

peddling and manipulation engaged in by Larry. Indeed, I took Beth out to dinner last March, just days after the council had, on my motion, continued consideration of the city utility, and days after I had confronted Larry and Ed Dornan about the impropriety of Ed's financial interest in the utility. I wanted to be sure Beth knew about Larry and Ed's manipulations and influence peddling, and I wanted to gauge her reaction. I spent a couple of hours laying out everything I knew about Larry and Ed's dealings, and the role of money and self-interest in the process. Beth's response was underwhelming, to say the least, taking the position as she did that there wasn't any decision presently before the council that would require her to concern herself with these matters. Within days after that meeting, I received a more definitive response: Larry and Ed began a whisper campaign of personal attacks directed at me, obviously for the purpose of trying to damage the credibility of the messenger. Those attacks continue to this day, as Beth well knows, and she is running for Mayor on a slate with Larry, Sukhee Kang, and Debbie Coven.

One of the more outrageous personal attacks against me was launched just days ago by political activist Frank Barbaro. The genesis of that attack, financed by Larry's political machine, was my refusal to go along with lobbyist Barbaro's union clients. He approached me to support prevailing wage union contracts for the Great Park and I refused. To go along with the Barbaro/Agran union plan would transfer \$90 million available for sports parks and other amenities for union wages. I refused... hence the attack.

Frank did get one thing right: I'm angry as hell, along with every other Irvine resident who learns the truth about the fleecing of City Hall. I'm angry at people like Larry and Beth and Ed and Frank and anyone else who seeks to subvert the public interest with influence peddling. I'm angry at Larry and Beth and Ed and Frank and their minions who seek to personally and politically assassinate the character of anyone who disagrees with them, let alone those of us who have gone public with the truth about their influence buying and selling in our city. And I'm angry, too, at their continual lying to the public about what they know to be true. Irvine deserves better, and, on November 2nd, Irvine can do better.

I haven't always agreed with Mike Ward and his "Irvine First" team, and I'm sure I will have honest disagreements with them in the future. But I do not question their honesty and their integrity, qualities that are sorely lacking, and sorely needed, at Irvine City Hall.

I encourage you to vote for the entire Irvine First Team. Vote to return integrity to Irvine city government.

Sincerely,



Chris Mears  
Irvine City Council Member