



ST. CHARLES PARISH

PAUL J. HOGAN, PE
COUNCILMAN, DISTRICT IV

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JULY 30, 2012

TO: MR. V.J. ST. PIERRE, JR.
PARISH PRESIDENT

FROM: PAUL J. HOGAN, PE
COUNCILMAN, DISTRICT IV

RE: VETO OF ORDINANCE NO. 12-7-9

On Monday, July 23, 2012, the Council passed Ordinance No. 12-7-9 which required Parish workers not to disclose the names of our good citizens who report violations to the Parish. This ordinance was presented to the Council in response to citizen complaints with regards to Parish workers providing this information to the violators. This would in turn cause unnecessary bad blood and tension between these individuals. This ordinance does not prevent a citizen from obtaining that information; it simply required that it be obtained through a public information request.

What happens most of the time when addressing violations is that the Parish employee is looked at as being the bad person. In these cases, the easiest thing to do to take the heat off them is to pass the heat on to the individual who reported the violation. In some cases, it is after being asked by the violator on who complained and in other cases it is offered outright. Citizens who file complaints to make our Parish and neighborhoods a better place to live should not have to be subjected to this. If a violator wants to know, then they should have to obtain the information through other means.

In your Veto Message, you stated that this ordinance was over burdensome on the employees and unnecessary. That statement does not say much good about our employees by claiming that it is too hard for them to say "Per St. Charles Parish regulations, I am not at liberty to discuss anything more than the violation with you. As with all public records, all information relating to this violation is available through a public information request." as the ordinance required. Speaking those 37 simple words is the extent of what was required of our employees with this ordinance. How is that over burdensome?

You then went on to say that requiring a citizen to have to make a public information request in order to obtain the name of the person who complained is contrary to the transparency your administration has promoted. Surely you do not believe that this is the type of information that our citizens want, desire, or deserve to have transparency with. At least I would hope you do not truly believe that.

I find your veto completely unwarranted as I would expect most citizens of our Parish would agree. It is unfortunate that you vetoed this simple ordinance to help our citizens but you fail to veto other ordinances that come before you, from time to time, that truly deserve a veto. I cannot understand it!

In closing, I hope that the Council will review, once again, what this ordinance provides and that your veto will be overridden.

PJH/ctm347:ag

Office

St. Charles Parish
P.O. Box 302
Hahnville, LA 70057
(985) 783-5000
Fax: (985) 783-2067
<http://www.stcharlesparish-la.gov>

cc: Parish Council

Residence

222 Down The Bayou Road
P.O. Box 251
Des Allemands, LA 70031
Phone: (985) 306-008:
Fax: (985) 306-028:
Cell: (504) 615-486:
E-mail: phogan@st-charles.la.us
E-mail: phogan@stcharlesgov.net