

Masters of Mass Distractions

Troy—We all recognize the familiar pattern of behavior from the Rensselaer County Republican Majority. As soon as they feel the impact of any criticism being leveled against them, they crowd the media with mass distractions to draw attention away from their own incompetence.

Let's face it, the County Executive and the Republican Majority put forth a no-bid \$3 million proposal to renew the lease on the Raddock Building for social services. The building is sorely in need of improvements and many feel that poor maintenance presents substandard conditions.

The County Executive and Republican Majority proposed paying \$17.50 a square foot for this leased space, when the going rate for newly renovated prime space in the City of Troy is between \$10 and \$12. Democrats simply want the \$3 million contract put out to bid and the lowest responsible bidder be given due consideration.

At the very least, the County Executive and Republican Majority needed to do the hard work it takes to negotiate an agreement that was more in line with comparable property in the City of Troy. Instead, the County Executive and Republican Majority hurried to enter into a five-year overpriced arrangement without any discussion of cost or bringing the building up to decent standards.

The Democratic Minority managed to get the lease agreement tabled, with the help of a few responsible members of the Majority, so it could be properly reviewed and responsible action taken. Sadly, our efforts have resulted in untrue stories about our intentions.

Now, what will the County Executive and Republican Majority do? Will they act responsibly and seek bids and request proposals? Will they negotiate a more acceptable rate and get the necessary improvements made to the Raddock Building? or Will they continue to demonstrate total disregard for the taxpayer by allowing Mirch, Reid and Crist to fabricate mass distractions while they quietly rubberstamp a \$3 million contract?

One thing is for certain - taxpayers have had enough and will be watching carefully.

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