployed LFR Quick Cars to more cost effectively and efficiently deliver EMS services.
- Imposed developer impact fees to make new development pay its own way, including \$2 million recently received from a developer on a new project.
- Relocated the Permit Center at City Hall to streamline the permitting process for contractors.
- Actively promoted Littleton's positive attributes with various events, articles, newsletters, relaunching of the City's website and expansion of social media capabilities.
- Facilitated citizen outreach via Business/Resident surveys, Council Meet and Greets, Coffee with Council, etc.
- Developed new housing projects principally on the periphery of the City to improve the diversity and quantity of housing stock for citizens of all economic means.
- Demonstrated strong stewardship of the neighborhoods including infrastructure improvements and service delivery.

**Support for Michael Penny's leadership was expressed by community leaders, state and local government officials who worked with him and members of the Littleton Police Department and Littleton Fire Rescue labor unions.** Penny's extensive list of achievements and commitment to open and transparent communication essentially counted for nothing.

**Rather, his dismissal was based on the flimsiest of pretenses:** Subdivision plat regulations from 2012, urban renewal legal description errors and Charter-authorized sole source contracting questions from 2014 along with a side helping of hurt feelings and bruised egos. In truth, it was a handy act of sabotage by Council members who have effectively pledged allegiance to the Sunshine Boys, a small group with a long history of stridently obstructing virtually all City activities aimed at reasonably preserving Littleton's charm while proactively planning for the future. To what end? It appears nothing short of making a minimalist libertarian view of government your reality.

**The Littleton of the 1950s is a chimera that cannot exist in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.** Revenues for City services are predominantly derived from sales taxes that the citizens of Littleton simply

cannot fully fund. By denouncing virtually all development out of hand, even where projects fit well within the character of the community, Sunshine imperils the future prosperity of the City they claim to love. They hypocritically advance a philosophy that might be characterized as “my property rights are inviolable while yours are questionable”.

**Mayor Bruce Beckman stands large in this Hall of Shame.** By cleverly choreographing four votes out of the public’s view, then conspiring to hold the ballot on a night when Council member and former Mayor Phil Cernanec was known not to be present, he wholly gave himself over to the basest, most repulsive tendency of politicians to focus on the ends vs. the means. His complete disinterest in working with the City manager to resolve perceived issues is a clear abdication of leadership. As a former Littleton police officer, he should have known better. It is common knowledge his wife, Susan Beckman, is running for the state legislature. Could an opportunity to support his wife’s campaign have influenced his actions? If so, his aptitude falls far short of the voters’ expectations.

**Further, Beckman recently allowed a motion by Council member Clark intending to revoke a lawful building permit that could have resulted in a legal settlement costing the taxpayers over \$30 million.** Such an outcome would have dramatically curtailed the City’s ability to provide police and fire services, street repairs, library and museum operations and more. Ultimately cooler heads prevailed but the mere consideration of such an outrageous and reckless proposal seriously calls into question Beckman’s judgement.

**The Council’s Gang of Four dishonored themselves and a great city. Littleton’s long tradition of working together to create a better future is who we are and always aspire to be. Such gross irresponsibility should not pass without public rebuke. We ask the community’s silent majority to join with us in expressing a vote of NO CONFIDENCE in Mayor Beckman and Council members Clark, Cole and Valdes.**

Littleton is too good to descend into the abyss of factional control by a small group of people only because the community fails to pay attention. Tell City Council you’re wide awake. You can contact them through the city’s website: [www.LittletonGov.org](http://www.LittletonGov.org).

*– Concerned Littleton Citizens*

✓ **Before the Late Show comes on, e-mail your name to [LittletonAwake@gmail.com](mailto:LittletonAwake@gmail.com) and we’ll add you to the growing list of insomniacs to be delivered to City Council!**