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Absentee City Manager Getting Golden Parachute

By Thomas Francis, Thu., Jun. 10 2010 @ 11:12AM

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Hallandale Beach has a tradition of paying a city manager who doesn't show up for work; so now that commissioners have fired Mike Good, it's fitting that they should give him one more giant paycheck on his way out the door.

Yesterday, the commission moved to give Good a severance package that includes health benefits and education costs that, combined with other sweeteners, comes to roughly a million dollars, according to calculations by Commissioner Keith London, Good's most forceful critic.



Mike Good

It came after Mayor Joy Cooper brought in an employment attorney who told commissioners that failing to give Good what he wanted might result in a lawsuit the city was unlikely to win.

London says he's "livid" about his fellow commissioners'

unwillingness to challenge that assessment. "I bet I can find a lawyer who will tell us that we'd have a 90 percent of winning that lawsuit," says London.

In a civil case, the central question would be whether Good held up his end of his employment contract; if not, then the city had cause for firing him, freeing itself from financial obligations toward Good that are contained in the contract.

"Nobody is disputing that [Good] didn't show up for work more than 50 percent of the time," says London. "If that's not cause, I don't know what is."

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hrose says:

It doesn't surprise me. It's one disappointment after another with you guys.

Posted On: [Thursday, Jun. 10 2010 @ 11:32AM](#)

Chaz Stevens, Genius says:

I gots me three bad ass lawyers ready to do battle on behalf of the non-retarded residents of HB. (My apologies to retards worldwide for the slight to them).

Posted On: [Thursday, Jun. 10 2010 @ 11:58AM](#)

ChangeHallandale.com says:

Cooper, Ross, and Julian added more give-aways to Good every year from 2003 to 2007. Now they act like it was a surprise, and the fault of the former city attorney. But those three all voted to approve the first contract, and voted to approve all raises and other benefits.

Posted On: [Thursday, Jun. 10 2010 @ 12:54PM](#)

Howard Chimberoff says:

Mayor Cooper, all who voted yes to giving Mike Good such a large remuneration for a job not well done. As President of the Olympus Association, with a complex of 1,090 apartments in Hallandale Beach, I have personally experienced his disinterest, having called him five times in the span of three weeks (leaving messages every time) without ever receiving a courtesy reply to questions that were very important to our community. I am extremely disappointed in the final vote and decision! Why was it necessary for Mayor Cooper to call me to request a meeting while he was still employed by the City? He was still collecting his weekly salary, while ignoring a community that was contributing (a great amount of money thru tax dollars) to his salary.

Howard Chimberoff

Olympus Association President

Posted On: [Thursday, Jun. 10 2010 @ 1:47PM](#)

Noname says:

Howard, you're not the only one to whom he did not return phone calls. But my problem just doesn't go back to last year. I've had trouble getting him to return my phone calls for the past 4 to 5 years. In fact, in August of 2007, I had a 2 PM appointment with him and left after an hour. At 4:30 PM, I get a call from his office that he is now in and if I want to come over, would be available. I told them to go to hell. I will never ever vote for Cooper Julian and Ross again. However, London is not not qualified to be mayor. I understand the man does not even have a high school diploma. Maybe my information is incorrect but if it's right, no one should vote for London who doesn't have the will to at least get a high school degree. I just don't understand how the city can go from a all-star city manager to a lackey without any brains. Because straight out, Mike good is not a very intelligent person.

Posted On: [Thursday, Jun. 10 2010 @ 4:51PM](#)

Anonymous says:

Joy Pooper is a complete moron, but then, Keith London is a self-important, self-

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involved clown who doesn't understand the art of subtlety. And Mike Good is just a plain old liar and cheat who very likely has some sort of addiction problem. Pretty much the whole city, with the exception of a few genuine stars, is full of incompetent boobs, including the city attorney who is dumber than a box of rocks. The fire chief is a womanizer, the head of personnel is a bufoon, the chief of police is arrogant... the list goes on. Hopefully, a new commission will be elected who will be committed to serving the city instead of self agrandizement and will sweep the city clean and start over.

Posted On: Thursday, Jun. 10 2010 @ 7:01PM

BILL JULIAN- VICE-MAYOR-HALLANDALE BEACH says:

HELLO EVERYONE, THIS IS A MESSAGE FOR MR. HOWARD CHIMBEROFF. I AM NOT SURPRISED TO HEAR OF YOUR PROBLEM REACHING THE CITY MANAGER, THAT'S ONE REASON HE HAS BEEN FIRED. IF YOU WOULD HAVE CALLED ME, YOUR PROBLEMS WOULD HAVE BEEN ANSWERED IMMEDIATELY. JUST TO LET YOU ALL KNOW IT WAS MYSELF WHO TRIED TO REMOVE THE SERVERANCE PAY OF 9 MONTH'S TO MIKE GOOD, REDUCING IT TO 5 MONTH'S. IT WAS MYSELF WHO MADE THE MOTIONS TO RESTRICT HIS HEALTH BENEFITS, AND DEFINE HIS EDUCATION BENEFITS. WERE WE STAND RIGHT KNOW IS THE PACKAGE HAS BEEN GIVEN TO MR. GOOD FOR AN EVALUATION UP TO 21 DAYS, THEN IT COMES BACK TO THE COMMISSION FOR A FINAL VOTE. IF WE HAD NOT VOTED YES, HIS CONTRACT WOULD REVERT BACK TO THE ORIGINAL, THAT WOULD GIVEN HIM 9 MONTH'S PAY. BEFORE WE START PLAYING THE BLAME GAME, LETS WAIT UNTIL OUR FINAL VOTE, THEN START BLAMING WHO GAVE WHAT TO WHOM. AS FOR Hrose, CHAZ STEVENS, CHANGE HALLANDALE, NoNAME, AND ANONYMOUS, I TOLD ALL OF YOU IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH ME, I WOULD MEET WITH ALL OF YOU, OR ONE ON ONE, ANYTIME OR PLACE. STILL NO ONE HAS HAD THE BALLS TO CALL ME. SO UNTIL THAT DAY HAPPENS, CONTINUE TO KNOCK THIS CITY, AND THE PEOPLE WHO REALLY ARE DOING THE BEST THEY CAN TO RUN IT. UNLESS OF COURSE YOU HAVE SOME SORT OF A PLAN. I DIDN'T THINK YOU DID. OH, BY THE WAY, IF COMMISSIONER LONDON DOESN'T HAVE A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA, SO WHAT? DOES THAT MAKE YOU FEEL INTELLIGENT KNOCKING HIM? HE IS A COMMISSIONER, AND YOUR NOT. THANK YOU BILL JULIAN, VICE-MAYOR, CITY OF HALLANDALE BEACH. (954) 274-7230

Posted On: Thursday, Jun. 10 2010 @ 9:57PM

United.Condo.Assn.of.Hallandale.Beach says:

Just another staged event. Cooper dupers duped the residents once again. Calling this meeting for 1pm while more residents are working and could have started at 7pm. It



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was less than 4 hour meeting. We are mad as hell and we are not going to take it anymore. Write to uca_of_hallandale.beach@yahoo.com and come to our monthly meetings and see what we can do together like with did with the Diplomat loss. Top lawyers, lobbyist against the little guy (us) and we won!. PS: We serve free appetizers at all our meetings and we ask for NO donations. A true grass roots organization with strong supporters such as the Borward Coalition.

Thank you

United Condominium Associations of Hallandale Beach. 954-465-0757

Posted On: Thursday, Jun. 10 2010 @ 10:18PM

Chaz Stevens, Genius says:

Hey Bill...

WHY THE FUCK ARE YOU SHOUTING AT US. TURN DOWN YOUR BELLTONE... WE CAN HEAR YOU.

Sincerely;

Those of us not deaf.

Posted On: Thursday, Jun. 10 2010 @ 10:18PM

United.Condo.Assn.of.Hallandale.Beach says:

Neighbors Helping Neighbors and Growing

God bless us and our city.

Sincerely,

Luis "Louie" Paredes, President

United Condominium Associations(UCA) of Hallandale Beach (954)465-0757

OUR MISSION IS SIMPLE: Through a united voice and VOTE from all the boundaries of Hallandale Beach to bring us together on a focused path that helps our community and property to begin the process of reducing all costs.

OUR GOAL: To share our accumulated knowledge, advise and experience for helpful solutions to all. With objectives to lower all costs for our residents and fellow neighbors, from city taxes, fees to monthly maintenance fees.

May we be guided by the ways of our fathers to make them proud as they watch over us as we continue to unite as a community. A local government BY the people FOR the people.

Fighting the Greater Good for All is more important than the selfishness of one. God bless our city, god bless us all, thank you.

Posted On: Thursday, Jun. 10 2010 @ 10:22PM

Chaz Stevens, Genius says:

@STILL NO ONE HAS HAD THE BALLS TO CALL ME.

Bill...

Really... Come on dog... I don't call you because you don't interest me. Seriously... You are the walking definition of boring...

Cheers

Chaz

PS... consider Ativan for your angst.

Posted On: Thursday, Jun. 10 2010 @ 10:22PM

Ex city employee says:

Bill, it's hard to meet to say this but you are a joke. I worked for both Mr. Intindola and nogood. I'm not using my name because they may actually contact them should I choose to move from my current position. However, this man never worked a full week during that time I worked for him. He used to come in at 2 PM and demand that the staff lead been there since 7 AM stay to seven or 8 PM because that was his best working time. The staff often joked that RJ Intindola worked more in one day than my good days in a week.

And by the way, you made a comment in a meeting several weeks ago that I watched on the computer the other day that Mike good was Rove respected among other cities in Broward County. I mean this sincerely and not just to bang him once again. Every once in a while I still attend Broward County city manager meetings and he and Hallandale are the laughingstock of the County. He can't even pronounce words

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properly. The grassy or hard surface area in the middle of the road is called a median; not a medium.

I heard him use the word incorrectly during several commission meetings and the commission never said a word. Problem is, you're too dumb to know the difference.

Posted On: Thursday, Jun. 10 2010 @ 10:43PM

Chaz Stevens, Genius says:

@Ex city employee

TRY SHOUTING... THAT MIGHT WORK WITH THIS NITWIT.

ISN'T THAT RIGHT BILL?

Not sure it's applicable here, but I've heard that sucking dick MAKES YOU DEAF.

Sincerely;

Genius

Posted On: Thursday, Jun. 10 2010 @ 11:06PM

BILL JULIAN -VICE-MAYOR says:

CHAZ, (GENIUS)

I HAVE AN IDEA, COME UP TO MY OFFICE, AT CITY HALL, AND SEE HOW BORING I REALLY AM.

YOU DON'T KNOW ME VERY WELL, DO YOU?

THEN WE CAN DISCUSS POSITIVE IDEAS TO IMPROVE OUR CITY.

UNTIL THEN JUST HIDE BEHIND YOUR COMPUTER SCREEN WITH YOUR FRIENDS.

BILL JULIAN (954) 274-7230.

Posted On: Thursday, Jun. 10 2010 @ 11:07PM

Chaz Stevens, Genius says:

Bill.

I live in Deerfield Beach. I have enough problems dealing with my own band of uber-ly retarded elected officials.

I'll leave it to Butler, Smith, and London to kick your ass for me.

As far as hiding, really? You are going with that? I am highly visible, readily identifiable, and well known.

Posted On: Thursday, Jun. 10 2010 @ 11:16PM

ChangeHallandale.com says:

Vice Mayor Julian, give it a break. Are you really trying to act like the savior by trying to get only 5 months severance? This is YOUR contract. You voted to approve every give away that is causing us so many problems today. Stop acting like you're not responsible.

You think we're hiding behind our computer screens? You, who sits up there behind the dais, protected by a city with a budget of \$90 million? YOU voted to sue me, a resident, for merely making a public records request. The city could have denied the request, or asked for an attorney general's opinion, but you voted to SUE a resident. And now you have the city paying for an expensive outside law firm to sue me. Is that really the best use of the taxpayer's money?

You want to show you're fighting for the people? Let's see some transparency. I'm waiting to hear your motions for a forensic audit of our CRA, along with the city's accounting. A motion for the city attorney to determine whether Good violated city laws with the Kessel contract. A motion to require summary minutes, provided in a timely manner so they actually mean something. And don't tell me that spin of how the city's books wins awards every year. That award goes to anyone whose books show that 1+1 =2. I could go on, only because there is so much bullshit happening in this city that YOU have allowed.

Unlike you Vice Mayor, many of the taxpayers have full time jobs that require their primary attention. We'll get to you and have our meeting to discuss the city's issues. But only when we have the time to schedule it.

And Mr. Julian, if this is the best that you can do, to vote repeatedly for more benefits and more salary for a city manager that so clearly was doing a poor job, if this is the best you can do, then leave. We'll be better off without you.

Posted On: Friday, Jun. 11 2010 @ 12:56AM

BILL JULIAN -VICE-MAYOR says:

WELL. ITS ABOUT TIME, I FINALLY GOT YOU GUYS TO GET OFF YOUR BUTS. NOW LETS SEE IF WE CAN PUT OUR COLLECTIVE MINDS TOGETHER AND DO SOMETHING POSITIVE FOR OUR RESIDENTS INSTEAD OF THIS NEGATIVE SPIN YOU KEEP FEEDING THEM. PLEASE STOP DISAPPOINTING YOUR NEIGHBORS. I'M SURE YOU MUST HAVE SOME REALLY GREAT IDEAS. BILL.

Posted On: Friday, Jun. 11 2010 @ 1:09AM

Chaz Stevens, Genius says:

Bill.

Your "collective" mind couldn't get us laid in a whore house with \$100 bills falling out of our pockets.

Do what is best for Hallandale.... And that's for you to move to Duluth, MN... Why Duluth? Why not I say. Far enough away that we'll never hear from you again.

Negative spin? You have completely hosed that town and it's now Butler's fault for wanting to straighten it out?

Come on Bill. Really... That's fucked up, even for your standards, and we all know how low those are.

Genius out.

PS

Let me suggest you start using a "speelcheeker" and while you are at it, there's this new technology known as the shift key.

Your communication skills are on par with that of a monkey.

Posted On: Friday, Jun. 11 2010 @ 9:04AM

hrose says:

Mr. Julian,

Do one thing. Please, please make our local paper cover all sides of this story. This really really bothers me. It's just not ethical.

Personally, I'm afraid to contact you. I'm not legally savvy enough to know if Mayor Cooper would sue me for asking a question she wouldn't want to answer. Balls don't do much if you're not lawyered up it seems. Cooper is lawyered on the city's dime. Poor Mike Butler.

I attended a meeting a few weeks ago and Mayor Cooper kept saying something like "I'm going to ask that woman (in the audience) how her husband likes being on house arrest." What did that have to w/ the Mike Good's firing? This is what I saw & heard. I felt sorry for that woman while the Mayor wanted to drag out dirty laundry.

As for London, I never heard anything from him desiring to be the mayor. He just wants transparency....he wants all the facts before he makes a decision. I see nothing wrong with that. Even a person with a sixth grade education can see the reasoning behind that.

Posted On: Friday, Jun. 11 2010 @ 11:26AM

Andrew Markoff says:

The first thing that needs to be mentioned is that insults and name calling are entirely inappropriate. Chaz Stevens, you are nothing but a gleefully nasty man, and you offer no help whatsoever for any situation at hand in Hallandale other than to aggrandize yourself with your aggressively mean nature.

Secondly, the problems with Mike Good's responsiveness to city residents and his attentiveness to issues affecting basic quality of life are not recent. Mr. Good has been consistently unresponsive to calls and emails during the more than six years I've lived in Hallandale. Furthermore, while his performance problems have been blamed on family issues, mold overtaking his house and health problems, Mr. Good's failure or unwillingness to respond to the Mayor, commissioners and city officials while he was unexpectedly absent are more likely due to another type of personal problem alluded to in another comment, and if he cannot function while pursuing that kind of occupation and he had been offered plenty of time off to take care of it, then there's no option other

than a separation that should have been pursued a long time ago.

While there is certainly cause to invalidate his contract, there are two issues that too many Hallandale residents and one commissioner- London, of course- ignore. Those issues are that a CEO-type contract customarily offered to any city manager will make it far less-than-easy to fire that manager due to political whims, in-fighting and power plays. A city manager's employment is at the whim of the commission, and a dismissal can occur far too easily without a solid contract that offers a generous severance. The city of South Miami fired its city manager only a few months ago totally unexpectedly during a commission meeting at which either the mayor or another commissioner was absent. That was due entirely to political in-fighting, and they are now onto their third city manager in well under a year. That's ridiculous.

The second issue in regards to that contract is that commissioner London's contention that the city should have offered "zero" to Mr. Good, which resulted in some applause from the audience in attendance, was inexcusably irresponsible. In the above article, commissioner London contends that the city would have triumphed in any lawsuit on the matter of the contract. Well, a responsible, intelligent and savvy manager, politician or attorney would tell you that Mr. London's contention is certainly the most expensive route to go.

Fiduciary responsibility and an appropriate representation of the taxpayers' interests calls for the commission to negotiate with Mike Good in good faith, as Mr. Good was fortunately willing to do, and to reach a settlement that discounts his lack of performance that has recent documentation to prove his absences. Both sides- the city and Mike Good- should separate amicably, and Mr. Good should take a severance to which he can agree even though it's decreases the original stipulations of his contract, and then the party's over in the most expeditious fashion while minimizing any unexpected costs. To enter into litigation in an attempt to get away with "zero" while accumulating legal fees is the epitome of irresponsible and reactionary governance.

Bill, please never write to anyone in ALL CAPS. It's bad form and widely unacceptable on-line. It's considered "shouting." Please understand that those who choose to call you insulting and disparaging names are doing so only because their own lives are severely lacking. I don't agree with all that the commission says and does, and I have my own ideas of what I consider "quality of life." (to quote commissioner Ross), but I don't think that anyone is entitled to name-calling and insults. All civic participation should be welcomed and encouraged, and those who don't feel that their community is functioning according to their own needs should speak with and meet with their representatives. Even if you feel cynical about the possible results of such an effort, it's the right thing to do.

Another example of fiduciary irresponsibility is the call for a "forensic audit" of the CRA and the city's finances. Aside from regularly scheduled audits, to pay the immense expense and undertake the man hours to conduct a "forensic audit" that is called for only in the most abnormal circumstances in which there are apparent cost overruns and other accounting irregularities displays a peak of hubris in regards to the waste of taxpayer dollars. Vice Mayor Julian and the other city officials have a responsibility to ensure that such an expense (forensic audits are prohibitively expensive when there is no evidence of malfeasance) is not wasted over political grandstanding and a determination to cast aspersions against the city for political purposes.

The constant call for "summary minutes" by commissioner London and Mike Butler is also a totally, totally irresponsible waste of money and man hours. We have every second of commission meetings available on-line, on TV and on DVD, and action minutes provide adequate and extensive detail. The only reason that London calls for "summary minutes" is because he refuses to accept that any and all commission votes are final and represent the ENTIRE commission, even when he disagrees (which is just about always, despite that the PEOPLE voted in the other representatives).

No one is going to go back in history in the year 3000 just to see what commissioner London had to say in order to attempt yet again to filibuster the normal proceedings of the meeting agendas and aggrandize himself with constant, unending political posturing that entirely ignores the city business at hand and continually fosters nothing... nothing... NOTHING but negativity. Any city and its PAID representatives has a basic responsibility to foster positivity to encourage investment by both business and residents.

If things are so impossibly negative, then the appropriate action to take is to resign from the commission and act as an outside critic, not take up the time on the dais to interrupt the proceedings and call attention to yourself, especially when it would cost more and take up more time to create "summary minutes" unnecessarily and post every contract on the city website when the taxpayers pay commissioners to represent them and take

care of reading them themselves. City employees have plenty of other things to do that take up their time.

The Kessel contract has been consistently portrayed, even by local papers, as "worth \$36,000," even though it was an at-will contract that had thus far cost the city \$4,200. The city manager is the CEO and has spending authority within specified amounts. To consistently claim that there was something illegal going on only discourages investment in our city from both businesses and potential homeowners. Hallandale is the laughingstock only because the political discourse from London, Butler and Smith, let alone Chaz Stevens, "Genius," is so irresponsible.

Lastly, and once again, I wish that everyone who chooses to comment on the commission would remember that Hallandale is not like Hollywood or other cities: we do not have any clean sweeps of our elected officials. There are only two seats up at a time, and the other commissioners have at least another year to go after the next election. So once again, let's work with what we've got, and because Keith London has made it entirely clear that he is not even on speaking terms with the rest of the commission, the former city manager, many city employees and many, many residents, there is no hope of working with him and he has to go, no matter what Chaz "Genius" has to say about it in Deerfield.

Posted On: Friday, Jun. 11 2010 @ 1:03PM

Chaz Stevens, Genius says:

Dear DotComrade friends.

Allow me to retort.

>> The first thing that needs to be mentioned is that insults and name calling are entirely inappropriate.

Let me disagree by channeling my inner Julian with the following answer - TESTING. TESTING. CHECK 1 2. CHECK 1 2. HEY IS THIS THING ON? WELCOME TO THE INTERNET AND THE FIRST AMENDMENT.

Chaz Stevens, you are nothing but a gleefully nasty man
Agree. You also forgot a plagurist, flatulist, and inhumanist.

>> you offer no help whatsoever for any situation at hand in Hallandale
True dat. My role is that of a cynic. As Wilde once said - I know the price of everything and the value of nothing.

>> other than to aggrandize yourself
Ditto or mega super dittos to the idiot Rush fans in the audience.

>> with your aggressively mean nature.
Oh come on. Let's hug it out.

>> made Hallandale a laughing stock?
Really? By my commentary? Not because of the overbuilding, or not showing up for work, or running the city in the toilet, fucking things up beyond all recognition, suing a resident for making a public records request, kickbacks, handouts, taking forever to answer a PRR... That doesn't matter... What matters is that I call Julian a...

Wait... Let me go get a new word from UrbanDictionary.com. BRB... and while I am gone, please enjoy the nice elevator music.

Wow. So many words. Got it! Let's see if you can find it in the following...

So let me get this right. Julian was missing in action for years, and only after Good gets shit canned, does he wake up and smell the Folgers? Really? It is just me or is Bill operating on Asshole Standard Time?

Look Whackoff... I mean Markoff... I've read your commentary before and it seems to me that you are a one man circle jerk. Your musings, which remind me of a literary style only found in great works such as the Unabomber Manifesto, seemingly argue for, against, and the in-between. All usually done within the same sentence.

In the end, making me wonder the following...

I am not a head shrinker, but are you suffering from schizophrenia? I mean, shit man, you seem to come to the party with your own built in entourage...

But then again, this is just my opinion, so what do I know?

Chaz Stevens, Genius
Fucking things up in HB since 2007 - albeit from 30 miles away and via a keyboard

Posted On: Friday, Jun. 11 2010 @ 1:52PM

horse with no name says:

Andrew, your thoughts are well stated and I agree with most of your comments. However, there are some issues that the commission never discusses and yet they are the most disgraceful of all actions taken by the city manager. In essence, he broke the laws and was extremely unethical without commission action.

1. He hired his future son-in-law who was engaged to his daughter into a job he created specifically for him. No comment by the commission. In fact, the city has an ordinance that says you may not employ a relative; so did Mike Good break the intent of the law. It's a fact, and everyone knows that he created the job specifically for his son-in-law.

2. He created the job while the director of the Department was on vacation and without the director's knowledge. The director left the employment of the city because of this action. Because Mike Good made him take his son-in-law. The prior experience of the son-in-law was that of a bartender. He'd never worked for a municipality or any other meaningful employment for that matter.

3. Next, Mike Good's gives his wife a \$10,000 salary increase. once again, no commission action.

4. Mike Good's wife gets a second job for \$100,000 with the John Canada consulting firm that is managing Southwest Ranches. Then Mr. Good hires John Canada's daughter into a position where she lacks the qualifications and at the high end of the pay range. Again, Bill Julian and the rest of the commission sat on their hands and did nothing. Mike Good is unethical.

5. Next, he figures that since I can get away with hiring my future son-in-law at a job created specifically for him and for which he is not qualified, since he is now my son-in-law, why don't I give him a \$10,000 increase and promote them into a position in another department for which he also is not qualified. Bill Julian sat there and did nothing.

6. Next, Mike Good gets a huge payout consisting of sick leave and vacation days. A person in his office noted during his tenure as city manager that there were nearly 241 days he did not even come into the office and never took vacation or sick leave until the past several months. So now the city is paying him bonus pay that he does not deserve. Bill Julian praises Mike Good's performance.

How do I know all of this? because I am one of three individuals who commented on different blogs who actually worked for the man and were either pushed out or intentionally mistreated so we would leave and he could employ his friends. Like the unqualified neighbor girl whom he also created a position. what the city should be doing is thanking Mr. Intindola for leaving them \$56 million surplus and protecting the city for six years after he retired. that's who you should be thanking Mr. Julian. The residents of the city may not know it, but once we were known as the crown jewel of financial management in the state of Florida. Now were the crown joke.

And now they placed Mark Antonio into the position as interim city manager who is known for coming in an hour late, taking two-hour lunches and leaving early. Julian and the commission does nothing.

Posted On: Friday, Jun. 11 2010 @ 2:15PM

Andrew Markoff says:

Horse-with-no-name:

That may all be true, but I find myself telling idealists all of the time lately that whether it pertains to our national politics or local matters in S. Florida, things are actually much worse than even those who complain the loudest realize.

Bill Julian's seat is up, but so is London's. So far, there is only one other candidate in contention. We don't have the pick of the litter... this is Hallandale Beach. The goings on in city governments and in the county and in surrounding communities in S. Florida and in the state are much, much worse than what has gone on in Hallandale.

There's not much to be offered in the way of solutions. My suggestion is that we focus on the most basic processes in managing city government. The commission has meetings, there is an agenda, they must attend to that agenda. If residents and business people have concerns or complaints, they must take it to officials and elected representatives.

In those most basic functions, Keith London is not operating at all. He creates the impression that he is attending to city concerns in exactly the same way that Glenn Beck attends to national concerns on TV and on radio. It's all just talk and insinuation and manipulation. Don't be duped.

Bill Julian isn't ideal. He's not the best. He's not brilliant. He's not worldly, and he's not entirely on top of matters. But he doesn't claim to be. He needs input, he needs help, he needs participation (other than on blogs) and he asks for that. He's open. He's fairly sincere. He's a nice guy. London is NOT. London refuses to even communicate via

email if he personally does not like anyone. He is belittling and sarcastic in person and will insult others behind their backs, a la Chaz "Genius." And that can apply to absolutely anyone. That is NOT ACCEPTABLE.

So, yes, there may have been kickbacks and malfeasance and nepotism and dishonesty. What else is new?? You want to bring in the National Guard?

In American politics, things are much worse than most people realize. Even for a county seat, you can't really expect to run unless you're a millionaire with lots of, perhaps, nefarious connections. We've got two options for our district in regards to the County Commission. We have to pick one. Just one ...and have a nice day. One is a sincere person who's anti-development, has preserved land, and who has otherwise determinedly underperformed for Hallandale and the district while ensuring nepotistic benefits. The other is the Boss Tweed of the area who slyly negotiates the political ropes for the mutual benefit of himself and voters. Pick one. And have a nice day.

Work with what you've got. You're pining for an ideal that we just don't have available to us right now. Bill Julian is in office and willing to communicate. He's voicing his intent to try to do better.

Let's please just deal with what we've got because we are not taking up arms and storming the palace. There is one candidate who is not an incumbent. Please, PLEASE, let him take London's seat so at the very least meetings can proceed according to the most basic procedures, and let's attempt to get investigations, answers and improvements with the mechanisms we have at hand.

If you get London's emails- (he cut me out, even though I had signed up to be on his list and I live in Hallandale) at the bottom, he lists all the state officials and federal investigators that you can contact, and using those mechanisms, you can seek redress. But you are not going to have Jezzus H. Krist or his mother show up to take a seat on the commission and replace dotty Dottie or kooky Cooper, and Keith London will do nothing for you other than continually call attention to himself. He does not care about this city at all. You are deluding yourself if you believe that his intent is to improve our quality of life. He'd just as soon lock you in a trunk with Bill Julian for the sake of his own convenience.

Work with what you have at hand. It is much worse all around us than perhaps you realize, and there are far, far, far worse shenanigans in cities that surround Hallandale. And by the way, our finances are still better than a lot of other communities, and despite Chaz's assertions on a previous article where he expressed surprise that we have "running water," our drinking water is the best.

It's not all bad, and it certainly isn't ideal, but Good is gone, and let's move on. Voice your concerns directly to your representatives. Then expect action and answers. Say nothing, and expect to be ignored and expect inaction.

Posted On: Friday, Jun. 11 2010 @ 3:39PM

Andrew Markoff says:

Oh, and by the way, the above article does not specify what the offer from the city to Good was. The Sun Sentinel claims that the commission dropped it's intention to offer five months pay and instead offered the full nine months according to his contract.

When I approached Commissioner Ross and had asked her what had been the final result of that meeting (I had to leave mid-way through after three hours in the chambers, and it wasn't aired on Comcast despite the cameras and TV's being on in the chambers) she snapped at me and refused to discuss it.

If the city offered the full nine months after Julian had suggested five, I have one question:

WHAT THE FUCK????????????????

Posted On: Friday, Jun. 11 2010 @ 3:44PM

Chaz Stevens, Genius says:

Marking-one-off;

Does your grasp of reality wanders to and fro, much like a busted wheel on a shopping cart...

Your tomes are painful to read, and as such, many of us don't bother.

Hint: Folks don't read on the Internet. They scan...

http://www.useit.com/eyetracking/eyetracking_corporate_site_about_us.png

Posted On: Friday, Jun. 11 2010 @ 3:58PM

more says:

Andrew, you're entitled to your opinion. But it's what I read is this true, then we should expect more from our public officials. I've lived in this city for nearly 30 years and wants to collapse over the last six or seven. The last city manager was very professional. Quite a change when Good was appointed. As for Keith London, he's an obstructionist and should move on.

Posted On: Friday, Jun. 11 2010 @ 4:00PM

Anonymous says:

this should be investigated by the feds. ross is too close to good

Posted On: Friday, Jun. 11 2010 @ 4:05PM

Chaz Stevens, Genius says:

London an obstructionist? You missed the beginning part of that word...

As in...

London is an anti-obstructionist. He removed Good, a bit of human flotsam occupying valuable space and tying up precious resources.

PS If you want London to move on, vote him out. That's how it works in a democracy...

Posted On: Friday, Jun. 11 2010 @ 4:15PM

Homer T says:

Ex city employee says:

Bill, it's hard to meet to say this but you are a joke. I worked for both Mr. Intindola and no good. I'm not using my name because they may actually contact them should I choose to move from my current position. However, this man never worked a full week during that time I worked for him. He used to come in at 2 PM and demand that the staff lead been there since 7 AM stay to seven or 8 PM because that was his best working time. The staff often joked that RJ Intindola worked more in one day than my good days in a week.

And by the way, you made a comment in a meeting several weeks ago that I watched on the computer the other day that Mike good was Rove respected among other cities in Broward County. I mean this sincerely and not just to bang him once again. Every once in a while I still attend Broward County city manager meetings and he and Hallandale are the laughingstock of the County. He can't even pronounce words properly. The grassy or hard surface area in the middle of the road is called a median; not a medium.

I heard him use the word incorrectly during several commission meetings and the commission never said a word. Problem is, you're too dumb to know the difference.

Jeff, Give it a rest already. You weren't as good as you thought you were when you were here and I guess Juno agreed when they canned you.

Posted On: Friday, Jun. 11 2010 @ 4:21PM

Andrew Markoff says:

Chaz, do not delude yourself to believe that London removed Good. That is ridiculous. The only thing that London accomplished was to so alienate his cohorts that he allowed Good's tenure to be extended longer than it would have been if he had instead fostered their respect, and then finally the Mayor took action to get Good out when Good wasn't responding even to her.

I called Bill Julian. It's even difficult for him to understand the legal process, but it seems that what they did was vote on allowing Good's severance contract to remain in effect until he comes back within 21 days, at which time Julian still intends to offer five months pay instead of nine. The Sun-Sentinel reporting appears to be inaccurate.

I'm sure Dottie Ross will vote to retain the nine months pay, and London will vote no on anything and everything offered, which leaves the Mayor and Sanders to agree to an offer of five months, which I think would be a reasonable means of severing Good's employment and avoiding litigation, should he accept.

Dottie Ross's continual defense of Good despite his lack of performance is entirely inexcusable, but she won re-election by four votes and her seat isn't up this year. Whatya gonna do??

Posted On: Friday, Jun. 11 2010 @ 4:34PM

Chaz Stevens, Genius says:

>> I called Bill Julian. It's even difficult for him to understand the legal process, Did you try to explain it to him? Shit, I'd bet you'd make the recipe for a PB&J sandwich nearly impossible to follow.

Posted On: Friday, Jun. 11 2010 @ 4:43PM

Andrew Markoff says:

Chaz- go back to school and learn to read like people who extensively and intrusively write comments about the news normally do.

Posted On: Friday, Jun. 11 2010 @ 4:48PM

Chaz Stevens, Genius says:

Andrew...

Do you find that people tend to *blink a lot* when they are around you. Slow prolonged blinking?

I know you can't see on our side of the monitor, but trust me when I say that folks are doing just when reading your tripe.

Posted On: Friday, Jun. 11 2010 @ 5:10PM

Afraid-of-crooks says:

After reading a few Hallandale Beach blogs and especially this one during the last couple of days, my conclusion is:

- a) Most of the present commissioners should go. Just vote them out. Period.
- b) Hallandale should be one of the wealthiest cities in Florida. They have built thousands of new condos close to the beach (by the way, Hallandale doesn't even have a decent beach - compare to Hollywood)

These condos must have brought a lot of money. On the other hand, the values of our homes have gone up the last 10 years more than ever, and so have our taxes.

However, Hallandale has now the worse debt ever. It pays a manager an incredible severance package as a prize for driving the city to the dump.

As I read here, none of the city commissioners assumes responsibility for keeping Mr. Good for so many years.

It looks like nobody ever supervised his terrible work.

I don't get it. Did this Mr. Good have such great qualifications when they hired him, to justify this kind of salary?

Whose idea was it to hire him in the first place?

And how come these commissioners never noticed that the guy was essentially doing nothing but crazily wasting our money.

- c) Hallandale's bureaucracy have increased exponentially, but services are worse than ever.

- d) Homeowners and businesses pay the highest water and sewage bills in South Florida but get a most limited service.

- e) The present bureaucracy will eventually destroy the city's finances with all the associated pension plans. Remember my words.

- f) The now famous Mr. Good, the city manager, made more money than the City of New York or the City of Paris' manager.

- g) City commissioners have promoted a new form of harassment against their own citizens.

I suggest that the repulsive traffic cameras that have no other objective than enriching some digital corporation, and collecting money for the city, be REMOVED immediately. This is a time of recession. Not a good time to overburden your citizens.

They are an indirect form of taxation since they serve no safety purpose.

None of the cities which have experienced with it had actually improved their safety records or reduced traffic accidents. This has been proved many times.

Do your research as I did and you'll confirm it.

They are a shame and my motion is nobody should vote for any commissioner who endorsed that repulsive idea.

- g) Hallandale Beach's citizens should just forget this miserable period in the history of their city. This is still a democracy and they should remember all this next time they vote!

Posted On: Friday, Jun. 11 2010 @ 7:21PM

Andrew Markoff says:

Afraid-of-crooks:

Your comments are basically good ones, except for the following:

"Most of the present commissioners should go. Just vote them out. Period."

As I keep repeating, only two commission seats are up for re-election at a time, so it's not that simple. We have to learn to work with Mayor Cooper and Commissioners Ross and Sanders no matter who sits in Vice Mayor Julian's or Commissioner London's seats after November.

That is why I am continually asserting that residents who are dissatisfied with the management and direction of Hallandale Beach should utilize the process at hand to effect change, not just insult people and read and write blogs, as is the typical method of criticizing our local government around here. You have to figure out how to communicate with and influence whomever holds office. You cannot simply sweep all of them out.

Mayor Cooper, Commissioner Ross, and Vice Mayor Julian have been absolutely head-over-heels in love with Mike Good. They are all very emotional over the present situation. Ex-Mayor Eustice Steinberg is very close to Mike Good personally. I don't know what it is that they love about the man. I've never been privy to their personal relationships with him, and I cannot compare the city to before and after his tenure because I haven't been here long enough.

For many city issues, such as sewage, water and waste fees and traffic light cameras, I often just don't know what to think because of the complexities. There's more than one side to most city issues, and municipal management is confusing. The cameras sound bad in one way, but they make sense in another. They're revenue generators, and one can pretty much easily avoid getting fined. We don't contract out waste, sewage and water services, so we have to perhaps pay a little more but get better service than surrounding communities that get low bids from outside contractors.

All I know is that this is a particularly unfriendly town and I have some extraordinarily nasty neighbors who go out of their ways to harass one another and be unhappy.

When I can, I'll leave. But I certainly don't get as upset about Hallandale as I do about America in general. There are bigger issues, in other words, than Hallandale Beach. Yet people choose to get so angry.

I'll just say this: what is missing in all of our abilities to assess Hallandale's finances and management is a true and traditional 'fourth estate.' David Smith's Hallandale Beach Blog is entirely useless and seeks only to foster negativity about anything and everyone, and he's a right winger in a town and a county of mostly liberals. ChangeHallandale.com complains about assertions of facts and figures, but makes zero suggestions about solutions or how things should be otherwise. The Sun-Times... oh please.

We need a press. We need professional, trained and mature reporters who advise us as to what's really going on and how our city compares to others. We don't have that. All we have are nasty, sniping comments on-line that continually assume the worst.

Not helping.

I understand that you're not happy with the commission, but it's the voters who showed up to vote that voted them in over several separate elections, and the Mayor ran unopposed, so what I am asserting is that it's not really them that is entirely to blame for everything. It's us.

Be friendlier, welcome involvement and discussion (shut up, Chaz, you asshole), never discourage anyone from getting involved in civic meetings and social events (like George PosNasty constantly tries to do) and always, always, always be polite to your fellow residents when you see them at city hall events or meetings.

I suspect that because Hallandale has a dense concentration of condos, there's a preponderance of "condo commandos," that that's why there's less friendliness. Also, Hallandale, unlike Hollywood, for example, has very, very few social events where people can get together. I was invited to go to Hollywood tonight to see a free movie in Young Circle, for example. Those people see one another and try to have some fun.

And, of course, there's mean people like Keith London, David Smith (who's nice, but mean) Chaz and others who just have bad intentions.

While people complain about Dottie Ross, she's been there for a hundred years. She keeps getting elected.

Talk to your neighbors, be friendly with people, and try to foster some understanding of city issues and encourage more people to vote the way you'd hope that they do.

Posted On: Friday, Jun. 11 2010 @ 8:38PM

Ex city employee says:

Afraid of crooks:I can tell you about the last city manager because I worked for him for several years. He was the consummate professional, well respected within the state and frequently spoke at the regional and national level on the city management profession. He is still doing that today. He left the city with a \$56 million surplus which Mike Good destroyed in a matter of five years.I am still astounded that the commission let him get by with hiring his future son-in-law and making the deal with John Canada to employ his wife while he employed Canada's unqualified daughter as the assistant city clerk. Mike good is unethical.

The reason why Dottie Ross and Mike are so close could be for the following reason. she bought a condo a little before Mr. Intindola left the city. He found out that Mike good was fixing the condo for Dottie and put a stop to it. On the sly, he would fix the condo. There is a strong rumor that he knew Intindola was leaving and made a deal with Dottie to support him for the job. Which she did wholeheartedly. While this is just a rumor, it is also known, that he bragged about fixing her condo and his back room deal to several people. He could never keep a secret or keep his mouth shut. He was always patting himself on the back.

Afraid of Crooks, you may have heard this before: Mr. Intindola was a major leaguer and Mike good flunked in the rookie league.

Posted On: Friday, Jun. 11 2010 @ 10:08PM

Chaz Stevens, Genius says:

Mark-one-off;

Did you just call me an asshole? Really?

Perfect. It seems that you comprehend perfectly. I was concerned you might miss the point.

Posted On: Friday, Jun. 11 2010 @ 11:21PM

Bill Julian - Vice-Mayor says:

Hey everyone, look, I don't claim to be the smartest, or the most articulate person on the planet.

I am someone who has lived in Hallandale since 1955, and have a true love for our city and it's residents.

I admit my short comings was trusting in the system, our staff, our attorney, and the city managers office.

I was not informed of everything that went on with the hiring and firing.

The city manager's contract back in 2002 was the first contract of any kind I have ever seen for an employee.

In my business of throughbred racing we never deal with contracts, and handle hundreds of thousands of dollars, and racehosres worth millions. As it is today, a verble agreement , and a handshake is stiiil valid.

That not being much of an excuse.

I was told by our city attorney at the time that Mike Good's contract was the same as RJ.,Intindola, so I did not question it.

I was also informed that to hire a City Manager, you must provide a severance package, and pay them a pretty high salery.

I can tell you one thing that the new city manager will receive a lot less salery, and maybe no severance package from me.

I tried to save the city 4 month's pay, and still might when this comes back to the commission.

In the mean time, lets stop pointing the blame on people, and start a new chapter in better government, and move forward.

If you guys want to call me names, Ok, I know you need to vent your frustrations.

My offer is still good, I'll meet with any of you at your convenience. I want your input and ideas, help me help you.

It's more than the rest of the commission is offering.

That's the best I can offer.

Bill Julian. (954) 274-7230

Posted On: Saturday, Jun. 12 2010 @ 12:32AM

Mayor Pooper says:

Good can really eat pussy, that's why I kept him on!

Posted On: Saturday, Jun. 12 2010 @ 7:24AM

Cougar Ross says:

He'd come over and work on my pipes. What a nice boy.

Posted On: Saturday, Jun. 12 2010 @ 7:26AM

Andrew Markoff says:

I strongly suggest that Mike Butler makes an appointment with Bill Julian to go over all of his frustrations and dissatisfaction in regards to the management of the city, his legal skirmishes with the Mayor and with the city and all of his concerns and allegations in regards to the city's finances.

One on one, the two men should discuss everything to ensure that Bill Julian fully understands what Mike Butler wants explained and what he wants changed.

It is Vice Mayor Julian who has made the explicit offer to meet and discuss, and before continuing to assert that everyone should vote in the phantom Elijah or Jeezus H. Kryst to take Julian's seat, Mr. Butler should make the effort to speak man to man - resident to commissioner- about the issues that concern him.

To "Ex city employee," I would like to know why ex-Mayor Sonny Rosenberg has continually asserted that all the previous city managers were trouble and that Mike Good was the best and that he shouldn't be fired. I have heard it mentioned more than once from Rosenberg and at least one other (can't remember who, but perhaps Dottie Ross) that everything was a mess until Mike Good took over.

I would also like to know about this supposed previous \$56 million surplus, and exactly how much debt the city currently has. While the city had a large surplus, should that be true, was the city's infrastructure thoroughly attended to?

Posted On: Saturday, Jun. 12 2010 @ 10:59AM

Chaz Stevens, Genius says:

As much as I dig Tom Francis, I think he missed the boat with the title of this post.

Should have read... Absentee City Manager Giving City Golden Shower.

Posted On: Saturday, Jun. 12 2010 @ 11:07AM

ROADKILL says:

Good one, Chaz. But, seriously, folks, here's the inside scoop on Hallandale. For years, the entire city has been set up to serve the needs of Mayor Pooper's HUGE ego. I have witnessed the machinations first hand. Pooper was able to absolutely manipulate Mike Good because all he cared about was making a lot of money while doing very little work and going off and doing whatever else he was doing, which I suspect was feeding an addiction. Classic fox and henhouse scenario. The City Attorney is absolutely TERRIFIED of losing his job because he is unemployable elsewhere, so he never ever rocked the boat. Whatever he was told to do by Mike Good and the Mayor, he did. Jove has a very poor reputation in most legal circles, from what I hear. So there went that check and balance. London hasn't helped things by polarizing the commission. Markoff is right: if London has massaged things when he came in and won over a few commissioners, he would have had Good out of there in no time flat. Instead, he came in like a bull in a china shop...several realllly pissed off bulls actually. I can understand his frustration. The city is a mess and Pooper is mean and stupid and egotistical. But, still, he didn't help. So, now, here is Hallandale, left with this incredible mess. Hopefully, the city attorney will also be fired. He is paid way too much money for doing pretty much nothing but exactly what Mayor Pooper tells him, which includes very questionable legal opinions. And, he spends a ton of money on really expensive outside counsel when the work could easily be done in house. Almost every top administrator, with the exception of a few, are completely incompetent. If you want to get a good story, ask about the fire chief's womanizing ways, or how much city staff LOVES the police chief (not). But, again, this all stems from Pooper and Good...so good riddance. One thing I do disagree with you on Markoff: They could easily win the lawsuit if they fired good for cause...easily.

Posted On: Saturday, Jun. 12 2010 @ 11:49AM

ROADKILL says:

Also, I would love to know what Charity Good thought when the City had to continually call her in attempts to find her husband when he didn't show up to work for weeks on end and even she claimed not to know where he was.

Posted On: **Saturday, Jun. 12 2010 @ 11:52AM**

ROADKILL says:

And to Commissioner Julian: If someone hasn't told you this before, Mayor Pooper is completely manipulating YOU for her own purposes. Get away from her, she is bad news.

Posted On: **Saturday, Jun. 12 2010 @ 11:56AM**

Andrew Markoff says:

ROADKILL:

On principle they could easily win a lawsuit for firing for cause, but that depends on having a fair judge, competent lawyers on all sides, and a reasonable legal system. Instead, as is more typically the situation, we could be tied up in court for longer than expected with legal professionals who have their own personal and financial interests at the forefront of any case involving contracts and financial wrangling, and political relationships could effectively rip the blind off of lady justice. So yes, you're probably right, and I absolutely do believe that on principle, Good's contract should be null and void due to lack of performance and - most of all - his failure or refusal to communicate with the Mayor, commissioners and staff while missing in action. Of course, the commission could make a decision on whether to settle or to give nothing if they had reliable legal counsel, and I agree with you one thousand percent that they do not and never do.

Commissioners Ross and perhaps Mayor Cooper as well, however, seem determined to give Good whatever he wants because of whatever personal relationship they have had with him. I will not say that they are hiding anything that Good may expose, because that's the kind of assertion that people love to make while knowing nothing at all for fact. I am not privy to any shady or underhanded dealings. All I can see is a oddly strong emotional bond between those ladies and Mike Good, and I've never been privy to where that came from.

I also agree with your entire assessment, but, as I always say, there's just nothing we can do when the Mayor ran unopposed, the people pick these people, only two seats are up, and our only option is to figure out a way to deal with them.

What we do not have to put up with is the city attorney and the police chief. It is absolutely UNACCEPTABLE that such incompetent and, in the case of McGill, nefarious sorts should have the acquiescence of the commission. I assume that David Jove is a nice guy and I wish him well, but his advice has continually been proven dangerous, including his assessment of the ordinance changing the Pension Board from consisting of two residents to two commissioners, which was rejected by the state Attorney General's office with the threat of pulling "premium tax dollars" from the city if the wording was not fixed- and that's after I had voice the same concern at a commission meeting even though I'm hardly the brightest pebble on the beach. It is appropriate, however, ROADKILL, to hire outside counsel in regards to the employment severance negotiations, as Jove could be called to testify and act as a witness in regards to Mike Good's termination and his contract.

As for Chief McGill, that is a man that I would not even wave 'hello' to when I see him. The accreditation of that police department should be pulled. Their Internal Affairs department is an unfunny joke. While there are incompetent and bullying Hallandale police on the streets, it's the incompetent, corrupt and dishonest administration that is always ultimately at fault for not providing the most basic training of procedures and holding their staff to basic standards.

The biggest mess that Hallandale is in right now at this moment, however, is this tea bagger following that Keith London has engendered. While many of his concerns may be legitimate, his methods of operating, especially in his determined effort to alienate, humiliate and insult the residents he supposed to serve and the cohorts he's supposed to work with and his determination to obstruct the basic functioning of commission meetings, have made it clear that he is nothing but poisonous for Hallandale Beach. London strives to alienate business investment, property sales, new residents and visitors from coming into Hallandale, which he continually portrays as an awful place to be and to invest in. While that may be true for some (I'm certainly unhappy living here because) that's not what any city official collects a paycheck to do. Unfortunately, there's enough angry, ignorant and ill-informed people in town that want to believe that

he's fighting for their interests when all he has really done is to grandstand all the time, outright lie to those he represents, and accomplish absolutely NOTHING for our neighborhoods and for disadvantaged individuals who need help, as every other commissioner has continually tried to do.

I am always friendly to my commissioners, the Mayor and the Vice-Mayor. I've never had "words" with Keith London and tried to be friendly to him. They are entitled to respect. I will say this, however: Dottie Ross has been continually rude and dismissive outside of the chambers and that behavior has been getting worse. At some point, someone will have to deal with that behavior. Either she assumes that whomever may be speaking to is opposed to her own agenda, or she's just choosing to be rude. If she can't control her behavior, it may come time that she should be asked to resign. The trouble with Hallandale, however, is that there never seems to be anyone out there who's capable of taking any commissioner's place other than, perhaps, current candidate Alexander Lewy.

I had never seen Charity Good before that last commission meeting. All I can say is, De Nial ain't just a river in Egypt.

Posted On: Saturday, Jun. 12 2010 @ 12:47PM

ROADKILL says:

Lewy is a good guy and probably would make a good commissioner. Also, in regard to the outside counsel issue, yes, outside counsel was definitely necessary for the good contract issue. In other instances, not so much. Hallandale is a good little city, I hope it makes it through this mess to better times. What's disturbing about the tea baggers is that while they want to tear everything down, they have nothing constructive to replace it with. Totally reactionary and frightening.

Posted On: Saturday, Jun. 12 2010 @ 12:57PM

Ex city employee says:

HOMO-T---Believe it or not, I am not Jeff. I actually worked within several departments. As for the city being in disarray when Mr. Intindola left, that is a total falsehood. It was a fine oiled machine.

Rosenberg actually supported Intindola until Steinberg joined the commission and shady lost the majority. They parted ways over two issues. For many years Rosenberg has supported an ordinance in zoning that stated you could not build over 30 feet high. Secondly, the ordinances for three islands were overly flexible allowing almost any kind of use the commission desire. Most of these ordinances were created by the Rosenberg majority. Intindola rejected placing a Wal-Mart and a strip center on the three islands vacant property and instead wanted to bring in height and offices and condominiums that would have if I recall, according to the staff report improve the property values by five or six times over the Wal-Mart. He also opposed the traffic created by a retail center. There was a long year battle because Intindola stymied the Wal-Mart retail center as long as possible to prevent its construction. You to Steinberg came on the commission and supported Intindola and the whole issue eventually went to court. It's readily apparent that Wal-Mart won the battle so instead of having a 10 to 15 story combination of condos and offices, Wal-Mart was constructed.

The second major issue involved vacant land on Hallandale East Beach Boulevard we are a medical group wanted to construct a seven-story medical office center. Because of the height restrictions, Rosenberg and Intindola battled again and as you can plainly see a Walgreens was developed instead. While I forget the exact difference in property values, Rosenberg was turning E. Beach Blvd. into a retail center instead of high-end offices. There were numerous other issues such as Rosenberg pushing through auto care facilities on W. Beach Blvd., many of which are still vacant to this day. So their battles were over zoning issues where they were both at opposite extremes.

But the bottom line that many employees talk about is this: Intindola did not kiss any commissioner's ass. He was forthright and did what he believed was in the best interest of the community. He made the gas stations on the corner of US one and a Blvd. install Spanish tiles much to Rosenberg's chagrin. Rosenberg even met with developers on the side and would make deals that Intindola would call his hand publicly before the commission. Mike good would shake the thought of having to deal with a Rosenberg and never could handle London.

And HOMER-T or Mrs. Charity good, three weeks ago several current and past employees were at a party and a discussion of Mike good and Mr. Intindola was a major topic. Not a single person there that Mike good could hold a candle to the prior city manager. I work for another city now in Broward County and regularly attend manager meetings and can tell you Mike Good is not respected.

It's been noted here before, but how could the commission except him creating a job for his future son-in-law and then promoting him within two years into a position at a significantly higher rate of pay than qualified people would start at. That's Mike Good ethics.

Now, if you want a buddy to go out for a drink with and hang out with at a barbecue; then Mike Good's your man. If you want intellect, hard-working, and somebody who will kiss the commission's ass, then you want Intindola.

Posted On: Saturday, Jun. 12 2010 @ 1:28PM

Architect says:

I have been an architect in the area for nearly 30 years and designed several major buildings in Hallandale beach. I have even worked on projects in the village. I have several appointments with RJ who was punctual, informed and show definitive leadership skills at each and every meeting. Mike was never on time for a meeting and did not even show on three or four occasions. As far back as 2005 I spoke with the Mayor about this issue and was told he would call me within 24 hours. I never received a phone call within 24 days and finally was taken by the Mayor to do development services director to discuss the issues without the city manager being present or any of his staff. I frequently attended commission meetings and public hearings on development issues and found Mike to be ignorant of the issues and he lacked knowledge of the codes. He had no negotiation skills whatsoever. I hate to see anybody lose their job but I don't really believe from what I hear from the staff inside the organization that he ever really lead.

Posted On: Saturday, Jun. 12 2010 @ 1:35PM

Andrew Markoff says:

Ex city employee-

thank you so much for your comments. I was flabbergasted when I realized (it takes me a while sometimes) that putting a WalMart on prime waterfront property makes no sense. Yes, they may be happy with a customer base from condos up and down A1A, but that never should have happened. If you are correct about Intindola's assertions, then he was absolutely right.

I have also thought a lot about my own personal vision that East Hall. Bch Blvd. should be high-end offices with a focus as a business row, perhaps with one particular industry predominant that could be attracted to the city as an alternative to being somewhere else out of state. The fact that so much retail was put in has likely contributed to impossible-to-control traffic backups that shouldn't be there. W. Hall Bch Blvd is a disgrace- absolutely a disgrace, and it didn't have to be that way.

Rosenberg made a comment at a Democratic Club meeting that launched my own intense dislike of the man. I'm beginning to see that my instincts may be proven correct, and a terrific loss to the current quality of life in Hallandale Beach may be the fact that Intindola was unable or unwilling to stick around.

One bright spot, I had hoped, would be the master plan that includes a town center and other efforts to encourage people to see one another and meet and talk on a normal basis. As it is now, the one place that Hallandale residents have to meet and hang out it Panera and Starbucks and Diplomat Mall, and that is totally unacceptable. Towns and cities need centers, the way they were traditionally designed in old Europe. If that is an accurate description of Rosenberg's vision and his methods, I am totally opposed to that paradigm of city planning and management that puts retail as the focus of quality of life rather than everyday work and recreation.

I'm sorry to be confused about one thing: who is "Homer-T"?? And who is "RJ"?

It's very, very disturbing how enthralled the Mayor, commissioner Ross and Vice-Mayor Julian have been with Mike Good. Let's now focus on getting rid of London so that meetings can proceed and actual issues can be discussed rather than harassing and provoking the commission in order to waste time. Let's also focus on the city attorney and the Chief of Police's tenure. We cannot trust this commission's judgment about the job performance of people they are apparently so personally close to.

Alexander Lewy has some ideas about how a search for a new city manager should be conducted, so anyone should talk with him about it and learn his thoughts. Unlike London, Lewy actually has a lot of ideas and a vision about how to improve quality of life, not just cast aspersions on others to call attention to himself. We certainly need someone to shake things up. Unfortunately, a lot of people believe that's what London has been doing, when he's actually accomplished NOTHING to improve the daily lives of residents in Hallandale.

Posted On: Saturday, Jun. 12 2010 @ 2:06PM

R.J. Intindola says:

Sorry I missed all of this fun. And thanks Mike Butler for providing me a link to the video of Good's last testament. Andrew, after reading some of the comments on some accurately explained the differences between Rosenberg and I. He actually had high praise for me in an article in 1992 regarding the direction I had taken the city. That all changed that same year. I guess since Mr. Good drew first blood, it's now acceptable for me now to respond. Prior, I refrained from any public comment regarding him or issues pertaining to the city.

Actually, the major issue separating Rosenberg and I was over the Action Towing franchise agreement. Angelo, the owner of Action Towing was not providing the city a proper fee for this type of franchise. I went out to bid and received offers over four times the amount provided by Action Towing. Rosenberg was able to convince Gilbert Stein to side with him in a motion that not only rejected my recommendation, but further stated the city manager could not accept bids for the Towing franchise without first receiving commission approval. Thus, disrupting the ability of the manager to functionally administer the city government. There are several other issues where the commission took this action to benefit political supporters and contributors. I publicly fought every single one of them. The press was sitting in the audience and never once asked a question concerning the commission action. I was not one to circumvent the commission and to use the press to support my agenda.

As for the comments you received from Dotty Ross, I am not aware that there were any negative issues between us although we often disagreed, especially when she was Mayor and I would openly omit her from developer meetings regarding such properties as the Posner tract. This may not be informative because I will have to make it brief. When Victor Posner died, a family feud erupted over how to handle the property. The court had said the city was negligent in denying the development and as a result we lost millions of dollars in fees. (This whole legal issue was started by Rosenberg and cost the city millions of dollars) I contacted the family and pointed out various options they could undertake to develop the property. Such as, hiring a developer and providing them a percentage. She became infuriated with me for not being included in the negotiations. Under the Hallandale form of government, the Mayor is no more powerful save for on an informal basis than any other commissioner and has no more authority or standing. She never seemed to understand these conditions and we often had unsettling discussions behind closed doors. This is not a rationalization on my part but simply a part of the nuances and expectations performing as a city manager. It occurs in all cities and Hallandale is no different. However, the most difficult task for a manager is to learn how to say "NO" to a Commissioner.

Homer-T--- as for Jeff, I don't know who you are but do know that you have no ability to evaluate intelligence and managerial competence. Jeff is highly intelligent and an outstanding manager. He was terminated in Juno Beach because he was on the wrong end of the political spectrum. If you knew what you were talking about, they simply terminated him without comment immediately after an election and he received his full severance with a 5-0 vote. I've said this before, possibly on this blog and others, if you're going to respond to my comments use your real name, show your face; don't be the coward Homer-T, that I know you are.

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Posted On: Saturday, Jun. 12 2010 @ 2:26PM

Andrew Markoff says:

Thank you, Mr. Intindola, for deciding to comment here. I very much appreciate some additional perspective and history.

I finally found the label "Homer-T" on a comment higher up in the thread. Sorry that I was confused about who was being referred to.

Nothing that you wrote, Mr. Intindola, surprises me at all. The only thing that surprises me is that we are still stuck with Dottie Ross instead of stuck with you.

By the way, Commissioner London has also expressed his dismay that the city manager has solicited bids and appraisals. I've seen a continuation of a misunderstanding of the role and powers of a city manager from the commission, though not as overt and frankly dirty as what you describe had been exhibited by Sonny Rosenberg.

A city manager is the CEO of the city and has broad powers with the commission acting in a supervisory as well as an advisory role, not a direct manager of outside contractors and city employees. The Mayor is just like any other commissioner with an equal vote and an equal supervisory role but acts as chair at meetings, signs contracts and paychecks and acts as a face and representative of the city to the public.

There are two words that may appropriately be directed to you, Mr. Intindola: come back.

Posted On: Saturday, Jun. 12 2010 @ 2:43PM

R.J. Intindola says:

, thank you for the kind comments. You may be surprised, but when I heard that Mike was on his way out, I made an offer to Joy Cooper to return on an interim basis. Internal interim managers do not take all of the necessary actions, especially if they intend on being candidates for the position. Studies have shown that they simply don't want to disrupt the organization during the transition process and make the least amount of waves possible. If you have read my website which has nearly 800 visitors week, you will note that one of my specialties is the process of selecting the manager. By the way, I indicated, I would return on an interim basis without any cost to the city. That would no longer be the case.

If you stop and think about it, it sounds logical because I would require no learning curve from a budgetary and financial standpoint. There are also several other actions that could immediately be taken to save the city approximately a half million dollars. That includes, merging the department of public works and utilities that were separated by Mike. For the last 40 years, management theorists such as Peter Drucker had advocated very narrow top organizations, similar to what a thin triangle would look like. Although I do not know the facts involved here, staff within the manager's office informed me that Mike created the public works position for a contractor that worked on his house. Again, this may be simply hearsay.

As for Rosenberg, we were at opposite ends of the spectrum regarding the vision of the city. He was for absolutely no growth and I was for high end and high-value redevelopment. The hundreds zoning codes that I fought to amend took nearly ten years in which there was virtually zero growth within the city.

I will give you as an example of just one of numerous conditions and the zoning codes that prevented community renewal and redevelopment. We had a setback requirement that was different depending upon the section of the community. We also had a minimum amount of square feet required for certain categories of residential units. I do not specifically recall the minimums so the example I am using is hypothetical. For condominiums, we had a 400 ft. minimum for a one-bedroom that was less than half of what you would find in high-quality cities.

Here is the theory: a 600 square-foot condominium cost more than a 400 square-foot condominium. As a result, two different income categories move into each type of condo.

Low-end condominiums do not have substantial amenities as those at the higher end. So, I added amenities such as requiring certain facilities and parking spaces, landscaping and other codes that would enhance the property value. Rosenberg fought me all the way on the minimum square footage and the hundreds of other code changes. And that is a minute example of where we parted. You can ask yourself this question-- would you like to see on three islands, a Wal-Mart and retail center or would you prefer a 15 story mixed use office building, apartment or condo complex. Rosenberg, preferred the Wal-Mart.

You see Andrew, the public is ignorant when it comes to matters of these issues and they would react on emotions instead of factual premises. Here is a relatively current case in point:

Many people opposed the recent development request of the diplomat to build on the golf course. Most of the opposition centered around traffic issues. And to be candid, I understand the opposition and agree with their concerns. So why would I support such a project? For the following reasons:

1. They are currently negotiating for another site and will build the project elsewhere, but within close proximity to the city. As a result, the city will be impacted by nearly the same magnitude of traffic. Example, Sonny Rosenberg as the Mayor rejected a project by Aventura Associates to construct a mall on the 34 vacant acres that once existed on three islands. Yes, we sent the developers to Aventura Florida to construct the current mall. So, although the Adventura Mall is not located within Hallandale, you all can agree that we are impacted by the traffic.
2. Secondly, these type of projects enhance property values up to a mile or more away from the development. Yes, the city benefits but so do the residents when it comes time

to sell their property.

3. Did you know, that the majority of people buy their toiletries, groceries, dry cleaning, and prescription drugs within either two miles of their home or that or their place of employment. Did you know, that most people eat lunch at a restaurant during the work week within three miles from their place of employment. So, can you imagine the business and other establishments within Hallandale that would benefit from such a development. The residents are not going to drive to Ft. Lauderdale to have their clothes dry cleaned or obtain their prescription drugs or alcoholic beverages. If you want sustainable businesses, you have to provide people.

4. Lastly, these type of developments, draw similar products into the area. When I first arrived in Hallandale, there was only one automobile repair facility on W. Beach Blvd.. Although I fought Sonny in every instance, when I left there was approximately 23 automobile repair facilities located on W. Hallandale Beach Blvd.. The properties located next to the Auto Care Center was owned by a group interested in constructing a medical center and the city was dragging them through the hoops because of height restrictions on buildings. Another Rosenberg zoning characteristic. Before I could get the commission to change the code and allow a higher building, the commission approved the construction of the Auto Care Center and the medical group sold the property and currently operates a building in Plantation Florida. Needless to say, their building is not constructed next to an auto care facility with twenty small garages clanking with noise pollution throughout the day. There is no telling what would have developed in the area if the medical center was constructed instead of the Auto Care Center. The community with open arms and thank Sonny Rosenberg.

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Posted On: Saturday, Jun. 12 2010 @ 4:22PM

GoodASGone says:

Roadkill, you appear to know a lot of what's going on inside. Are you a current or past employee? Not that it's important. In 2005, I was asked to locate the city manager by Joy Cooper. He did not report to work for over a week and we could not locate them on the cell phone. I finally got his wife to answer the phone one evening and she told me she had not seen him that day nor know where he was. Then she made a strange comment. she said that he may be out winding down because he did not return home to after 2 AM from a meeting with the evening before. Funny thing is, there was no meeting the evening before.

Posted On: Saturday, Jun. 12 2010 @ 4:28PM

Homer T says:

OK Ex City Employee I got it I know who you are. Sorry about the Jeff crack and you are right Good doesn't hold a candle to RJ. But that didn't make RJ great either. Much in the way of problems the City still suffers is because of him. Many of his department head picks are still there. He picked yes men and then told them what to do because he thought he was the smartest man in the world. Most can't make decision to save their lives. Yes Good pissed a way a great opportunity and that is sad.

Does Cooper want control thing sure but so does London. Does he have some good ideas yes, but he's an a-hole in how he goes about it. That is what alienates him from so many and keeps anything good from coming of it. Between him and Cooper I take Cooper.

I'm not sure what the gripe is about Magill (not McGill you could at least learn to spell his name). The union is not happy with him because he runs the department and they want to. They blame him for a lack of a contract yet he's not allowed to be part of the bargaining as he is excluded by the Personnel Direct and the now Interim CM Antonio. Antonio is the problem he kept supplying Good and the Commission with bogus financial predictions that made them take such a hard line with the employees. Magill works hard to take care of the people of Hallandale. Are some of his cops thugs, maybe? point them out and he will try to get rid of them. The problem is civil service makes it next to impossible to fire anyone even when they are charged with a crime.

Jove is not incompetent he's actually pretty smart, he just needs a set of balls and by the way he hated working with Good because Good thought he was his boss, wrong he works for the Commission.

Posted On: Saturday, Jun. 12 2010 @ 5:17PM

Andrew Markoff says:

Mr. Intindola-

I bought a house in Hallandale because of it's proximity to Aventura Mall and because the city's close to both Ft. Lauderdale and Miami. I have thought a lot about the issues you bring up, and I'm glad to have the sketches in my mind about city development validated by an expert.

I tried to reason with those opposed to the Diplomat project, but the emotional reaction was vociferous from everyone in opposition. One resident I spoke with seemed like he was going to have a heart attack over the issue, and that's after the County had already defeated it. My basic contention was that although there would be traffic and density impacts, the city had greater control over whatever was done with the property than if the owner had retained the previous zoning designation. I think there should be some focus, however, on bringing higher-end businesses and offices to the West side to be closer to 195.

I think that Sonny Rosenberg's stance has been incredibly damaging to the city and has significantly lowered the quality of life that we may have had otherwise. At least Eustice Steinberg was able to get the Cultural Center and City Hall complex accomplished, even with the minimizing that Sonny insisted upon.

What a disaster that Aventura Mall could have been a Hallandale project, although it turned out very well and has been a great success where it is. But, that kind of development was what I had expected for the Village. I do not understand how an upscale outdoor mall with high-end shops and restaurants and with no movie theaters or other attractions for teenagers as well as for the elderly is going to be sustainable in the long run. I also do not understand why the external architecture and coloring is so bland and so similar to any other mall, especially to Aventura Mall rather than something far more colorful, tropical-looking and distinctive.

I cannot understand why Sonny Rosenberg would have wanted Auto Care businesses lined up on W. Hallandale Bch Blvd, except to ensure that they were kept from the East side of town where he probably lives. Everything would be so different where I live (near Ingall Park) if your ideas had prevailed. What a disaster.

I hope that you will come out in support of voting in Alex Lewy to replace Keith London-another incarnation of Sonny Rosenberg, but the only vision for Hallandale that London has is to call attention to himself.

As far as what GoodASGone says, I hope that no one will believe that Mike Good's behavioral problems and unprofessional conduct were recent issues. I have no idea why that commission, with the exception of London and perhaps Sanders, who did not have a long history with Good, were so enthralled with Mike Good when his behavior was quite obviously very odd for a long time.

Posted On: Saturday, Jun. 12 2010 @ 5:19PM

Homer T says:

RJ I'm not using my name for my own reasons. Was/is Jeff smart, yes. I know you liked him, but you are all by yourself on that one. He was a spoiled child who had to have everything his way no half measures. If it wasn't exactly the way he wanted it then he thought he had lost. Also he thought he could fix everything but he never stayed in one position long enough to get any problem fixed.

Posted On: Saturday, Jun. 12 2010 @ 5:33PM

Ex city employee says:

Homer-T: I see Mr. Intindola has posted on here but he will respond if I know him as I think I do when you're not using your real name. He sees that as cowardly and I must agree with him. I may not be correct, but only three department directors remain that he appointed.you have to remember, in fairness to him that he did not have the flexibility given to Good and hiring employees. But if you're saying that the current crop of directors matches the quality that Mr. Intindola brought in, you're either kidding yourself living in a fantasy land. If you still within the organization, then you must hear compliments about Intindola compared to Good. Even though I currently work in another city, I associate with many of the current employees and the comparisons are major topics of conversations.

I do not know of anyone that worked for him except Mike good and his wife that do not hold him in high regard.

Yes, he was a tough task master and demanded you perform. But he also would've never hired his future son-in-law and never went missing from the job.

One last thought

According to the international city management Association, seven people under the

tutelage of Mr. Intindola have become city managers. For a small city, that is incredible. All the development, including what you see at Gulfstream Park was negotiated by him before he retired. he was a catalyst and convinced the state to permit poker at the pari-mutuel's.

If you still work for the city, and here the comments comparing the two, Intindola is far more well respected. although I work for another city, I still associate with many current employees and a topic of discussion when we get together is often the comparison. I can honestly state that I know of no one who I personally associate with that thinks Mike is smarter, a better manager, and most certainly a better financial and budgetary analysts then Mr. Intindola. You would've never seen Mr. Intindola hire his future son-in-law and he never went missing like Mike.I'm sorry if I sound like a cheerleader and although we e-mailed back and forth and speak maybe once a month on the phone I really have contact with him. But not for him,I would not be where I am today and most of the people who work directly for him to feel the same way. He is still well respected in the profession and often is asked to speak at numerous professional meetings. The city managers within Broward and Dade counties often sought his advice.

One last comment: I forget the year but the sunset will publish a report based on a formula developed by a university professor that was the standard on evaluating municipal financial and budgetary conditions. If you remember, the headline said "hooray for Hallandale". According to the formula Hallandale was in the best financial condition for a city of its size in the state. I forget the professor's name but a year later if my information is correct, he visited with Mr. Intindola and wrote in a book many of the things that he did with the budget for the city of Hallandale beach. So I reject your contention and believe there is no comparison. Just my opinion.

Posted On: Saturday, Jun. 12 2010 @ 5:51PM

R.J. Intindola says:

Homer-T. I'll respond to you once without knowing who you really are. The reason why I typically don't respond to people who don't use their real name is because they don't have to justify their comments. They don't have to provide facts to support their assertions. In effect, they can get away with lies and innuendo that those of us that use our real names cannot do. If you check the national blogs by googling RJ Intindola, you will see I always use my real name.Now, don't read any further if you intend on commenting on this post. Because to do so would be cowardly based on the aforementioned pretences.

First of all, I attended a commission meeting in April of 2008 which was the first time I had been in the building since I left in May of 2002. I spoke before the commission on the issue of commission membership on the police and fire pension board. I supported their membership on the board because the city has a fiduciary statutory requirement to ensure the pension is financially sound.

After I spoke, Mike good gave a five-minute speech on how I was his mentor, how he learned everything from me and how he wouldn't be where it was if it wasn't for me. Now you appear to be one of those people that I would refer to as cancer within the organization. One of those people that find a fault with superiors and those in authority and keep driving it home because you're so miserable with yourself.It's your daily narcissistic fuel that helps you get through the day. I did what I had to do, including disciplining and terminating department directors and to ensure the city was managed in the best possible manner. I wonder about your level of experience and education in your capabilities of actually evaluating performance. You wrote of three people on here and all of the comments were negative.

You remind me of the newly elected commissioner, that immediately after being sworn into office is an expert on every operation within the government.although I think Tony Musto is an intelligent individual, when he was first elected, he kept prodding me to put an economic development coordinator position in the budget. I told him that we were too small and it would be a waste of taxpayer dollars. Funny, the second I left, with his support Mike put the position in the budget and for years and a quarter of a million dollars later they eliminated the position because not one business was brought into the city as a result of same. Wasted taxpayer dollars which I protected.

I didn't have the authority to hand out bonuses like Mike does. I didn't have the authority to purchase land without commission approval and knows other administrative functions that changed after I left. And by the way, I disagree with both the premise of handing out bonuses and with a city manager's authority to purchase land without commission approval. Too much room for collusion. Only the commission should approve the purchase of land as recommended by the manager but transparency and public notice is a significant feature of appearing before the commission.

go here and email with your real name. I will not reveal who you are to anyone.

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Posted On: Saturday, Jun. 12 2010 @ 6:12PM

Andrew Markoff says:

I thought that a final decision to purchase property did have to go to the commission, and I had asked the Mayor about that after London had gone on and on about appraisals sought for Commissioner Sander's property. I had also commented during public participation that I had assumed that when the city manager had decided to go ahead with a purchase, that he would take his decision to the commission, and neither the Mayor nor anyone else corrected me or informed me otherwise.

Posted On: Saturday, Jun. 12 2010 @ 6:36PM

Andrew Markoff says:

Oh, and I agree that it is better that Commissioner Ross and Mayor Cooper sit on the Pension Board, but what about in the future? That is what I had commented on at one of the meetings on the issue. In the future, there may not be any elected representatives who are either qualified or willing to sit on that board, and that's why I felt that the ordinance should read "two residents OR commissioners" shall sit on the board.

Posted On: Saturday, Jun. 12 2010 @ 6:46PM

R.J. Intindola says:

Andrew, both good questions. It is my understanding that the city manager in Hallandale can purchase land so long as the price is not over \$50,000. That is not a good policy in my opinion. Further, I see nothing wrong with the commission appointing two residents so long as they are qualified to serve.

As for Rosenberg's negative comments about me, try to locate the February 22, 1989 edition of the Sun Sentinel. He had nothing but high praises for me and thought I was a genius. That I accomplished more than any other city manager. This is one of several articles where he commented positively between 1988 and 1992 before the Steinberg Saga. After that, I guess I just turned into a bum.

Posted On: Saturday, Jun. 12 2010 @ 6:55PM

Anonymous says:

The city manager can purchase property without taking it to the commission...loved to try to hide things from the commission about what he was really spending money on.

Posted On: Saturday, Jun. 12 2010 @ 7:15PM

ROADKILL says:

Good as Gone,

It doesn't matter who I am. What matter is Pooper allowed Mike Good to get away with getting paid for doing NOTHING for a long time. As far as the city atty goes, I'm not an attorney, but from what a few really good attorney's have told me, he is a moron. Case in point, when he told the commission they could put a cap on London's free speech rights.

Posted On: Saturday, Jun. 12 2010 @ 7:19PM

Andrew Markoff says:

Because of name-calling like "Pooper," I more affectionately called the Mayor "Kooky Cooper" and Commissioner Ross "Doty Dottie" in an earlier comment to basically make the point that no matter what you call them, we need to work with them respectfully and within the system at hand. It seems from an email that the Mayor may have taken offense to that, however. I think 'Kooky' or 'Doty' are hardly insults, however. Those types can certainly be fun at parties. Anyway, my intent is to make a point to the more typically hostile types in a comment section on-line. I did not to insult the ladies by calling them 'doty' and 'kooky.' That could have been read more affectionally, and certainly more so that the names they've been called in many other on-line comments, including on the Hallandale Beach Blog.

Anyway, Mr. Intindola, I never heard Sonny insult or disparage you directly. He only told the commission on two occasions that I recently heard that previous managers had

been problems and that Mike Good had not, and he therefore should not be fired. Talk about sound judgment. That man certainly needs more than a Belltone (which was a funny comment about Bill Julian's ALL CAPS, Chaz, and I laughed out loud).

I had assumed that being allowed to purchase property up to \$50,000 made sense (although it may be up to \$200,000, actually) because the CM needs to reserve the ability to successfully bid at auction.

In regards to London's "free speech" rights, that was not the intent of the ordinance, and if was badly written (it was) he could of and should have worked with them in an executive session, but he refused. Suing the commission was NOT, as he contends, Keith London suing the commission to protect his own First Amendment rights. He is and was a commissioner, so his action caused the commission to sue the commission. It was an outrage and totally out of line and another example of sociopathic self-aggrandizement that could only cost the rest of us tax money. After the other commissioners, who were willing to attend an executive session and work with one another-and who were on speaking terms- re-worded the ordinance, the problem was fixed and the lawsuit dropped. London, however, continues to claim that he "won" in court.

Remember, these people are elected. Just like on the national stage but most often in smaller communities, we elect ordinary people from amongst ourselves. They make errors and write some ordinances poorly and need to correct their mistakes. Jove's errors are continual and inexcusable, but London's PAID job is to work with these people and work out solutions, not cause debacles and inflame troubles. So please don't make him out to be a hero.

Posted On: Saturday, Jun. 12 2010 @ 10:09PM

imjustbeachy says:

And, in Hollyweird, we say Where's Mara?

Posted On: Saturday, Jun. 12 2010 @ 10:43PM

ROADKILL says:

Andrew,

Trust me when I tell you, it was good's mission in life to try to get away with not taking things to the commission as often as possible, often with the help of the city attorney and especially when it came to spending money. I think he ended up agreeing to guarantee to have the city buy a bunch of units at highland park village if they didn't sell. Which I think would cost in the millions of dollars.

Posted On: Sunday, Jun. 13 2010 @ 7:36AM

Andrew Markoff says:

Then it's really too bad for the residents and taxpayers that the one commissioner who purports to be trying bring any corruption to light has not been a professional politician who understands and is willing to use political strategies that work and that are utilized by the best politicians.

Part of such a political strategy is to get along with city employees and cohorts on the commission, giving some back-slapping when helpful and ingratiating people in order to manipulate others and gain trust, mutual respect, and cooperation.

Instead, Commissioner London has become "the boy who cries 'wolf,'" and everything that should have come to light has instead been further obfuscated because absolutely everyone resists London and his harassing, rude, disrespectful, alienating and entirely unhelpful political grandstanding.

I don't know what we're going to do, and I don't know where the truth lies. I don't jump to any conclusions. I just try to offer at least a modicum of responsible citizenship and try to stay informed and be involved and know my representatives and my community.

I don't have any inside knowledge, and I don't have any personal agenda. I just strongly believe that despite his faults and some very huge mistakes, we don't have "geniuses" like Chaz or Rhodes Scholars or Jeezus H. Kryste to choose from, so we should re-elect Bill Julian and take advantage of his explicit offer to try harder and communicate directly with those who have concerns and have been mistrustful.

We should also elect Alexander Lewy to take Commissioner London's seat, and hope that no matter what policies are pursued or what agenda may be at hand, at least meetings will function and city business will be attended to and the day's agenda worked through during meetings without a lot of sniping, sarcasm, interrupting, yelling and grandstanding.

I will certainly pursue the truth about how our city operates and has recently operated, and perhaps Keith London could be a better help as an outside critic rather than as a representative of the most divisive and tea bagging types in our community.

We shouldn't forget that any falling tax revenues, state and federal budget cuts and governmental dysfunction is going to continually make state and federal investigators much less likely to take up the costs and man hours to pursue any truths on behalf of Hallandale's constituency. There's only so much we can do.

Creating constant dissension and negativity, a la London's regular emails and Hallandale Beach Blog, is not going to help take the place of actual, effective utilizations of government and the press to seek the truth and ensure justice. So in the meantime, could we all please just get along??

Posted On: Sunday, Jun. 13 2010 @ 11:28AM

Chaz Stevens, Genius says:

I always wondered how many folks it takes to make a circle jerk of delight and thanks to Markoff and Intindola, we all now know the answer is 2.

Don't forget the Purell boys. And wash behind your ears when you're done.

Posted On: Sunday, Jun. 13 2010 @ 12:12PM

ROADKILL says:

I think as highly of London as I do of popper. They are both egotistical morons. The point, however, is that it is poopers actions which count more right now because she controls the city. And she could care less what happens there as long as it fills her needs. So, pretty much she IGNORED that good was out of control because he did what she wanted. good succeeded in destroying the morale of the city and she let him. Not that London has done anything to improve morale mind you. They are both equally distasteful.

Posted On: Sunday, Jun. 13 2010 @ 12:53PM

horse with no name says:

Kathy Chaz Stevens: you're a prime example why some animals eat their young.

Posted On: Sunday, Jun. 13 2010 @ 1:35PM

Andrew Markoff says:

...But only one is up for re-election, which I keep stressing to everyone. Mayor Cooper has at least a year more to go after November.

In the meantime, I cannot work as a citizen with Keith London to root out underhanded dealings and improve accountability. He's been belittling and rude in person and cut me out of his regular email updates on-line, as he has regularly done to other Hallandale residents, to the entire commission and to at least the administration that sits on the dais. He has sued his own commission and created confusion over basic issues and fostered a lot of mistrust and negativity that discourages residents from getting along and working together.

Let's keep Bill Julian updated about our concerns (he always responds to emails and even chimes in on comment sections), participate at public meetings, attend community events, talk to neighbors, and be open to politely dealing with the Mayor and Commissioners Ross and Sanders one on one when we see them about. Let's also take advantage of the fact that Alexander Lewy has thrown his hat into the ring.

We also have to expect actual investigative reporting from local newspapers and TV and not expect such reporting to be replaced by Chaz "Genius," David Smith or Mike Butler.

Although we may expect news organizations to do their basic jobs, they won't and they don't care due to corporate ownerships, media consolidations, massive debts and mismanagement. But our expectations of news outlets should not be lowered because the lack of answers about our local governments has become normalized. We should all be pissed off about how they are not operating according to their basic functions and let them know when we can.

I think we've talked out this subject in this forum. It's been helpful to me to read some anonymous comments as well as to gain the insight of RJ Intindola. And I do agree with Chaz about the hand sanitizer.

If you want a continuing forum in regards to any Hallandale issues, there's been a

standing yet unused Yahoo! Groups forum I had created a couple of years ago called Talk About Hallandale:

www.groups.yahoo.com/group/talkabouthallandale

Or Google "TalkAboutHallandale" all as one word.

Feel free to comment on any subject there as you wish, but the comments are moderated to prevent personal insults and attempts to advertise and go off-topic.

...Sorry, Chaz.

If you want to utilize that forum, then tell your neighbors about it so that people can Google "TalkAboutHallandale" and join.

Thanks again for the info, the opinions and the discussion, and stay away from those pill mill pain clinics.

Posted On: Sunday, Jun. 13 2010 @ 1:40PM

R.J. Intindola says:

Andrew, if you like, you can also use my blog you can also use my blog. I do not post often to the blog. I have already set up a thread entitled Hallandale Beach issues. If you'd like, I can create an administrator password for you and a select group of other people.

Go here--Let me know what you think.R.J. Intindola

<http://cmrji.com/blog/>

Posted On: Sunday, Jun. 13 2010 @ 1:57PM

Chaz Stevens, Genius says:

@horse

When I read your stuff, I am vividly reminded of Yeats and his notion of "weasels fighting in a hole".

I am certain you've never read any Yates in your life, but nonetheless, there it is.

Posted On: Sunday, Jun. 13 2010 @ 3:19PM

Chaz Stevens, Genius says:

Make that Yeats. Damn iPad.

Posted On: Sunday, Jun. 13 2010 @ 3:50PM

Chaz Stevens, Genius says:

R.J. Intindola says:

Andrew, if you like, you can also use my blog you can also use my blog.

Jesus guys. Get a room.

Posted On: Sunday, Jun. 13 2010 @ 4:30PM

ROADKILL says:

You know what would be nice, if Pooper said she was sorry, that she made a mistake and the Good was a terrible manager and ran the city into the ground. Considering that I now know you're reading this, Mayor, let me make that a formal request. Why don't you apologize to the taxpayers of Hallandale and the City staff who had to work with the severely dysfunctional Good. But, knowing you, Pooper, that will never happen...hence the name Pooper. If you were a real public servant, you would rise above your dislike of london and admit your mistakes.

Posted On: Sunday, Jun. 13 2010 @ 4:48PM

CLEAN HOUSE says:

Intindola and Markoff are both too verbose and we are all experiencing analysis paralysis on this topic. It's good that GOOD is gone. Everyone who has half a brain or is somewhat involved in the city can and will understand that. Cooper is stupid and power hungry. Ross should really think about retiring on an almost high note. London is the most genuine and dedicated to his job. He is smarter than all of you utilizing the only tactics he can to get things accomplished. Good and Pooper have attempted every unconstitutional method to shut him up but have failed. What happened to democracy? All should get their heads out of their butts and wake up. As for sanders and julian you better re-evaluate who you represent and it's the residents! Stop kissing Poopers ass.

Remember Freddie Kruger is fictional. She really can't hurt you. Start acting and doing the job you were elected to do. Then maybethe city will start to turn around.

Posted On: Sunday, Jun. 13 2010 @ 5:14PM

Chaz Stevens, Genius says:

@Roadkill

Apparently you haven't been paying attention. According to the brain trust at MarkOff & Company, the ills of HB are caused by London, Smith, Butler, and myself.

I'd ask that you pay closer attention to MarkOff's words. But not too close... Whiplash and/or seizures are apt to occur.

Posted On: Sunday, Jun. 13 2010 @ 5:14PM

ROADKILL says:

@CLEAN HOUSE:

What this guy said!

Posted On: Sunday, Jun. 13 2010 @ 5:44PM

horse with a mane says:

Clean Horse-----you're probably dumber than people actually tell your friends you are. And by the way, I was morally opposed to abortion, but now there are some cases I believe where it is acceptable in your one.

Posted On: Sunday, Jun. 13 2010 @ 5:53PM

Andrew Markoff says:

"Good and Pooper have attempted every unconstitutional method to shut him up but have failed."

The Mayor and Good have never made any attempt to "shut him up" other than stating in an ordinance that no city official should be a presence at public meetings involving Waste Management until litigation was concluded, which resulted in London filing a lawsuit because he's an obnoxious fool.

Other than that, the Mayor as chair of commission meetings has never, ever, ever prevented Commissioner London from saying his spiel and asking his questions and making his assertions and casting his aspersions. She always- always- gives him plenty of time whenever he requests to speak to go wherever he wants and make all the ridiculous assertions he chooses to while never actually getting to the point. He plays to his imaginary crowd rather than attending to the issues at hand and addressing his colleagues with his direct concerns.

The Mayor has only tried to shut him up after he's had plenty of opportunity to speak, could not get a second to his motion, and would not stop going on and on and on to nowhere. Clean House is quite obviously not watching those commission meetings.

Keith London is a smart guy, but he exhibits sociopathic qualities and he is a libertarian who does not understand government, the city's charter or the structure of the city manager system, and he won't accept our system of government. The appropriate thing to do in that circumstance is to resign.

No matter the character or the nature of the other commissioners, including the Mayor, at the very least the commission meetings should precede according to the agenda at hand instead of the constant interruptions from London and his sarcastic remarks and questions that go around and around and around without leading to any motion or second to a motion. All that he ever leads to is a single no vote on just about everything... which ends up helping NOTHING. Can't anyone see that???

That's why he wants summary minutes. It's all he's got to show that he tried to do something, but all that matters at all is the final winning vote on anything. All his aggravating accomplishes absolutely nothing in the end. We all have to work with what we've got at hand, not just be a lone dissenter to nowhere.

Mutual cooperation would better ensure that problems and mismanagement are brought to light and dealt with. Much of the fault for the commission not attending to details that came back to bite them is because of the distractions and animus that Keith London has continually engendered during commission meetings. As far as his communications to residents, I certainly do not appreciate having been blatantly lied to or being cut out of his communications because he determined that I was not a willing follower of his cult.

While there may be severe problems with the other members of that dais, at least we should expect commission meetings to function and move forward and get through the agenda and be done within a few hours. The Mayor and the other commissioners are willing and capable of at least doing that.

I do not believe, although Mike Good and some of the commission's actions have been highly questionable, that Keith London would have been happy with another city manager and another commission. Keith London's political tactic is to be excessively negative and disparaging of whomever it is that sits on that dais or on any other community's council or commission.

Clean House, you are duped, and there's nothing that anyone could say or do to make you think otherwise. I certainly hope, however, that there will be many more others who understand and agree with my points and we can try to get educated, be alert, vote out London and then work with what we've got towards a better vision for Hallandale government and quality of life at least until it's time for yet another election.

Posted On: Sunday, Jun. 13 2010 @ 6:48PM

Hrose says:

Chaz, we sorta ignore "zen master Andrew" he writes too much.

I think we try to respect our elders too....well.....in a way. I learn much from the old folk even if I occasionally disagree.

I'm surprised these guys are on the blogs so it's kind if cute. Don't you think?

Hope you wore sunscreen while tea bagging!

Posted On: Sunday, Jun. 13 2010 @ 8:34PM

Andrew Markoff says:

It's really not that I write too much. It's that too many of those who think that they have an opinion are capable of only reading very little.

Posted On: Sunday, Jun. 13 2010 @ 9:08PM

Chaz Stevens, Genius says:

Yeah Spartacus, you go with that there opinion of yours. You're certainly entitled to it. However, you aren't entitled to your own set of facts...

Posted On: Monday, Jun. 14 2010 @ 11:03AM

Afraid-of-crooks says:

Mr. Andrew Markoff.

I just read your comments on my only post, regarding the worsening state of Hallandale Beach.

I insist that, no matter what discourse we get from politicians, matters are really simpler to solve than what most people realize.

a) On what high qualifications did Mr. Good get hired, and got such a magnificent contract?

b) Why didn't our commissioners terminate him long time ago if everybody is now agreeing that he was a very bad choice, and that they knew about his shortcomings long time ago?

c) Where does the city's very high debt originate?

Hallandale Beach has a much higher revenue now than 10 years ago.

We do not see any significant improvement in residents' services.

However, a large cash reserve has been turned into a tremendous debt.

Can somebody explain what happened, please?

Does this say something about the work of our commissioners who directly supervise the city manager and every dollar spent?

d) I don't in fact understand what you explained about the city contracting sewage, water, etc. to explain our sky-high rates.

In all cases, if our commissioners were doing a good job, we shouldn't be getting a lower level of service and pay higher prices for our services than other cities around. Period.

e) The cameras are a terrible idea. The concept of "added revenue" is nonsense. We are not living in Hallandale Beach for any "added revenue" purpose.

I could care less about "added revenue" for my city if that means being highly taxed or charged for services.

The cameras have been proved to be just a "revenue generator" without any improvement in traffic or accident avoidance.

Therefore, let's face it: their bottom line is a a new type of additional tax.

Let them also place cameras in our theaters, our restaurants, our bars, and watch every gesture we make, and how many drinks we had, and so forth. This is not the way I envision a healthy society. No BIG BROTHER is needed in Hallandale Beach, and this is how most people now feel at every crossroad in the city.

Instead of trying overwhelm us with "added revenue", our elected officials should reduce unnecessary bureaucracy, waste, and mismanagement, which in common sense, have caused these debts and deficits.

And a last thought: Nobody lives in a city for its prestige, its grandiose city hall and facilities, the million dollars of its tax revenue, or the height of its buildings.

Progress in a city can only be measured by the happiness of its citizens, and its quality of life.

I haven't read such considerations in this blog.

And with all due respect, yes I will remember who voted and supports the traffic cameras, which are like the last drop in this dirty bucket.

Posted On: Monday, Jun. 14 2010 @ 3:03PM

R.J. Intindola says:

Afraid-of-Crooks,

If you go here,I will try and answer your questions.

<http://cmrji.com/blog/2010/06/13/post-for-all-issues-related-to-hallandale-beach-florida/>

Posted On: Monday, Jun. 14 2010 @ 5:20PM

ChangeHallandale.com says:

Afraid-of-crooks: you hit the nail on the head.

The city's budget hasn't been balanced for years..

...despite record increases in property tax values AND a huge amount of new construction: over \$2 BILLION from 2005 to 2008.

2010 property tax values are still \$168 million higher than 2006 property tax values.

During the same period, the city added \$36 million of debt.

During the same period, financial reserves decreased by about \$40 million.

Is the quality of life better? Are the residents happier?

Where was all the money spent? Who's responsible?

Posted On: Monday, Jun. 14 2010 @ 5:51PM

Andrew Markoff says:

Afraid-of-crooks-

Mr. Good got hired after working for almost two dozen years for the city in Public Works. He has strong personal relationships with Cooper, Julian and Ross, along with several others in the city. Beyond that, I know nothing.

When he retired for a minute and collected accrued vacation and sick pay, he had worked for us for 24 years. Commissioner London continually asserts that his payouts were part of his salary, or he uses the word "compensation," but any CEO accumulates a lot of payout after more than two dozen years of service. Our entire nation gives away the entire store to CEO's of all types. We have "double dipping" in Florida, whereas they can retire, collect pensions, and continue working at the same time. That's not a Hallandale issue. Welcome to America. I fly my flag outside of my house, but I know that we are fucked.

His contract is likely fairly standard for CEO's and city managers, and although lacking in some parameters (like, we're supposed to pay his health benefits to age 62 even if he gets another job with benefits??) the terms can be negotiated if he's terminated or resigns, so it's not fixed. Vice-Mayor Julian has done a good job so far in trying to whittle down that contract to a severance package that Good might accept and would be a lot more reasonable for the city. You should be very worried about Commissioner Ross' determination to ensure that Good gets anything that he wants- and how Cooper

and Sanders feel about that, however. We shall see.

If Good doesn't return to the commission w/in the 21 day period he's allowed, I don't know what they have to give him, or if the contract becomes null. Good luck trying to get answers on that. We're all sitting and waiting to see what happens.

I don't know why he wasn't terminated long ago. It's a Hallandale mystery, but I think that Cooper, Ross, Julian and perhaps Sanders as well would argue with your assertion that he had been a bad choice. They apparently think that he was a magnificent choice, and even after massive attendance problems and being continually unreachable and having, uh... personal pursuits that have taken up his time and energies...

Commissioner Ross still doesn't want to fire him. She's really upset about it. I have absolutely no explanation about that.

Your questions about how and why a surplus had been turned into debt and why services haven't improved despite increased revenues should be addressed to Mike Butler at ChangeHallandale.com. He asserts such things but offers no explanation as to why such things have occurred. That is why I have continually asserted that residents MUST HAVE PERSPECTIVE and all facts are relative to what surrounding municipalities provide, not just in dollar amounts but in direct services and quality of services. We must know some history as well as facts before we jump to conclusions. Then we might know better what it is that we want and figure out a way to get it.

Revenues have certainly decreased, however, given the economic conditions and the housing market. You can view commission meetings on line or as they're aired on Comcast and see such financials explained to the commission by their accounting firms. It's a snore-fest, but it's not like they're hiding anything for sure.

The Mayor also writes her column for the Sun-Times, but that's her perspective as much as she insists that what she writes is all entirely fact. I don't pick up the Sun-Times, however, unless I have a cat that needs to be caged and pee on paper. I used to get her writings via email, but that ended, and I don't know if she cut me out a la London or she's neglected to update her website and send out emails.

I don't agree that we have "sky-high rates" for sewage, garbage and water. Surrounding cities contract out their services, and if you ask people who live in, for example, Hollywood, you'll hear a lot of complaints about poor service. We have our own water treatment plant and an in-house sanitation department. We are getting and spending a fortune on new sewage and drainage. Other communities may be paying less and getting less quality service. I'm not saying that they are... I'm just saying that those are possibilities to consider. I can tell you one thing, however: as we move forward in human history, our water bills are only going up, up, up and UP.

The Mayor has been asked about this before, but commission meetings are not a good venue for getting answers. They're there to attend to the agenda at hand, but ad hoc questions can be met with very poorly articulated answers (I've seen that a lot). It's better to try to get answers outside of meetings by speaking to commissioners and the city manager's office directly via appointments or by writing a letter and then going to the commission if answers are either unsatisfactory or you want to state what you found out publicly.

Our county commissioner is also up for re-election, and I recommend speaking to her (Sue Gunzburger) as well as her opponent (Steve Geller) and finding out how willing and able they are to help you sort out this information. We could arrange a group meeting about these issues. As I always say, the best way to get anything done is to approach someone running for office or up for re-election, not necessarily somebody comfortably ensconced.

The red light issue is hardly a Hallandale issue. It's an issue all over the state, if not all over the country. The Governor just recently signed a new law to create some legal validity for them. Cameras everywhere are the wave of the future. It's already being done in Great Britain and in much of Europe and Scandinavia. In some respects it's terrific for safety and anti-terrorism matters, but it's not Hallandale at the forefront of the cameras issue. That's a situation being addressed everywhere.

I did mention everyday quality of life in this comments section and complained that retail and commercial development have been emphasized over daily life and work. I feel that Hallandale has a poor quality of life for average people, and I would leave if I could. While the city has a lot of potential - or had before the American economy crashed thanks to Bush II, and we officially entered into a plutarchy under the current Bush III presidency - I have experienced too many nasty and unkind people in this community to believe that it's worthwhile to stick it out - especially the "el hefe" in my neighborhood who got kicked out of the volunteer police because of his crazed determination to harass his neighbors but who is becoming even worse since.

I've also long been very unhappy about the immense amounts of garbage strewn everywhere that the city expresses no concern about whatsoever. Mike Good even mockingly said at a quadrant meeting that, "I know someone's going to say something about littering here," referring to me. I walk my dogs in the neighborhood and have to constantly bend down to pick up bottles and cans and other trash strewn absolutely EVERYWHERE. In the sweltering heat with all the weeds and badly treated dogs and stray cats and unhappy and rude neighbors and kids with too little to do with themselves, it's just not a good quality of life. Hallandale, Florida and America could do better.

...But, things will only get worse. We are not living in a system of government, in this city, county and state, that is geared for improving our schools, our transportation and our quality of life. The legislature in Tallahassee even made it illegal to propose minimizing or doing away with all those millions of plastic bags given out in the stores and supermarkets. Oil is gushing and making its way into the Atlantic with no end in sight, and the over 40 million gallons so far represent just over one hour of America's oil use. They're not really trying to get us off of foreign oil out there. They're trying to give us teaspoonfuls while making gazillions of dollars for themselves.

All ye abandon hope who enter here. You may be mad and frustrated, but we've got to figure out a way of dealing with the elected officials we've got. Perhaps you should discuss proposing that all commissioner terms be up at the same time rather than voting for just two at a time. I have no recommendation there. You'd have to ask around.

I have continually asserted that there's just no way of working with Keith London, as his personality is not wired towards dealing with ordinary people and finding consensus and expressing a positive message that promotes a better future. That's my main thrust, as only he and the Vice Mayor are up for re-election. Anyone who bothers to read what I've written here knows that I go on and on about that, but re-electing Keith London would be an outrage if you want an improvement to political discourse and a faster track towards solutions.

Vice Mayor Bill Julian posted his phone number in a comment above. Here it is: (954) 274-7230. Call him. Make an appointment, or meet him for lunch or a soft drink- he likes to go to that beach bar behind the A1A fire station. Tell him your frustrations and ask your questions. Ascertain if he's giving you honest answers and decide whether to vote for him or not.

Always remember, however, we don't get a gold-star slew of candidates at election time to choose from. Believe it or not- we could do worse. No... believe it.

There's also "commissioner forums" held for the commission candidates, and you should attend to ask questions and hear what they have to say. No-party affiliation, Independent and Democratic Party members can also attend the Hallandale Democratic Club (I don't think there's a Republican club as yet) to meet and talk, but they don't get into city issues and it's not the friendliest crowd, but they do need members and a fresh blood, that's for sure. Gunzburger and Geller will be speaking to the club about their candidacies for the county commission.

The reason that I write too much for the illiterate to read here is because people in Hallandale do not meet to discuss these issues. This kind of venue is all we've got so far to discuss the commission and the city's recent fiscal history.

The United Condominium Association invites the public to their meetings, but that's for condo people, and it's part of the angry cult of Keith London. They're not going to want to hear my perspective. They'd probably run me out with a sawed-off rifle.

I've purposely gone to venues where I had expected to have conversations with residents about who's who and what they want, like going to the American Legion on Veteran's Day and Memorial Day to meet and talk with people, but people are just not conversationalists. The condo people and the elderly people are too-often wary of younger and newer residents, and some of them, like George PosNasty, can be extremely hostile.

That's why I keep asserting that we've all got to be friendlier and more welcoming to those who want to have civic involvement (shut up, Chaz, you asshole), and we've got to learn to work with the elected officials we've either voted in or we're stuck with, depending on your own perspective.

Thank you, Afraid-of-crooks, for bringing up such good and very important questions. I only hope to promote a better way of getting answers for those with complaints. That doesn't mean that I have the answers, however. We certainly can expect better of our elected officials if we stay involved.

~Andrew

Posted On: Monday, Jun. 14 2010 @ 6:15PM

R.J. Intindola says:

Change Hallandale: Mike, you're correct. I had completed the budget before I left in 2002 and it was approximately 61,000,000+. After I left, they added nearly \$2.5 million. I'm assuming it was for the changes that mandated everybody in the drop received an 8% regardless if investments were substantially lower. This started the climb in the pension costs. If You remember, I told you that substantial changes to the pension were made after I left to enhance the benefits. Specifically those people that were in the drop.

Andrew, Good's contract is not standard in the industry. What is standard is a continuation of paying insurance for a certain period Equal to the severance pay provisions. Nine months for example. After that period, I find no contracts that include paying for family health coverage and College tuition. Although I have not conducted a significant Internet search and analysis, I have on file over 100 contracts from various cities and none of them include those provisions. Furthermore, his contract essentially requires he be paid regardless of performance. That also is typically not standard, although approximately 25 to 35% pay, regardless of performance.

Andrew and others, why don't we post here ?

<http://cmrji.com/blog/2010/06/13/post-for-all-issues-related-to-hallandale-beach-florida/>

Posted On: Monday, Jun. 14 2010 @ 6:38PM

ChangeHallandale.com says:

The city's budget hasn't been balanced for years..
...despite record increases in property tax values AND a huge amount of new construction: over \$2 BILLION from 2005 to 2008.

2010 property tax values are still \$168 million higher than 2006 property tax values.

During the same period, the city added \$36 million of debt.

During the same period, financial reserves decreased by about \$40 million.

Why? Ask Cooper, Ross, or Julian. The "buck" stops with the city commission.

Posted On: Monday, Jun. 14 2010 @ 7:21PM

Hrose says:

Vice mayor Julian, will you answer this question? What do Cooper & Ross say to you personally when you ask them this question? Where'd the money go? Why did you get us into this situation?

Posted On: Monday, Jun. 14 2010 @ 8:53PM

Andrew Markoff says:

Hrose:

Bill Julian is not allowed to personally ask Cooper, Ross or any other commissioner any question or to have any kind of discussion outside of public meetings due to Florida's "Sunshine Law."

I have had a problem with that, especially because Keith London has been so uneducated about how government works and about the city charter.

They can hold "executive sessions," however, that do not have public attendance necessarily but have transcripts. Bill Julian told me that he thought it would be a good idea to have more of those so that commissioners could get their facts straight, but I feel certain that Keith London would not attend as he requires an audience that he believes is cheering him on. Commissioner London is not interested in actual governance or working with the other commissioners one on one, let alone with most residents, especially the poor and disenfranchised ones.

Posted On: Monday, Jun. 14 2010 @ 9:15PM

Andrew Markoff says:

Please everyone who wishes to continue an ongoing discussion about city issues, let's take advantage of RJ Intindola's experience and historical perspective and continue this on his blog, as he's offered:

www.cmrji.com/blog/2010/06/13/post-for-all-issues-related-to-hallandale-beach-florida

Posted On: Monday, Jun. 14 2010 @ 9:17PM

Hrose says:

Thanks Andrew. Have you seen any public record or news article where any of the three addressed this, like in mayor cooper's Thursday newspaper?

Posted On: Monday, Jun. 14 2010 @ 9:28PM

ChangeHallandale.com says:

Left out one word on the post above: "combined". Got it fixed below, for anyone who's grading these posts...hey, did you notice the amount of the swing between the debt increase and reserve decrease? \$76 million. Staggering.

BTW: London has been asking for workshops repeatedly for a very long time. He's requested documentation to support every recommendation made by the city manager; for example, he asked to see property appraisals before approving property purchases. Crazy huh? You'd think all the commissioners would want to see the appraisals before making property purchases. But no, they just went with the city manager and mayor's recommendation.

The city's budget hasn't been balanced for years..

...despite record increases in property tax values AND a huge amount of new construction: combined over \$2 BILLION from 2005 to 2008.

2010 property tax values are still \$168 million higher than 2006 property tax values.

During the same period, the city added \$36 million of debt.

During the same period, financial reserves decreased by about \$40 million.

Posted On: Monday, Jun. 14 2010 @ 10:09PM

Andrew Markoff says:

I have never heard of the city's previous surplus or debt addressed, unless it was amongst the sludge of accounting-speak during a financial presentation at a commission meeting and I didn't catch it.

I don't regularly read what the Mayor writes...but of course, English is my first language.

The idea that our current news media such as newspapers or local TV would cover anything to do with our budget and deficits is laughable.

I had communicated with Michael Putney at Channel 10 and Michael Mayo at the Sun-Sentinel several times to lament the lack of local coverage of municipal issues in regards to running our local governments. While they claimed to be sympathetic, I doubt that will have any coverage of our budget issues in local newspapers or TV.

They will, of course, if there's the kind of action that the news crews are always looking for, so bring ketchup to the podium and maybe that'll help.

Posted On: Monday, Jun. 14 2010 @ 10:37PM

Andrew Markoff says:

Mike, London has been asking for budget workshops, not executive sessions. They, of course, surmise that it would simply be another venue for his grandstanding and insinuations.

London asked to see the appraisals before any request to purchase property was brought to the commission, and he's only asked on a case-by-case basis- and that would be like checking homework or a work in progress as an attempt to micro-manage the city manager. Now Intindola asserts that the CM can purchase property w/out ever going to the commission for approval.

London's failures stem from his misunderstandings of the process and his unproductive approach to the issue. If he wants the commission to pre-approve any purchases of property, then he has to explain that. Instead, he just keeps making the same motion over and over again to lower the CM's spending authority. He gets no second, and that's it. There's no explanation of how he thinks his ideas would improve anything for everyone other than his insinuation that he doesn't trust (and dislikes) the City Manager. That's not gonna work. Bad politician. He just expresses his mistrust, but he does not DISCUSS with the other commissioners why his way would be better for everyone.

London has entirely destroyed his opportunity to gain the trust of his fellow commissioners. Anything that he asserts or proposes will be met with profound mistrust, which is entirely mutual on his part. These are not the kind of people that he could ever kiss and make up with. One must work on their level and within the current paradigm. As I keep saying, we don't have Rhodes Scholars on our city commission, so learn how

to most effectively work with what you've got. London is way beyond that opportunity, and he clearly does not represent his constituents. Cutting residents and city officials out of his communications to the public is totally outrageous.

Since RJ Intindola has graciously created and offered a Hallandale section on his blog, try to continue your comments over there:

www.cmri.com/blog/2010/06/13/post-for-all-issues-related-to-hallandale-beach-florida

Posted On: Monday, Jun. 14 2010 @ 11:05PM

R.J. Intindola says:

Andrew Markoff says:

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They will, of course, if there's the kind of action that the news crews are always looking for, so bring ketchup to the podium and maybe that'll help.

I respond to your comments and questions here.

<http://cmri.com/blog/2010/06/13/post-for-all-issues-related-to-hallandale-beach-florida/comment-page-1/#comment-115>

Posted On: Monday, Jun. 14 2010 @ 11:23PM

Andrew Markoff says:

ALERT!!!

I found this explanation by the Mayor about Hallandale's budget, including deficits and debt, but it has no date attached:

<http://www.southfloridasun.net/330667.html>

Posted On: Tuesday, Jun. 15 2010 @ 2:24AM

Hrose says:

What can they do about the pension problems?

Seems to be a problem that's mentioned but not addressed in detail and no alternatives are given.

Curious about the percentage of HB employees double dipping. I'd like to see their names and positions posted somewhere .

Do you think it's a good time to purchase a church?

Posted On: Tuesday, Jun. 15 2010 @ 7:35AM

ROADKILL says:

Andrew,

You seem nice, but WOW, you write a lot. Are you a frustrated political reporter? :)

Posted On: Tuesday, Jun. 15 2010 @ 9:29AM

Andrew Markoff says:

I write quickly, and writing is much easier for me than the average person. I've read over what I've written, and I think it's very readable, so I don't know why people would have difficulty reading my comments. I should have been a political reporter, but it had never occurred to me until very recently.

I have watched the meetings during which the purchase of the church property was discussed, but I have not understood the city manager's reasoning. Something about parking- that's all I know.

I know that Chief Magill is double-dipping. Don't know about who else, and you have to be a very senior employee to have that option.

The exact same pension problems are being faced by businesses, states and communities all over America. I would like to know more about the "drop" and why it was created and by whom. That guarantees an 8 percent addition to retirement money even if the market drops. Why is that available to government employees but not to the private sector (assuming that it's not)? Who introduced that in Hallandale?

www.cmri.com/blog/2010/06/13/post-for-all-issues-related-to-hallandale-beach-florida

Posted On: Tuesday, Jun. 15 2010 @ 11:45AM

Andrew Markoff says:

The mayor asserts in her latest writing that taking on debt makes more sound fiscal sense than spending revenues or reserves in order to meet the needs of infrastructure and to buy land. As I questioned earlier, although the city had a surplus years ago, does that mean that infrastructure had been thoroughly attended to at the same time? We know that Rosenberg was tight-fisted and didn't believe in spending money on much of anything. Therefore, while there may be much more debt today, there are also, perhaps, more improvements and more land banking for future investment.

Posted On: Tuesday, Jun. 15 2010 @ 1:11PM

ROADKILL says:

WOW, Andrew. You are channeling Major Pooper. How cool is that? Just between the three of us, ask her if she plans on apologizing for letting Mike Good run amok in the city or she just hopes that everyone will forget about that? Because in her heart of hearts, she knows what an irresponsible fool that guy is. Also, ask her if she plans on keeping the city attorney around for much longer.

Posted On: Tuesday, Jun. 15 2010 @ 7:58PM

Andrew Markoff says:

ROADKILL, you'd be mistaken to assume that we do not think along similar lines, only I try to figure out what are the questions to ask and not jump to conclusions until I get all of the facts. You may notice that I inserted the word "perhaps" in my surmising about the use of city debt. From what we've all been told so far, Mike Good was the greatest thing since icing on a cake. The mayor, like me, is a dog lover and has several little lap dogs at home. As to what is the plan for the city attorney, therefore, you can draw your own conclusions.

Posted On: Tuesday, Jun. 15 2010 @ 8:59PM

ROADKILL says:

HAH. Lap dogs. I like that, Andrew.

Posted On: Tuesday, Jun. 15 2010 @ 9:22PM

ex city employee says:

Andrew-Roadkill: Make no mistake about it. I worked for Mr. Intindola for nearly 6 years and for Mike for approximately 3 years. There is actually no comparison and Mike drug the city down into the sewer. It's laughable hearing his comment that the city was in bad shape when he took over as manager. The city is in bad shape because he was the manager and made it difficult for those more intelligent around him to function, so most of us left. In conferring with another person whom I worked with MG took over, there was approximately 13 professionals that went through his office during his tenure. I do not think there were 13 professionals or any close to that turnover in the 20 years that Mr. Intindola was the manager.

Reid Silverboard, the current city manager of treasure Island Florida worked for him for 12 years if I'm not mistaken. A subject, a monument, something to stand as an issue between her and London and she made the worst possible choice, Mike Good. Most of the people that work for him, despise the lying fool.

Posted On: Tuesday, Jun. 15 2010 @ 11:52PM

ROADKILL says:

Ex-city employee: I agree with you 100 percent.

Posted On: Wednesday, Jun. 16 2010 @ 6:33AM

Afraid-of-crooks says:

Mr. Markoff

I just read now your response to my second posting.

I made some very clear remarks and pointed out a few areas that concern me as well as many Hallandale residents.

You have answered vaguely but gave no clear answers about any of those points. You are rather trying to justify, forgive, or just dismiss any responsibility that is on the hands of our commissioners, and city officials.

1) You admit that Mr. Mike Good had to be dismissed long time ago. No explanations why he wasn't fired before. Everybody agrees that he was a no-show most of the time on his job, never answered phone calls, etc. etc.

As a businessman, this kind of employee would have lasted for just a couple of days if he was my employee.

So far, no answer why our commissioners permitted this to go on till the fan's shit was starting to hit them.

2) Mike Good was hired at extra-high wages just because he had previously been an employee of the city for many years.

You couldn't explain on what high qualifications grounds commissioners decided to pay him more than the Paris or New York City Manager.

This is a troubling question.

And why did the city have to add these incredibly and unusual high "compensations" and "retirements benefits" or whatever you want to call them?

Were they so afraid that he would run away when they were negotiating his contract? competed with us to grab Mr. Good's incredible bargain?

I would only give this type of compensation if my city was about to bankrupt and I was hiring a Nobel Prize.

Evidently that wasn't the case.

So, that is another unexplained and very worrying question.

3) Re: my concern about the unexplained fact of our city going into deficits, when it traditionally had a large reserve of up to

40MM ? Y

You just answer that this kind of questions should be answered by Mike Butler.

I don't know this gentleman. I still believe that these are fundamental questions that are too important to be answered anything but directly by our commissioners.

4) Hallandale Beach does not have a "decreased revenue".

Comparing 1999 or 2000 when Hallandale had a tremendous reserve to the present 2010, you will easily notice that present revenues is much higher now than 10 or 15 years ago.

Thousands of new luxury condos are generating new taxes. Of course these decreased in the last three years or so, because of the real estate situation, but the total revenue is still much higher than in 1999 or 2000. My feelings: WASTE and mismanagement.

5) Regarding the degradation of some of our services, yes they haveno degraded. Our garbage collection is w once a week instead of twice. Recycling of yard waste, do you remember? Gone.

You just mention Mike Good's "funny" answers when told about the garbage strewn all over the place. But thais only confirms that our services are not satisfactory.

6) Traffic Cameras. You respond by stating that red lights cameras are not a Hallandale issue, but that the problem is all over the state and even the US.

That doesn't mean that it's something that we can agree about. The fact that other cities can be greedy and mismanaged is not an excuse for Hallandale to nickel and dime its citizens.

This topic is all over the internet. Traffic Cameras haven't avoided one accident and they serve only the purpose of raising a tax in disguise. They do not help in reducing traffic jams; I would say that they contribute to more jams. Why didn't our commissioners dedicate their time to traffic lights synchronization, which is disastrous in Hallandale Beach?

Honestly I am thinking of changing my id name in this blog, from "afraid-of-crooks" to "bottom line man".

There is a bottom line that has to emerge at any discussion, at a certain point.

Mine is: Whoever was there, and in charge of our interests, is responsible.

Politician know very well how to delay the time of the bottom line, with words, phrases, citations, and more words.

I realize, Mr. Markoff, that you are trying to understand some of what happened without hurting anybody's feelings and that's remarkable. However, unless we get to the heart of the subject, and understand what's exactly is going on, we're never going to solve anything.

Nobody that I know has say "Sorry... I made a mistake..." However there is a lot of damage done.

Pointing our fingers at the accusers is not going to solve our problems. Insulting those who were negligent is not what really matters.

What's important is: What are we going to do to correct it.

Posted On: Wednesday, Jun. 16 2010 @ 2:40PM

Banker says:

Afraid of Crooks: You have numerous quality questions that I don't think Butler or Andrew can answer. I see Mr. Intindola posted and I wish he would read your questions and respond. I have not seen the gentleman in approximately 2 years nor had contact with him but he's probably one of the most astute individuals that I have known, or possibly in the country in regards to local government administration. He has written numerous articles and has an entire website dedicated to the subject. I did e-mail him the other day but as of yet did not receive a response. If you google his name, maybe you can leave a question on the website. Having been in this city many years and working in the finance industry, if I was the commission or the Mayor I'd make every possible effort to locate him and get him back. He probably would not come though. Sorry I can't help further but I do believe the city commission has lost touch with the residents and more concerned about their own self interest than doing what's right for the city.

Posted On: Wednesday, Jun. 16 2010 @ 5:20PM

Hrose says:

What can we do but spread the word with our neighbors and wait for election day?

Posted On: Wednesday, Jun. 16 2010 @ 6:45PM

ChangeHallandale.com says:

Well said everyone...all of us must hold our elected officials accountable for their lack of oversight.

And right now our city needs an audit of its internal controls, which have been systematically dismantled during the past 5 years. I've posted more details at changehallandale.com. Please tell the commissioners.

One thing I want to make clear: prior to starting changehallandale.com, I had multiple email conversations with the mayor. None of my questions were ever answered satisfactorily. Many others have since experienced the same thing when asking her any questions. There is little logic to the responses, and that's being generous.

In addition, I contacted the vice mayor multiple times prior to starting the website, by both email and phone. Not one single email or phone call was ever returned.

And finally I spoke with Ross and requested an opportunity to meet her. I offered to buy her coffee or breakfast or lunch. Her response to me was something like "I don't have time to meet with residents. I don't do that." End of conversation.

So like Hrose says, remember on election day. And tell your neighbors.

Posted On: Wednesday, Jun. 16 2010 @ 8:49PM

Hrose says:

Vice mayor, I wish you would have agreed to evening commission meetings.

Bummer.

Can't seem to come up with a word to describe the mayor's performance tonight.

Posted On: Wednesday, Jun. 16 2010 @ 10:08PM

Bill Julian says:

Hrose, or anyone else out there. Anybody like to comment that I made the motion and fought to get the Forensic Audit? And plus we will have a public meeting on this?

We do have a night time meeting, once a month, and a daytime meeting once a month.

Bill Julian.

Posted On: Thursday, Jun. 17 2010 @ 12:25AM

Hrose says:

Vice mayor, I missed the forensic audit vote. I was having one of those mini seizures from watching the screen twitching back & forth. But I'm ok now.

Sorry & thank you! I'll watch the rerun....promise.

Can you try to have the local paper print that you brought this up?

Maybe you could mention the blogs that write about Hallandale too.

When do you think the audit could happen if all passes soothly?

Posted On: Thursday, Jun. 17 2010 @ 7:05AM

ROADKILL says:

Commissioner Julian,

To you I say BRAVO!!! I watched the commission meeting yesterday on the internet and you were great. Keep up the good work. Thanks for standing up to the "Mayor". A little part of the universe seems more right now. I also say Bravo to London and Sanders (I missed the vote but I am assuming they voted for the audit too?).

Posted On: Thursday, Jun. 17 2010 @ 8:27AM

? says:

It's Thursday nite. Why no replay of the commission meeting on 78 at 6pm as stated on the website?

Posted On: Thursday, Jun. 17 2010 @ 8:51PM

Mayor Pooper says:

Let them eat cake.

The people don't need to see last nights meeting.

Posted On: Thursday, Jun. 17 2010 @ 8:57PM

Ex city employee 2 says:

I am an ex-city employee also but was not in management. I don't want to say specifically that I retired a few years ago. I am a resident and I have some questions for Commissioner Julian. you understand that it's not always what you do but it's also what you don't do.

You permitted Mike good to hire his son-in-law into a job he created and was not even qualify for.

You did nothing and said nothing when Mike good promoted his son-in-law into a job for which he was not qualified and at a higher rate than the starting salary level.

You did nothing when Mike good, gave his wife a \$10,000 increase after a demotion. A sham.

You did nothing when Mike good hired a neighbor when the city did not even have a vacancy and sat her at a chair, at a table in the personnel department until a vacancy came open.

You did nothing when Mike good hired John Canada's daughter into a position for which She wasn't qualified and at a higher rate than what would be normal for starting; This of course is after his wife was hired by John Canada to be the city manager of a second city.

You did nothing for all those weeks and days that Mike good did not show up at work and no one could even locate him. It's a big joke currently in the city manager's office that the commission is stating "when he started missing work as of January. The problem is, it was January of 2003."

You did nothing when he came in to work most days with alcohol on his breath.

And as far as you'd challenging Mayor Cooper; how could you do that when both her and your husband donate to your campaign?

And you did nothing all of these years that he destroyed the city. The city I retired from and the city I live in.the city was well managed before he came in. Now it's a disgrace and a joke from what I understand.

The bottom line is, you did nothing while the city manager was unethical and possibly even broke the law.

Commissioner, you should not be permitted to serve another term that I will do everything in my power to ensure you lose.

Posted On: Friday, Jun. 18 2010 @ 4:10PM

ChangeHallandale.com says:

Well said Ex city employee 2!!

Posted On: Friday, Jun. 18 2010 @ 4:28PM

Bill Julian says:

To Ex-Employee, and ChangeHallandale.com.

Where do you guys get off that I am supposed to know who and every employee that gets hired or fired in this city?

You were there too, did I go over your qualifications, when you were hired, and when you left the city?

No I left that up to the personel director, and the city manager's office, which I am supposed to do.

As far as his son in law. Never met the man until I ran into him and Mike said who he was, and was engaged to his daughter.

Wow big problem, I didn't ask for his resume.

City Clerk, again I met her after she was hired, and again left the hiring and firing to personel, and the city manager's office.

If you want to know the truth, I have been complaining to the Mayor, and the City Attorney, about Mike Good for over two years, and to the rest of the Commission, with no response from any of them.

Ask them about that.

I am the one who produced the Attendance Record, and I am the one who chopped down the severance package, and commented he is being Fired, to the commission. And if you watched the last meeting, it was me who made the motion for the Forensic Audit to the City Manager's office, the CRA, for all contracts, development agreements, and projects, from January 2005.

And to go futher my motion included a nighttime workshop with 3 Forensic Auditors to start the process.

Now ChangeHallandale. com. After I invited all of you bloggers to meet with me, you were the only one that had called me to meet with you.

Do you think the continued knocking, and insulting me will start our meeting on a friendly note?

And ex-employee, do you have the time to meet with me, or do you get off on hiding behind your screen.

Its time all of you Man-Up, and discuss how we can turn this city around back on course, instead of these child like comments on the internet.

The ball is in your court, Call Me, (954) 274-7230. Thanks, Bill Julian , Vice-Mayor.

Posted On: Friday, Jun. 18 2010 @ 10:01PM

Bill Julian Vice-Mayor says:

I would like everyone out there to know that all of you bloggers that have made a comment about this article, have not responded to my invitation to call or meet with me.

You my call me anytime, or meet with me anywhere, still no response.

So it seems like you get off on throwing insults out there, with no real positive ideas on how to improve our city, and hide behind your little screens.

Well the ball is in your court, it's time to MAN-UP for once in your lives, and do something good.

Bill Julian (954) 274-7230.

Posted On: Friday, Jun. 18 2010 @ 10:16PM

hrose says:

That's not true.

Posted On: Saturday, Jun. 19 2010 @ 7:31AM

Afraid-of-crooks says:

From I can read here, something positive is that some commissioners are starting to un-hide now.

Nobody was hearing commissioners publicly stating that they had a problem with Mike Good.

Mr. Julian now says that he wasn't very happy with Good's performance, but did Mr.

Julian support those who were accusing M.Good a few months ago?

I understand that there was a commissioner, K. London, who was raising hell and the rest of the commissioners were not very supportive of his proposals regarding investigations in ref. to the hiring of a realtor as a paid "consultant" by M. Good.

The rest of the commissioners were all along affirming that London was a disrespectful, outrageous, and disorderly wannabe. Even though I never went to any of these public meetings, and can't assert about the conduct of any commissioners, I suspect that if London hadn't raised hell, perhaps Mike Good would still be around, sinking Hallandale Beach in debt and mismanagement.

Responsibility is the essence here. I respect all commissioners and am sure about their good intentions. But they have to take responsibility.

Many citizens are worried about the direction that the city has taken, and its future, and they believe that Mike Good's case could just be the tip of the iceberg.

It's up to the commissioners to try to repair some of the damage. No passionate speeches will do. Full disclosure and self criticism are the only way our commissioners will keep residents' trust and respect.

Posted On: Saturday, Jun. 19 2010 @ 9:36AM

Bill Julian says:

Afraid of Crooks,
You are right.

We are supposed to be responsible in the end for all the actions of the city.

It was my short coming that I trusted the system. I trusted the City Manager's office, and the City Attorney's office to run their part of the program and report to us.

As we can see, this system failed us, and there we as the commission have failed our residents.

I will do my best to see this never happens again.

This is why I am requesting a Forensic Audit of the City Manager's Office, all contracts, all Development agreements, all major development projects, Gulfstream, Forest City, European Club Project, 2500 Project, Tower Trailer Park, and others, including the CRA since it's beginning.

I also made a motion to have a nighttime workshop with three companies that do the Audit, to pick one.

Spending so much time doing Community work, Food Bank, School Fundraising, Relay, and more, while I feel this is important, I let the other side of my duty go un-noticed thinking every one was doing their job in the administrative end.

I believe when the Audit is finished, and we hire a new City Manager, we will get Hallandale to move forward in a new direction, with more Community involvement, in the process.

I do not put the blame on anyone but myself, when It comes to making mistakes.

Bill Julian, Vice-Mayor.

Posted On: Saturday, Jun. 19 2010 @ 11:05AM

Andrew Markoff says:

I personally cannot answer any questions in regards to the specifics of city management. I do not have inside knowledge and my opinions are varied based on any new set of facts that I obtain, and I always view the political realities in addition to my personal preferences. Representative democracy can be slow and frustrating, but as Winston Churchill said, despite its many problems it's a better system than anything else that's been tried.

Unfortunately, Commission London believes in "direct democracy." He believes that "the people" are the commissioners' "bosses." That's not actually the case.

The residents of Hallandale Beach are only the bosses of the commissioners when it comes time to vote. In the meantime, they represent us after being elected, and they can do whatever it is that they want to do as long as it's not illegal, and your recourse as a resident if you're not happy with your representation is to vote for somebody else at the next opportunity.

The only opportunity we have is in Novemeber. While ChangeHallandale.com says that we should vote out Bill Julian, thus far we only have one candidate who's filed named Alexander Lewy, and Mr. Lewy is certainly qualified as he's a Congressional Aide to Congressman Kendrick Meek, he's president of Florida Young Democrats and he's president of Hallandale Beach Crime Watch, amongst other administrative and

representative political positions. The candidates from our community who have run in previous elections for commissioner have been either lacking in qualifications that would demonstrate that they have the administrative skills for the job of commissioner, or they have simply not been competitive candidates to run against the incumbents.

If given a choice to replace Keith London or to replace Bill Julian, I have continually asserted that we should replace Keith London.

While I fully understand that Commissioner London has attempted to act as a watch dog and point out discrepancies, he has also caused the commission to delay needed action because he has determinedly alienated their trust. I have watched every single commission meeting since shortly after commissioner London had been elected, and his behavior has gone from resistant and aggressive to outright and entirely inappropriate and very disturbing.

At the last meeting, despite an ordinance passed that would disallow any commissioner from making a motion on the same matter over and over again despite a lack of any second to any motion, commissioner London ignored that rule and continued to attempt to make his motions for which he knows that there's no second. Such behavior is a waste of time and accomplishes nothing but grandstanding.

Commissioner London has also continually insulted his cohorts on the commission and called them insulting names to other residents while off of the dais. That kind of behavior clearly demonstrates that he does not understand what it is that he is paid to do.

Worst of all, Commissioner London continually votes "no" on just about everything for reasons that are entirely irrelevant to the issue at hand because he does not understand his role or the needs of his community. For example, street drainage issues in the NE section are dire, yet London voted "no" on proceeding with an engineering contract for designs and an application for a FEMA grant, all which will delay actually starting the drainage projects until the end of the year as it is because it's a cumbersome process. Despite those delays and the bureaucracy required from FEMA, commissioner London voted "no" because he refuses to trust the deputy city manager to provide the entire contract to him.

Such micro-managing is inappropriate and only causes needed work for the community to be stalled. Bill Julian states that he trusted the city attorney, city manager and city staff to attend to matters, and while that trust seems to have gone way too far, Commissioner London's mistrust also goes way, way too far. In a representative democracy, there has to be a level of trust that a system will operate and others will do their jobs. Otherwise you have "direct democracy" in which every single resident has a say in directing the city staff and representatives to do whatever each resident wants, which pulls everyone in all directions all the time and causes constant strife and resentment.

This country does not operate on direct democracy. We are a "democratic republic." Commissioner London's behavior at commission meetings has been extraordinarily unprofessional. If you haven't been watching those meetings, then you should refrain from judging.

You may be unhappy with Bill Julian, but, as I've written before, we don't have Jeezus H. Kryste waiting in the wings, so get together and work with what you've got. This is a small community with a very small group of people willing to undertake the process of raising money and running for a seat, as well as few people with the capabilities to take on the job.

And by the way, I support the red light cameras. Sorry, but I've weighed the issue, and I do.

The expense of a forensic audit is only justified if the accounting firm(s) that have conducted regularly scheduled audits have found anything that they can recommend requires further and more intensive examination. While emotions are running high on the issue, the decision to undertake those runaway costs (it will cost more and more and more as it goes on) should always be based on evidence, not on emotion.

While many of us have questions and perhaps suspicions as well about the current commission and the former city manager, let's take those concerns to the commission and the staff, not just to the blogs, and let's please stop expecting that we're going to clean them all out of office. It doesn't work that way. Only two seats up... and I strongly recommend replacing London because his behavior and attitude, while bringing up concerns about the city's operations, are not normal and professional behavior. We can do better... a lot better, and we can solve problems even without London to obstruct anything and everything all only for political grandstanding rather than a genuine concern for us.

Posted On: Saturday, Jun. 19 2010 @ 12:12PM

Hrose says:

Great meeting Mr Julian.

Does it bother you when the mayor points her finger in your face when she disagrees with you? Grab it & bite it next time.

Can you address this link below? Maybe you can use this money to fund the audit.

http://web.me.com/mike.butler/Change_Hallandale/Blog_Updates/Entries/2010/6/18_Conti

Posted On: Saturday, Jun. 19 2010 @ 2:01PM

Ex Employee-2 says:

This is a response for Commissioner Julian. First of all, quit telling me to man-up because I'm a woman. Secondly, you're always making excuses. You say you don't know who they hire and fire. But it tells you about Mike's Good's character of which you still did nothing. When you found out he hired his son-in-law and then promoted him, why didn't you place an item on the agenda. You sat back and did nothing. Isn't it a sunshine violation for you to be talking to other commissioners as you say you did about Mike got the goods. And why didn't you place an item on the agenda so the matter could be discussed. I'll tell you why. Because you and the commission did whatever you wanted with Mike got the goods in office. That's how he got all that money, is by not making waves. You probably were all glad when Mr. Intindola left because he wouldn't let you run roughshod all over him. He wouldn't take the commission's crap and did what was best for the city. But you all are interested in yourselves and that's why you placed Mark Antonio into the manager position. Many of the employees think it's a joke. He's a wimp that comes in late, leaves early and of course I know you're going to say, you know nothing about that. Because that is your standard excuse. You don't know and if you think you should have, then you should've taken some action. But as always you sat back and did absolutely nothing. You are referred to as don't make waves Julian. Now, go collect your campaign contributions from Joy and her husband.

Posted On: Saturday, Jun. 19 2010 @ 2:28PM

horse with no name says:

Good stuff, ex-employee-2. You hit the mark. Mike chased so many good employees away that no one was left to keep the ship on course. Within two years, Lorenzo was gone, Shannon, later Jeff and several other key staff members. He brings in his friends, relatives and gives his wife a \$10,000 increase for a demotion. Which the commission, including Commissioner Julian approved. As for Intindola, why would he want to come back to the hellhole Mike and the commission created. I can't see the upside of him ever coming back.

Posted On: Saturday, Jun. 19 2010 @ 2:41PM

Architect says:

"I didn't know" is the new name for Julian

Posted On: Saturday, Jun. 19 2010 @ 2:46PM

ROADKILL says:

I think Commissioner Julian was duped to a large extent about what went on in the City Managers office by the Mayor and the City Attorney. Unless you personally witness it, it is hard to believe just how out of control Mike Good was. It is truly hard to believe that someone who purports to be a professional just doesn't show up for weeks at a time to work. The problem is, both the Mayor and the City Attorney had a lot to lose if Mike Good's secret got out. In the case of the Mayor, she had face to lose. In the case of the City, he was afraid of losing his job. I, for one, I glad that he is finally owning up to his own lack of oversight and I find it refreshing that he is standing up to Major Pooper. While some may say that London was screaming about Mike Good to anyone who would listen, that is just the problem: he was screaming at banshee levels and making it hard to find the truth in the hyperbole. Keith is a good guy, he just needs to calm down, grow up, and take his opinion of himself down a notch or two. Not everyone is your enemy Keith. Having said that, the City Attorney is the one who needs to go next. He is just as much in the pocket of Major Pooper if not more. He is simply DESPERATE to hold on to his job and will do anything to keep it. Has anyone asked him why HE didn't say anything about Good? Wasn't it his duty as legal counsel to the commission to let

them know that their City Manager was in dereliction of his duties? Why the hell is David Jove still around? HE is the guy who is supposed to be telling the City Manager that he can't approve certain things because they aren't within his authority. Jove needs to be FIRED like yesterday.

Posted On: Saturday, Jun. 19 2010 @ 5:34PM

ROADKILL says:

When I say in the last comment "I am glad he is finally standing up to pooper", I mean Julian, not the city attorney.

Posted On: Saturday, Jun. 19 2010 @ 5:36PM

ChangeHallandale.com says:

1) Julian, the intent of our meeting next week isn't so we can be friendly. That isn't on the agenda. We're discussing city issues. Period. No time for chit chat. You get paid to do your job, this is volunteer work for us.

2) And quit telling people to "man up". You've allowed this city to intimidate its residents and employees for too long. Want an example? You voted to sue me in an attempt to shut me up.

Now you want people to trust you and the city? People are commenting on these blogs anonymously because they're concerned about retaliation. Hell, the mayor and Sanders have both publicly and verbally attacked residents for daring to ask questions.

Be thankful there are people out there willing to stick their neck out at all. Your best customers are the ones who complain; most just quit doing business with you. Encourage more dialogue. They're providing invaluable information, even if anonymous. Then you can choose to ask questions or ignore it. But at least the lines of communication are open.

3) You keep saying you weren't aware of what was going on. So why the hell do you keep approving expenditures without getting adequate information? At Wednesday's meeting you voted to approve spending money despite London pointing out that adequate back-up material wasn't provided.

Please stop doing that. Ask for an ROI, a justification, a financial analysis...something. Its not about trust, its about protecting you, the residents, and the city. Like Reagan said, "trust, but verify".

I'm looking forward to our meeting next week.

Posted On: Saturday, Jun. 19 2010 @ 6:45PM

Bill Julian says:

Ex-employee-2.

Sorry I told you to Man-up, I didn't know you are a woman.

Sometimes is a little hard to communicate with all of you since none of you will identify who or what you all are, as I do all the time.

Such as changeHallandale who has such a hatred towards me, and thinks he knows all of the facts, and has this thing figured out, but has trouble using a telephone.

I suggest you vent your hate before you make an attempt to communicate with me, or you will be very disappointed in me, a lot more than you are now.

Ex-employee-2. What makes you think I will accept campaign money from the Mayor or her husband?

I will however accept a donation from you, remember nothing over \$500.

Oh, Architect, thank you for my new name. It shows me you really care, and I do appreciate that.

You all have a good night, and we will continue this therapy session again tomorrow.

Posted On: Sunday, Jun. 20 2010 @ 1:42AM

ROADKILL says:

Bill,

That is truly one of the funniest comments on here. You might get a campaign contribution from me, but I doubt you'll get one from ex employee #2. If I were you, I'd let the hate roll off your back. There is nothing you'll do to convince Mike or Keith to be less vitriolic towards you. That's just the way they operate. It is too bad because if they'd tone it down a notch, people would listen more. I happen to agree with Mike (changehallandale), but it would be cool if the shrillness level could go down a decibel or two. The sad fact is that Hallandale is one of the worst operated cities around,

largely because of the mike good and Major Pooper. It is standard operating procedure in every city to have agreements attached as backup when items are brought before the board, so I'm not sure why that's sooo difficult in Hallandale. Hopefully, now that good is gone, things will get better. We'll see.

Posted On: Sunday, Jun. 20 2010 @ 9:10AM

Ex Employee says:

Roadkill, they will not get better because the guy they put in as the interim, is not competent. Everyone knows it except for the commission and that's dangerous because they'll probably put him in permanently and the city will continue to go downhill.

And to those of you that suggested Mr. Intindola comeback, I spoke with him last night and he told me he was not interested in reentering the profession on a full-time basis. He did say that he spoke with Cooper and offered to come back on an interim basis but never received a courtesy response. It appears that Cooper does everything in a vacuum without consulting publicly with the city commission.

Further, he offered to come back gratis with the city just covering minimal expenses. Can you imagine getting a pro to come back without cost while paying a fool who destroyed the organization \$300,000. For the most part Mayor I always liked you, but in this case, you and the commission are extremely foolish for not taking him up on the offer. Instead, you play somebody in the position who was part of the problem.

Posted On: Sunday, Jun. 20 2010 @ 1:35PM

Bill Julian says:

Ex-Employee

You are right on about RJ. Itindola. List this as another something I did not know that there was an opportunity to bring him back, at least temporary.

He would be perfect to come back full time.

He did however offer a while back to assist our city in finding a new City Manager.

The commission should have known this.

He is considered one of the best in the business, and I will bring this to the commission, to accept his offer to help.

Lord knows we do need it.

Bill Julian

Posted On: Sunday, Jun. 20 2010 @ 11:43PM

Afraid-of-crooks says:

In classic Japanese movies, Harakiri or ritual suicide is the only way a hero, a villain, a warrior could confront defeat, dishonor, humiliation, or failure.

Far for being a suggestion for our honorable commissioners, it's only a reminder that responsibility is an integral part of honor.

I am thinking that hiring and maintaining Mike Goods for so many years while he was destroying the services and finances of the city of Hallandale, and periodically rewarding him with constant raises and benefits is not understandable to my modest common sense. I am sure that most of us agree.

Should we call this conduct a failure, a conspiracy, negligence? In all cases whoever participated, at any stage, in this sad part of Hallandale Beach history, should assume his responsibility.

Audits, controls might unveil some or many irregularities. But that's not the point.

The point is, may I say: You guys messed it up... big time. Resign!

Posted On: Monday, Jun. 21 2010 @ 10:15AM

Andrew Markoff says:

First of all, I can save a lot of space and allow my writing to be much shorter because I agree with everything that ROADKILL has recently posted. But then again, maybe I'll just be my usually verbose self...

As for Afraid-of-crooks' last post, which mimicks some previous comments from others, including ChangeHallandale.com, be careful what you wish for. Even Mike Butler, the man behind ChangeHallandale.com and who has so vociferously criticized the city's operations, has never shown any intention to run for an elected seat. We don't have the pick of the litter in Hallandale Beach. We could end up with much, much worse

commissioners than we have now. And as far as quoting Reagan, Mike, that may perhaps confirm my suspicions about your and Keith London's true political orientation.

While the commission should have full backup documents before approving expenditures, the \$70,000 requested for architectural plans are an add-on to a previous project, and the Deputy City Manager answered commissioner London's concerns and said that the rest of that contract would be provided. In order to best serve the residents of the NE section, the application process for FEMA and the necessary plans should have been approved by him, as they were by the rest of the commission. His NO votes have no meaning. That's what he and his followers don't get. Once the majority has spoken, then the ENTIRE commission has spoken. If there are discrepancies or a lack of promised documentation, that can be brought up later, but voting NO only is intended to cause dissension. It serves absolutely no other purpose. The priority should always be to serve the residents, not to make some point about the process at hand.

But that brings up a larger point: commissioner London brings up allegations and insinuations and mistrust at each and every meeting, and in most cases if not in every case, the Mayor, the city manager, the city attorney or someone involved provides an answer to his allegations. But that's just it... instead of asking questions directly about matters, commissioner London very often just makes an allegation without any understanding of either the facts or the process, and then his allegations are refuted with great frustration and with offense by others, as the deputy city manager did continually during the last meeting.

Then what happens is this: commissioner London sends out his emails and/or conducts his meetings with residents in which he re-states his allegations but DOES NOT INCLUDE THE ANSWERS that he was provided or the refutation of his assertions. He allows- deliberately- his followers to believe that while he is making allegations or insinuating wrong-doings, that no one has refuted or answered his assertions.

...And if any resident does- any resident- then he simply takes that resident off of his email list.

I spoke up at a commission meeting to say that I had heard the city manager provide an answer to an allegation Keith London had made, but that the city manager's response to his allegation was LEFT OUT of his email summary of the meeting.

Also, when a resident spoke up to criticize commissioner London during Public Participation, commissioner London simply LEFT THAT OUT of his email summary of the meeting.

He does that stuff constantly. And after I criticized him to the commission, he cut me out of his emails. Then I found out that he does that to others all of the time. That is NOT NORMAL behavior! That is NOT PROFESSIONAL!

He doesn't ever want his followers to know that many if not most of his questions and allegations have been answered in some respect during commission meetings. He censors those responses like he's the KGB- all to politically aggrandize himself and trick his followers into believing that he's fighting for them and there's constantly unanswered questions. Even information that is RIGHT IN FRONT OF HIM on the dais, he will act like he doesn't have it.

ROADKILL is absolutely right to imply that Keith London sees everyone as his enemy. This has gone beyond repair. Those who believe that Keith London is fighting for them are sitting back and allowing him to slash and burn, but if they actually took action themselves and spoke directly to their representatives and city officials, they would quickly realize that Keith London will make an enemy out of them, too.

We are not dealing with a normal, functioning person here. We are dealing with a man who politicizes absolutely everything to get his followers all worked up, angry and mistrustful because he's in constant campaign mode- all the time and about everything. Nothing he does is for the benefit of any individual resident. It is all done to get votes in the next election from those he has duped into trusting him.

His behavior has been entirely unprofessional. He refuses to work with, cooperate or to be respectful of anyone on that dais- and no matter what you think of anyone, if you are collecting a paycheck to be a commissioner then you should behave with respect for your cohorts and reflect well on your city.

No matter what you think of the other commissioners, they all behave professionally on that dais other than Keith London, even though the Mayor has exhibited very heated behavior and taken personal offense- but that's her personality, not her political tactic that she assumes is part of her job the way London does.

And Bill Julian owed no apology for using the term "man-up." He was absolutely right. Instead of accusing and insulting, everyone should be willing to communicate directly

with the commissioners, attempt to get answers, and take their answers to Public Participation at the meetings, even if they could not get a satisfactory answer.

Bill Julian is not a lawyer. He's not a manager. He's not even a politician outside of those chambers. He's just one of us, as he's supposed to be. We elect from our own. If some sly practioners took advantage of our system and the situation at hand, we'll find out about it. The truth will come. In the meantime, work as a responsible citizen on our problems, not an agitator insulting, implying, judging and being mean on the internet.

If anyone would like to introduce themselves or comment on my viewpoints, please feel free to politely approach me should you see me out and about. I have no agenda, and I have no enemies except for those who choose to believe that I'm an enemy for some reason. I would just like to see commission meetings operating without intimidation and harassment. The intimidation sometimes comes from the middle of the dais- and the constant harassment from the one with the ponytail who only looks out straight ahead at an imaginary audience and never directly at the cohorts he's supposed to be conducting a meeting with. We're all just observers. We're not a participatory audience unless we sign up for three minutes to speak. It's their meeting, not ours. They represent us-they don't have to pretend that we're working alongside them.

I look foward to Bill Julian exhibiting less and less willingness to be intimidated by any more forceful and energetic personality on the dais, and I very much appreciate his newfound effort to represent the concerns of residents that have been agitated by Keith London's emails and meetings.

I also appreciate commissioner London's attempts to bring concerns about the city's operations to light. But in all respects, commissioners have to act as commissioners-representatives of the city and our mutual intrest in making it a continually desirable place to live, to buy property and to conduct business. In his basic duties, including being kind and polite to residents who will likely find meeting local politicians to be intimidating and city issues to be confusting, Keith London has failed to the point that he is plainly unethical.

Just the fact that he drops residents and city officials from the emails he sends out to his list giving public information should clearly demonstrate to anyone that that is unacceptable and unethical behavior that would not be tolerated by any city attorney who displayes a modicum of competence and a commission that truly tries to enforce ethical standards across the board.

I look forward to hearing about a productive meeting between concerned residents and Bill Julian.

Posted On: Monday, Jun. 21 2010 @ 6:53PM

Afraid-of-crooks says:

Andrew, my comments are of course provocative and I like to read other people's comments because I actually knew very little about the intricacies of Hallandale Beach politics.

I don't quite understand your statement that I should be careful with what I wish for.

Is it that you are trying to give us some relief saying that it could be much worse with other commissioners who we could vote in the future?

Frankly speaking, I don't know how much worse it could get.

Could new commissioners sink us in a worse hole? Perhaps. but that doesn't validate the damage that was done.

I am sorry if you think that my comments are mimicking somebody else's remarks. They are not and I thought I was original.

I check from time to time this blog because I have been learning a lot about what's going on in this city since I first read it.

I don't know any of you all personally. I am not in any way related in friendship or interests to Mr. Julian or Mr. London who you keep mentioning all the time.

It's just the facts, Andrew.

Posted On: Tuesday, Jun. 22 2010 @ 2:46PM

Andrew Markoff says:

Afraid-of-crooks:

Just look at who has run for a commission seat in the previous couple of elections. We did not have any candidates that could truly be competitive against the incumbent commissioners. No one who had run in the last election had one single thing to say

about the city's finances, its reserves or the operations of the city as a whole. I wrote an email to the commission to say that the questions and answers at the candidates forums did not pertain to anything that commissioners would truly be directly involved in. No candidate ever expressed a strong opinion about anything in regards to the city's operations. I had been very frustrated about that.

We have had candidates who were entirely inappropriate for the city commission. The Mayor ran UNOPPOSED in the last election, yet residents complain about her constantly.

If you want to replace commissioners, then you have to have candidates to run against them. We have had very few candidates, and even fewer viable candidates. The Mayor did not even have any opposition. That's Hallandale for ya.

And yes, the fiscal and operational situation in Hallandale Beach could be much, much worse. There are scandals and financial misdoings in other nearby communities that have been truly outrageous. S. Florida and the state in general is known for that. You only believe that the situation is so bad here because you have been receiving emails and listening to gossip that only insinuates wrong-doings when, in fact, you are not being given all of the information.

Answers provided by the Mayor and city officials are left out of Keith London's emails. I've been to his forum meetings where I've seen him lead residents to believe that basic questions have gone unanswered. He continually claims that he has posed questions or made requests for reports that have been ignored, but he's a liar. That is why a forensic audit is so dangerous. There will be a constant drumbeat of insinuations and accusations that will call for further and further digging that will never satisfy London or his followers. There would be no end in sight, and forensic audits are called for only when there are indications of financial improprieties, not simply accusations.

Hallandale Beach is not in a "hole." Things are not so bad, and the city is not in any kind of trouble that is not also common to most other American communities, especially in regards to pension obligations and union negotiations.

We will pursue the mystery of why Mike Good was retained for so long despite his lack of performance, including being missing and unreachable. We will get Mike Butler's questions answered. But, you must realize that Mike Butler (changehallandale.com), David Smith ([hallandalebeachblog](http://hallandalebeachblog.com)) and Keith London don't actually want their questions answered. They simply want continual dissension from the public to use as a political tactic to call attention to themselves and get votes for a commissioner- Keith London - who does nothing for the community.

London finally started coaching softball or something in the NW section when the gossip about his lack of community involvement caused him concern about necessary votes, but I don't know what happened with that effort. Other than that, he only sticks to the cult of London and no others. He has no presence in the community and does not involve himself in community efforts to better our neighborhoods. He is the epitome of cynicism in politics.

So no, we're not sunk in a hole in Hallandale. We just have a lot of suspicions that need to be quelled. Bill Julian can be a much better agitator for getting answers than can Keith London because Bill is willing to work with people, be polite and respectful and communicate openly. He doesn't lead his own cult of followers while ignoring everyone else, and he doesn't cut out information to mislead people the way London does.

Mimicking was not the best word to use, but your comments are similar to the kinds of comments I read about Hallandale when other articles have appeared on-line about the city. I didn't mean to imply that you were deliberately copying anyone else's comments, only that your comments are similar to others who have been listening to and believing anything Keith London asserts about the city.

Certainly there are problems with the commission and other city officials, but they are not worse problems than elsewhere, and they are not unsolvable. If you really want different people on the commission, however, then I strongly suggest that you start fostering support for individuals that you know who you would like to encourage to get involved and run for a seat. Otherwise, we'll just have Mayor Cooper re-elected again because she's unopposed, and Dottie Ross will be re-elected again by a handful of votes because most people remain uninvolved.

Instead of just complaining, we all need to participate in the process. I have yet to hear of one solution to anything proposed by changehallandale.com, and all Keith London does is let fly a bunch of allegations and insinuations and then voting NO on anything and everything for stupid reasons.

Posted On: Tuesday, Jun. 22 2010 @ 5:14PM

ROADKILL says:

I'm just glad mike good is gone. David Jove should be next. It is appalling what those two did together to the city over the last 4 or 5 years. It was the blind leading the dumb. Unless Jove goes, trust me, it is just going to more of the same bullshit.

Posted On: Tuesday, Jun. 22 2010 @ 8:56PM

hrose says:

Any insiders know if Ross thinks Jove is a saint also?

Posted On: Thursday, Jun. 24 2010 @ 12:35PM

ROADKILL says:

Eh. Probably. The problem with Ross is she's just OUT of it, so she has no concept of reality, unlike Major Pooper, who has full touch with reality uses the fact that he is a suck ass attorney and can't get a job else where to her full advantage. His nose is so far up her butt, he can see what she's eating for lunch next. When the city attorney is that beholden to one commissioner and so terrified of losing his job he will do anything to hold onto it (including actively ignoring the fact the city manager doesn't show up for work), the CITY and the city commission cannot properly be represented as an entity.

Posted On: Thursday, Jun. 24 2010 @ 2:57PM

Ex Employee says:

Appointing Mark A. was a mistake. Bill and you went right along with it. When will you learn?? I think never.

Posted On: Friday, Jun. 25 2010 @ 12:19PM

Andrew Markoff says:

I don't know why appointing Mark Antonio was a mistake because I don't know anything about him other than the fact that he, as a city employee, is already a part of the political dynamic in the city, which is intrinsically a problem. There must be a search for a new city manager conducted by an outside search firm.

I've changed my mind about the red light cameras. I had an interesting talk just now with Alexander Lewy, who has composed a statement about it for his campaign for a commission seat. The law that the Governor signed just recently allows drivers licenses to be suspended if tickets are unpaid, despite the fact that the cameras do not enforce moving violations. I certainly object to that.

Furthermore, the legal and ethical objections to the cameras can potentially be overcome by the politicians craving the revenue they provide and the political campaign contributions provided by the camera operators.

So... I've changed my mind on that. I don't support the cameras because of the complexities that they stir up, both ethically and politically.

Posted On: Friday, Jun. 25 2010 @ 5:38PM

Bill Julian says:

EX-Employee

I wanted to pick Nydia for the temporary position, at the meeting.

But she didn't want it, so mark was the next choice, as we had to appoint someone at the meeting, according to the charter.

Don't get excited, he will not be the next City Manager. Bill.

Posted On: Friday, Jun. 25 2010 @ 9:54PM

ROADKILL says:

It should tell you something that the best qualified person for the position didn't want it.

Posted On: Saturday, Jun. 26 2010 @ 11:03AM

Afraid-of-crooks says:

Andrew,

Right on the mark this time, about the traffic cameras. They are a flagrant example of fines used to raise taxes in disguise; as well as generating revenues for the corporations operating these cameras, with their subsequent and inevitable

contributions to political campaigns.

It is a shame and reminds me of the traffic violation ticket quotas believed to be assigned to cops in some cities.

They are proven not to avoid accidents or improve safety. Personally, I believe they make everybody more nervous at certain intersections. A driver can never fight a ticket, even though the videos they produce could be doctored; the calibration of these cameras cannot be verified and they are operated by outside corporations who have a vested interest in raising as many fines as possible.

Just the feeling of being observed by "big brother" is disgusting and makes me unhappy to live in this city. I didn't vote for any commissioner to bring up more aggravations and intrusion in my life.

I propose to everybody here not to vote in the future for a commissioner who supports these traffic cameras, because it tells a lot about how this person doesn't give a damn about the happiness and quality of life of city residents, but just thinks of new ways of financing inefficiency, and waste.

Posted On: Saturday, Jun. 26 2010 @ 5:41PM

Afraid-of-crooks says:

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Posted On: Saturday, Jun. 26 2010 @ 8:50PM

Afraid-of-crooks says:

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Posted On: Saturday, Jun. 26 2010 @ 8:55PM

Question says:

Anybody know what Hallandale pays, in salary & bennies, to the people who view the traffic videos?

Posted On: Sunday, Jun. 27 2010 @ 9:24AM

Ex Employee-2 says:

If Julian does not know anything as he states. Then how can he lead the city into the future. Cooper demanded a good work with her behind the scenes. And Julian did nothing about it. And London is a fool.

Posted On: Sunday, Jun. 27 2010 @ 12:05PM

afraid-of-crooks says:

Question,

To answer your question, Hallandale Beach has contracted with a private corporation that does business all over the US, which apparently has developed certain technology to make it very easy for cities to implement their traffic cameras.

I understand that most of the work is done by this corporation and they have it made very easy to dig in its citizen's pockets without using much staff.

Posted On: Sunday, Jun. 27 2010 @ 6:00PM

Andrew Markoff says:

The thing for our commissioners to look out for is the future. In regards to traffic cameras, bear in mind that a simple violation, such as running a red light, can turn into much more in order to increase revenue in the future.

If campaign contributions, hunger for more fees in order to avoid raising taxes, and political interests can override legal and ethical questions, then what's next for cameras?

Let's say that in the future, the city decides that automobiles traveling through the city should never be too dirty. If pictures demonstrate that vehicles are excessively dirty, then a violation and a fine is issued. Sound outrageous? Well, it hardly matters how outrageous any supposed "violation" may be because if there's money to be made by a private company operating cameras and a municipality as well as the political hacks who want contributions from the private money-makers involved, then all bets are off. Just about anything could push the boundaries, forcing ordinary people to scramble together resources to take their arguments perhaps all the way to the state supreme court.

So, it's not simply a matter of stopping at red lights. It's a matter of that ever-growing hunger for revenue based on what can be caught on camera.

I hope that Bill Julian will read this and think about it and discuss it with better advisers

than David Jove, Chief Magill and the Mayor.

And Ex Employee-2, another reminder from me that although we all may have frustrations with every commissioner, we can't sweep them all out. Even the two up for re-election can't necessarily be replaced with another resident willing and capable of taking the job. Raising money and running a viable campaign is a lot to ask of anyone, especially these days. Do you know how much one single mailing just within Hallandale costs? Somewhere in the range of \$25,000!

Therefore, we have to look at who we could best work with to effect change. As much as Keith London has purported to expose and seek out misdeeds and incompetence, he is actually only one lone NO vote- often for very stupid reasons, which effectively accomplishes nothing. He will not work with ANYONE who is not there to stroke his ego. He won't even say "hello" to his fellow commissioners, various city employees and lots of residents who he has decided are his enemies. You're not dealing with a normal person there.

Bill Julian has his weaknesses, but you're dealing with a far more maleable character there and one who is willing to professionally communicate with any and all residents.

Anyone who is a member of the Keith London Cult in Hallandale likely believes that all is well in the world of Keith London, and they refuse to perceive what it means when an elected member of a commission cuts out his constituents who he's decided don't properly attend to his ego. It shouldn't matter if you're a member in good-standing of the Keith London Cult or not, however. His behavior is bizarre and unacceptable.

No matter what kinds of problems we have had with all of the commissioners, it should be accepted as reality that while improving the city's operations and transparency must be a continual process, Keith London is not a man that can be worked with by all and he must go in November. He is perfectly able to agitate off of the commission dais.

Our commissioners should represent every resident professionally and strive to present the city in a welcoming and positive light. There are other ways to get answers and shine a light on city operations than continually being rude and obnoxious.

And about Nydia, no- she turned down the role of Interim City Manager, but she had to helm that position at the last commission meeting while Mark Antonio was on vacation, and she kicked ass. A woman as professional and competent as she is asserted her own honesty and integrity in the face of London's continual insinuations and allegations, and she wasn't having any of it. If a person like Nydia was not having any of Keith London, then that should also demonstrate that he is absolutely nothing but the Glenn Beck of Hallandale Beach.

Posted On: Monday, Jun. 28 2010 @ 2:15PM

Hrose says:

Andrew why do you hate London so much?

The man seems not to want to vote for anything if he's lacking all the facts. Why aren't they supplied in a timely fashion?

Why not give him what he wants & then see what else he can or cannot do?

Oh, I'm not a member of his cult. Just an observer.

Posted On: Monday, Jun. 28 2010 @ 5:25PM

Hrose says:

I'm sorry for using cult. I will now refer to them as London supporters.

Posted On: Monday, Jun. 28 2010 @ 5:31PM

ROADKILL says:

I agree with Hrose, to some extent, about London. He isn't as annoying and stupid as Mayor Pooper. He can be obnoxious, but then, he's sort of been forced into that. Having said that, he's not the most talented politician. A talented politician would have been able to oust Mike Good by creating alliances, rather than alienating. If London would mellow a little bit and tone down the aggressiveness, it would do loads for his effectiveness.

Posted On: Tuesday, Jun. 29 2010 @ 1:49PM

Andrew Markoff says:

Hrose:

The problem is that you are apparently always believing London when he claims that

he's "lacking all the facts." I've seen in commission meeting after commission meeting that Keith London has received the materials that have either been supplied or that he had requested, and that he continually jumps to conclusions instead of just asking. Much of the time, he is just duping you. Don't fall for it. Furthermore, even when information that he expects is not in front of him, it is not information that the commission should require in order to vote. No city can benefit from micromanaging. Part of his job is to trust that city officials do their jobs. The commission is only a supervisory body. They don't have to check everybody's homework for every single matter that comes before the commission. Without at least a modicum of trust that paid professionals are doing their jobs and that they are all subject to regularly scheduled accounting audits, then nothing could get done, which is precisely what would occur if London's continual NO votes were in the majority.

And it is a cult, not a group of supporters. Part of what defines a cult is that those who question or disagree are ostracized and ex-communicated, and the leader is idolized and his/her edicts are unquestioned by followers.

No city official, whether elected or hired as an employee, should ever cut any residents or other officials or commission members out of public communications (or attempt to do so, as they can always be sought out from others) because they are singled out as enemies. That is ridiculous and should not be behavior that's tolerated by anyone.

If you're getting London's emails, he includes his assumptions and his accusations, but he does not include the answers that he's been provided because he wants his followers to believe that there haven't been any answers, and he does not include any criticism of him during Public Participation.

I absolutely do not believe, ROADKILL, that London will "mellow out or "tone down." He is entirely, completely, utterly unresponsive to any kind of criticism whatsoever, and he's not actually there to serve the city and its residents. He's there to live out his libertarian fantasy of hating government and calling attention to himself. Name anything he has ever done for any single resident.

And whatever the Mayor's behavior, she does perform her job as an administrator and she understands the city charter and how the government functions, unlike London. No one's ever going to be happy with everyone's personality, but the Mayor certainly performs the job she's paid to do, whether or not it's to the liking of everyone. London is not actually a commissioner. He's an agitator engaging in harassment of the commission and city employees- something he should be doing off of that dais, not as a commission member.

Posted On: Tuesday, Jun. 29 2010 @ 2:31PM

ROADKILL says:

Andrew, I have to disagree with you about Pooper. She does NOT do her job. If she did her job, she would have led the effort to fire Mike Good a long time ago and she would currently be getting rid of David Jove. She may understand the charter, but she doesn't do one thing as a commissioner that isn't for her own sense of aggrandizement and power. I don't even think she knows what her job is, other than stroking her own ego. She makes incredibly STUPID decisions which cause great embarrassment to the city. You would be mortified if I shared any of them with you. Don't fool yourself. Joy Pooper is not a nice person and she is not a good Mayor.

Posted On: Tuesday, Jun. 29 2010 @ 2:40PM

ROADKILL says:

Also, outside the city of Hallandale Beach, Joy Pooper is commonly referred to as a "loose cannon" by fellow Browardians. She is truly an embarrassment to the city.

Posted On: Tuesday, Jun. 29 2010 @ 2:44PM

Andrew Markoff says:

I did not write that Joy Cooper is or isn't a nice person or is or isn't a good mayor. All I'm saying is that she's Mayor, and she performs her duties as Mayor. Keith London does not behave as a commissioner. He behaves like a state legislature, as if instead of participating in a meeting, he's in a legislative session and he can take to the floor and make speeches and point fingers and speak to an audience. He's there to participate in a meeting with his colleagues, however, not to go on and on and around and around like he's on CSPAN. No one cares about all his objections and insinuations. The only thing that matters at all is the final vote, and he's the lone NO vote in most occasions, and it means nothing ultimately.

And your "embarrassment to the city" ran completely unopposed in the last election. It's the Hallandale residents who should be embarrassed, not Joy Cooper, because they cannot foster any candidates to run for seats in our little city.

Lastly, Cooper did move to fire Mike Good, and she expressed profound displeasure with David Jove at the last commission meeting.

What people often don't perceive is that the kind of representative democracy we have can too often seem to move too slowly. Eventually, issues get attended to, and most often not as quickly as you or I would like.

The difference between Cooper and London is that I can try to talk to Mayor Cooper. She may be very stubborn and unwilling to listen, but you can try to talk to her.

Keith London will entirely cut people out of communication if he's labeled them an enemy. Do you know that when he sees his fellow commissioners in chambers or in the offices at city hall, he completely ignores them? He won't even look at them or say hello? That's not a politician or a representative. That's just someone collecting a paycheck to be a lone activist.

No one reads the Hallandale Beach Blog and it's unreadable, and ChangeHallandale.com doesn't tell us what the hell we're supposed to do about the sky falling in over Hallandale (supposedly). The Sun-Times tells us that there's Lasik Surgery over at Braverman Eye Clinic and early bird specials over at the local buffet.

People need a news source, but Keith London is not paid as a commissioner to provide that, and what he writes is STRICTLY tabloid. Everything he says and writes is intended to agitate and alarm. Everyone thinks that Hallandale is worse than anyplace else because of him. Well, it's certainly not the best, but our commission could actually function in its basic duties without London on the dais, and he's still free to call out everything wrong with Hallandale and make requests for public information without holding up the meetings just to call attention to himself.

Anyone who believes that they support London needs to watch every meeting. If you work someplace where you can have TV or audio on while you work as I do, then you can play those meetings in the background. I don't know why anyone watches CSI Miami or Law and Order when they can watch Hallandale Commission meetings. Without London, they'll be so boring that they could sell Hallandale back to the Spanish and we wouldn't know it. But, there are rules and procedures and common knowledge, and all of that is tossed to the wind with London on the dais.

Posted On: Tuesday, Jun. 29 2010 @ 5:51PM

Hrose says:

I'd like to see <http://www.changehallandale.com> do a column in the suntimes.

Andrew, could you make that happen?

You seem to know alot.

I bet the blogger would do it for free.

We need another venue besides here.

Posted On: Tuesday, Jun. 29 2010 @ 6:11PM

Tom Francis says:

I agree with you, HRose, about needing another venue besides this post. Have you seen this one?

http://blogs.browardpalmbeach.com/juice/2010/06/joe_kessel_email_mike_good_consultar

And stay tuned. We've got more big stories coming out on Hallandale Beach this week.

Posted On: Tuesday, Jun. 29 2010 @ 7:15PM

Andrew Markoff says:

I don't think that the Sun-Times will be amenable to having any critical opinion of Hallandale Beach government in their paper. The Sun-Times is a pro-retail and service business paper that carries the only pretense of covering news through editorial comments written by editor Larry Bluestein, the Mayor, the Vice-Mayor and a couple of other sitting officials.

If you want to utilize another on-line venue to post comments, you can search for TalkAboutHallandale all as one word, and join the Yahoo! Group. Any postings can go right into your email in box:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/talkabouthallandale/>

Posted On: Tuesday, Jun. 29 2010 @ 7:59PM

Hrose says:

We need help here.

This is pathetic.

I feel sorry for the sun times.

Maybe their balls are tied up for some reason.

I'd like to read the Larry's opinion and also the opposing position in the same issue.

What country do we live in again?

Maybe as Julian said "man up". I like that.

Posted On: Tuesday, Jun. 29 2010 @ 8:49PM

HIAG says:

Hallandale is a precious gem.

The failure in the City is simply leadership. The commission should act in a supervisory role, it doesn't. The Mayor should manage the performance of the City Manager, such as his attendance, his responsiveness to inquiries, and his ability to manage labor contracts. The Mayor should also represent the City professionally by maintaining her composure in public, especially on the dais. The City Manager's office should lead rather than micromanage, assign accountability and establish monthly standards and then manage directors to ensure their professional development. Department Directors should lead, develop their staff and plan succession.

This doesn't happen.

Instead, Hallandale "leaders" make statements like Bill Julian's earlier post about Mark Atonio: "Don't get excited, he will not be the next City Manager." Commissioner Ross slurs her public addresses (this is common knowledge). The City Clerk's office doesn't respond to Public Records Requests. The Director of Finance expects her hourly staff to work un-reimbursed overtime.

Hallandale's day to day operations take place in a maze of confusion; Departments do not have autonomy to manage their own accounts. Hallandale's miles of outdated Policies do not document procedures on "how to". Employees do not understand the function of other departments. Two labor contracts representing nearly 50% of the workforce have expired.

Failure of leadership. No documented processes. Contracts executed without Commission review and approval.

Yes. This is Hallandale Beach.

By contrast to Department Directors, the Mayor is at least planning succession: making backroom offers without the benefit of a nationwide search or posting. Its a shame, since Hallandale has a tremendous amount of untapped talent, ready and willing to competitively apply.

Its a shame to see the potential for this gem continue to go unrealized. Compared to the rest of Broward, Hallandale is unique with two casinos attracting a all levels of clientele. These offer tremendous untapped business opportunities. It is geographically tiny and could be walked by any member of the Commission or City Management. The issues of the residents could be documented, addressed and resolved while fostering business development.

There is so much potential here to take care of the residents and put the shine back on this gem.

Posted On: Tuesday, Jun. 29 2010 @ 9:51PM

Andrew Markoff says:

All very well said, HIAG. I chose to find a house in Hallandale because of its geographical assets, but the lack of oversight and appropriate management doesn't surprise me.

As soon as I found my first job in S. Florida about fourteen years ago, I was shocked at how employees and management operated at a hotel in S. Beach. Since then, every job I had exhibited stunning levels of incompetence and outright refusals to attend to the business at hand. I started consulting because I saw a market for it due to such rampant unprofessionalism and incompetence amongst S. Florida businesses. It's the nature of the beast of living here.

People are strange everywhere, but when you look at all of the political and other news stories in Broward, Dade and Palm Beach, I've realized that it's not just where I have worked or where I live or what occurs in my city hall. It's all emblematic of living here in S. Florida. People proclaim their surprise and disgust at how our city operates, but I'm never surprised by any of it.

Because I am certain that Keith London has to go, that doesn't mean that everyone else is operating beautifully. It just means that we all need to participate and stop leaving it up to Keith London to harass his cohorts as a totally unproductive means of effecting change.

Of course the Mayor and the commission have totally failed in supervising Mike Good, and of course there's going to be a back room method of seeking a replacement attempted. But we can be educated and learn how to better participate if only we can recognize a genuine vision of what our city should be instead of operating like much of the rest of the United States of America in this day and age: just a bunch of mangled competing interests always trying to subvert one another- pointing fingers and blaming and all the while continually just trying to take, take, take for themselves.

I wish that more people who are concerned and interested about local city politics would attend community events like the Democratic Club, Crime Watch and the American Legion luncheons on Memorial and Veterans Day and things like that, because that way you see the kinds of people that have been voting for Dottie Ross and Joy Cooper and Bill Julian, and you'll see that there are blocs of condo residents and other people that are inclined to vote for those who they feel most comfortable with on a personal level.

Ultimately, Joy Cooper answers for her style of supervision on Election Day when her seat is up, unless, of course, she runs unopposed again. But, she'll probably be running against Keith London. London does not share his vision for the city with the other commissioners or any residents that he doesn't believe that he can manipulate. All he shares is his self-aggrandizement and his continual determination to micro-manage everything for the purpose of bullying.

We have a difficult situation because the talent and willingness to run for open seats is not yet there. But... that's not much different from other communities. The USA has become just a melange of constantly competing interests that are determined to ensure that we never again have communal or national interests served while the few sacrifice for the benefit of the many. Instead, no one is willing to sacrifice anything for the benefit of the larger community. And we're literally always at continual war somewhere. The politicians and the Pentagon want that, and the people acquiesce to it no matter how much we claim that we don't want war. That's America for you.

Let's look at the bright side: we have an interesting mystery to perhaps one day be solved as to why, why, WHY this city tolerated the behavior of Mike Good for so long, all the while proclaiming absolute love and devotion (Ross still doesn't think he should have been fired).

Something smells, but unlike London, I'm not insinuating anything until or unless we actually have FACTS. Until then, what we have to point to is apparent incompetence, and we absolutely must allow those who are not up for re-election - and the Vice-Mayor who is but has proclaimed his determination to set things right - the opportunity to try to do better.

Filibustering and insulting and holding up meetings going around and around with pointless questions and insinuations will not ultimately accomplish anything but getting a bunch of stupid people to believe that London, Smith and Butler are looking out for us. They aren't. They're only looking for dirt so that they can throw it around.

I don't believe that Mayor Cooper's behavior and demeanor both on the dais and in public will change. You can get upset with her, but you'll just be blowing in the wind. Trust me on that. Just be respectful and work with what we've got.

Dottie Ross is a lovely woman who is just ripe for retirement. Just nod your head and keep moving.

Commissioner Sanders asks excellent questions at commission meetings. He's learning the ropes, and let's hope that he takes a stance on accountability and takes his supervisory role very seriously. I can tell you this, however: he's very professional. In this town and in S. Florida, that is really saying a lot. He knows how to behave and he considers his votes carefully. I am keeping my eye on him as much as I am towards everybody else. Don't jump to assumptions about him yet.

Bill Julian is very well liked in much of our community. His care and his efforts for the less advantaged is truly commendable- unless, of course, you're Keith London, who wouldn't give Julian even a figurative pat on the back if you begged him to. His

mistakes seem to usually be ones that he is willing to admit to, so give him a chance to take a more scrupulous look at the goings-on in Hallandale operations.

I supported and voted for Keith London and attended his meetings and he's been to my house and I've read through every transcript regarding his lawsuit against the city in his preposterous claim that his First Amendment rights had been personally infringed by an ordinance. I watch the meetings (jaw dropping at times) and I've considered all sides. I've also met and spoken with Mike Butler, and I've been very friendly with David Smith (HallandaleBeachBlog) and examined his numerous complaints about the city's operations.

While there are so many problems to attend to, the approach of Butler, Smith and London is not productive. They offer no solutions. They are unwilling to directly address commissioners and work with the situation at hand.

As I've written in earlier comments, I believe that Mike Good would have been terminated long ago if Keith London had the political talent to have taken the right approach to the situation. Instead, he's made an enemy out of absolutely everyone other than those he has duped into believing that he cares about our city and its residents.

Ultimately, Mike Good was fired because Mayor Cooper finally took the initiative and called a meeting for that purpose when Good was not responding even to her. London could have pointed out how things could have otherwise been better if he hadn't been so busy crying "wolf" all of the time... (ALL OF THE TIME!)... and causing such genuine mistrust of himself.

It is not simply because of mismanagement or incompetence that the rest of the commission, the city manager, the deputy city manager, the city attorney and anyone and everyone else who has sat on that dais with the present commission has been so resistant and resentful of Keith London. It is because of his own incompetent method of operating. We all may want problems solved and questions answered, but all Keith London has been doing is agitating, not actually finding solutions and suggesting them and encouraging his cohorts to trust in his line of thinking. London believes that every one of them shouldn't be there, and he displays continual disrespect and arrogance towards all of them, both on and off the dais.

I hope my points and my willingness to express myself openly and without anonymity will cause people to consider a wider perspective and to also consider their own roles in affecting city government.

I fully realize, however, that given the nature of on-line newspaper comment sections (other than at NYTImes.com), most people if not everyone will simply label me a kook. Oh well, I have tried. At least I have pointed to methods and solutions far more so than have Butler, Smith and London, the Fox News section of Hallandale Beach.

Let's do better in this city and do it with some kindness and professionalism and show respect for our neighbors and our representatives while expecting more and better at the same time. That may be hard to do when you're angry and mistrustful and frustrated, but try. I believe that such methods will work better than the approach taken by too many Americans these days who are chewing on tea bags and demanding lower taxes while refusing to give up their own benefits and services and always blaming their representatives who are often doing exactly what's been demanded of them by the unwashed masses.

Clean up a little. Put on a smile. Be polite. Discuss. Don't jump to conclusions. And HIAG's description is probably right on the mark, so let's start expecting better and have the patience to watch and wait for it while letting the commission know that we all expect them to act as supervisors, not cheerleaders.

There's so much that I would like to change about Hallandale, and I won't be surprised if anyone that I've defended or claimed is entitled to respect is ultimately hauled off in handcuffs. But that's S. Florida for you, and there's been problems in this town all through its history and within previous commissions. Get used to it. Work with what you've got and stop just complaining. And for God's sake, please get Keith London out of there. He can stand in front of Publix on a plastic crate with a bullhorn instead of holding up commission meetings to get attention. He'd get about as much accomplished outside with a bullhorn as he is right now.

Posted On: Wednesday, Jun. 30 2010 @ 12:26AM

ROADKILL says:

HIAG:

You nailed it. And, of course, the Mayor is already planning Mike's successor. She

wouldn't have it any other way. The Comm'n must insist on a search firm and a nationwide search. Otherwise, it will be more of the same.

Posted On: Wednesday, Jun. 30 2010 @ 5:40AM

afraid-of-crooks says:

For what I can see, we have been following the usual pattern in Hallandale; which is to talk for long hours, discuss, fight, debate, but never get to any conclusion or resolution. We all agree that M.Good was the worse kind of manager and that it took many years for our commissioners to do the right thing and only under pressure.

We are trying to find excuses and analyze the personality of each commissioner. But doing something about some of our specific problems? No way!

Andrew, I don't want to be a commissioner. I don't need to be a commissioner to have a voice in the city where I live. In a democracy, not everybody must be a senator or a president to be active.

What I propose here is to start addressing at least one issue, which I think we all agree about.

Let's make public our disgust with these traffic cameras. And since they were recently voted by a majority of our commissioners, let's tell them here and all over the place that we will give them the opportunity to correct that mistake.

If these commisioners don't get rid of the cameras, and reverse that ordinance, we will decide not to vote for any specific commissioner who still validates them.

In the same way as the pressure of some of us finally forced Ms. Cooper and the rest of them to open their eyes on the disastrous Mike Good case, they should take note.

I invite you all to speak about this proposal to your friends in Hallandale Beach.

At least it will be a concrete issue that we will address and not just never-ending and sterile talk.

Posted On: Thursday, Jul. 1 2010 @ 11:25PM

Andrew Markoff says:

OK, that's fine, afraid-of-crooks, but I think it would be a mistake for people to start complaining about "privacy" issues. Privacy is now re-defined in this era, and in any public spaces the government and private businesses have the right to photograph the goings-on for our own safety, for evidence in law enforcement and for anti-terrorism measures.

The issue, I think, should be that the revenue generated by cameras photographing violations, the campaign contributions from the camera operators and installers and the political pressures enhanced by all of that money can lead us down a dangerous road of more and more supposed "violations" being captured on camera and generating fines against people.

As far as threatening to not vote for any commissioner who votes for the traffic cameras, I remind you yet again that there are only two commissioners seeking re-election. The rest of them may have other plans, so when their seats are up, those individuals may not feel much concern about your next vote.

If both London and Julian choose to oppose the cameras, that still leaves Ross, Cooper and Sanders in the majority should all of them choose to vote for the cameras... and they can't be voted out in November.

I'll also remind you here that if you want less density, better streets, recycling of yard waste, lower height restrictions on condos, better schools and less fines and fees on anything and everything, then you need to be willing to see your taxes go up. Ultimately, that's what all of this is about.

Posted On: Friday, Jul. 2 2010 @ 5:20PM

afraid-of-crooks says:

Andrew,

With all due respect, your last one is a perfect example of how you want to drown us in just talk, talk, talk, to avoid any effective citizens' action.

There are two commissioners seeking reelection. Well, we'll make these two understand what we want and they must do it, or they will be out. Cooper has enough influence on the other ones. And the rest of them will also have to face voters next time in a couple of years.

I see that you apparently find every time an excuse to stop any effective and immediate action. That was the same attitude our commissioners had when they all knew about the Mike Good disgrace and didn't take any action for such a long time.

Read again what you wrote. What exactly is your response to what I proposed regard putting pressure on commissioners to eliminate traffic cameras?

Is it YES, or is it NO ? It looks like it's, "let's do nothing, perhaps things will improve by themselves".

And NO, I don't want to see our my taxes go up, because actually what the effective services the city is providing me are worse now than 10 years ago.

What I want to see is more efficiency and less waste. I am sure that the increase of revenue from construction of thousands of condos during the last decade, as well as assessment increases should have been more than enough to balance our budget.

But perhaps not enough to pay incompetent city managers in the \$200 or 300's a year in compound compensations/benefits, or support the ridiculous layers of our new bureaucracy, generous pensions, and so many instances of waste that are evident in Hallandale Beach.

Posted On: Saturday, Jul. 3 2010 @ 4:59PM

Andrew Markoff says:

No, afraid-of-crooks, it's not me telling you to do nothing. What I'm telling you is that our system of government in the United States is in such tremendous disrepair that there is little that you can do about it. Communicating your protest and threatening to withhold your vote and complaining on blogs is not enough. From Washington to Hallandale, politicians have refined our system of patronage to the point that the needs of ordinary constituents can almost be ignored entirely.

There has to be a lot more careful strategizing with a lot more foresight about what's coming in the future in order to effect change. It's not easy. It takes cooperation, work and planning, not just complaining.

You can let the commissioners know how you feel about traffic light cameras, but just understand that Mayor Cooper's personality is not one that is easily moved by the opinions of others. Ross, Julian and Sanders are more easily swayed by the Mayor's assertions than by anyone else's.

I strongly suggest that in regards to the traffic light cameras, you carefully consider exactly what your objections are to them, how those objections can be best and more concisely articulated, and which objections that you have might be most persuasive to city officials who want all of the revenue that they are generating.

Don't just react. Think about what I've said here. Consider it carefully.

Again: what exactly are your objections?

Which of your objections might be most persuasive to commissioners who want that money for the city no matter how upset anyone is about it?

How can you best and most concisely articulate your objections?

Please don't assume that you're going to change anybody's minds by getting angry. Mayor Cooper is especially immune to anyone's anger and objections. She is stubborn, self-righteous and all about planning out her alliances well in advance of any issue coming up before the commission. Anyone might assume that those are negative attributes, but in regards to dealing with unions, angry mobs and the self-interested, Mayor Cooper can guard what she believes are the city's best interests like a pit bull.

We have a continuing problem in this country of people demonstrating against and voting against their own best interests. Understanding how to petition and manipulate our own government actually takes more education and planning than it seems most people realize.

I object to the cameras only because of the precedent they set up for a future of increasing attempts to generate revenues through violations rather than increased taxes. But, if the cameras should prevail - like most issues in Hallandale - it's not the end of the fucking world, so take a chill pill and focus on other vital issues in regards to our quality of life and our democracy.

Good luck and Happy Fourth.

Posted On: Saturday, Jul. 3 2010 @ 7:24PM

ROADKILL says:

@andrew: It is amusing that you continue to assume and assert that Pooper has the

city's best interests at heart. Clearly, she doesn't or she would have gotten rid of Good long ago. It is obvious that her ONLY interest is her own ego. She is a legend in her own mind.

Posted On: Sunday, Jul. 4 2010 @ 9:40AM

Andrew Markoff says:

ROADKILL, I did not assert that Mayor Cooper has the city's best interests at heart. I wrote that "Mayor Cooper can guard what she believes are the city's best interests like a pit bull."

I choose my words carefully, and my opinions are clear only if you read my words carefully. What Mayor Cooper believes has no relevance to whatever it is that I believe.

It seems that whatever I assert about any commissioner, the people who read and comment on these blogs will continually assume that I am either on one side or another. That, however, is not the case.

I only look at the political realities, not who's agenda is pure and whose isn't. If I comment that one individual has handled a situation poorly, that does not automatically mean that any other individual has handled the same situation perfectly or even that much better.

I keep repeating that we have to face the reality of who is up for re-election and who is not. If you or I are not happy with Mayor Cooper, voting her out is not going to happen this year, so we had all better learn to deal with what we've got to work with in the most productive way possible.

That's precisely what I believe that commissioner London, ChangeHallandale.com's Mike Butler and HallandaleBeachBlog's David Smith are not doing.

Sending out alarmist emails and harassing the commission during every meeting; creating a website to assert that we're in a crises that people must change but without any suggestion of how to do that; blogging constant complaints and insults while refusing to participate in the process as a resident instead of just as a blogger- those are all unproductive ways of actually improving our political processes and our quality of life in Hallandale Beach.

Posted On: Sunday, Jul. 4 2010 @ 11:28AM

afraid-of-crooks says:

Andrew,

Now I understand you.

Nothing is the end of the world, Andrew, you say. I just have to live with the fact that I cannot change anything.

Since I can't change something wrong, I have, (as per your words) try and find some justification in what's wrong. Find some intricate truth and goodness in what I believe is bad.

In all kind of discourse you are trying to convince us people that rallying against a bad decision of our commissioners is useless.

And that we have to accept whatever we have now, because that's the essence of American' government nowadays, unfairness.

You amuse me Andrew. The way you turn around the point and finally convey your feelings that, even though we don't like too much what we've got, we better find a reason why it could be worse, or find a way of accepting something unjust or unfair because our mayor is self-righteous or behaves as a pitbull.

You want to convince me and everybody that whatever we do, nothing is going to happen.

I do not want to review again my objections to the traffic cameras. I don't want to find any justification to what I have already considered and judged.

Of course, Traffic cameras are not what is killing our city finances or our total happiness. But for me, they are a symbol of the ruthlessness of our commissioners.

So, you think that I should chill out, like we were all chilling out before some people raised their voices and talked about the scandalous affair of Mike Good, and then be called them warmongers, and disrespectful, etc. etc.

Issue after issue, nothing is important for you Andrew.

Democracy is not accepting evil. It's about correcting it. And even though you think that the whole government system in the US is a useless mess, I still believe in fairness, justice, and good government.

Sorry to disappoint you, Andrew, but I don't think you're doing a good job at cooling citizens trying to regain control of their city's government. You should better (since you write so well) join them in making some changes happen. Not changes in people, but changes in attitudes.

Posted On: Sunday, Jul. 4 2010 @ 4:44PM

Andrew Markoff says:

afraid-of-crooks:

you don't get it. You need to re-read what I've written more carefully. You are confused, and you are not understanding at all what I've written.

I have tried to describe to you the difference between recognizing what you don't like in government and actually doing something about it. So far, most of the people who respond to articles in these comments sections and who create their own websites and blogs about Hallandale only voice their great displeasure, their resentments and their dislikes about others.

Chaz Stevens, David Smith, Mike Butler, Keith London- that's all that they basically do. Although London holds his forums and enjoins the United Condo Association and sends out emails, he picks and chooses who he will associate and communicate with based on his own cult of personality.

None of those people are actually involved in positive and effective community organizing. While UCA may be attempting that, there's not really a vision based on the realities of what residents can get via lower density and lowered taxes.

I don't think that Mike Butler has yet returned Bill Julian's call or set up a meeting with him. While the personalities that most vociferously and publicly complain about Hallandale's government claim to want a lot of change, they determinedly avoid actually cooperating with anyone to achieve it. Think about that. You should find their motives suspect.

What I have tried to do is to describe how complaining is not actually a means to effect change. You do not need to "chill out" about what you want to change, but we all need to focus less on expressing our disgust and more on finding a strategy to improve the situation at hand. There is a difference between wanting a fair, just and good government and actually finding a way to bring that about.

It is not that we have to accept things the way they are. What I have tried to express is that we should all recognize that matters involving government in Florida, in Broward County, in Hallandale and in America have been pretty bad and may be getting worse. That's why it's so important to focus less on being upset and expressing angry dissent over the internet and instead focus more on what it will actually take to gain the cooperation of other residents and actually find a way to make better things happen.

The reason that I have asserted that the situations at hand may be more complicated than many people realize and much more difficult to overcome is because I want people to recognize that they need to plan- to strategize- to carefully consider the most effective way to get what they want out of government. At Public Participation during commission meetings, as an example, you only get three minutes. You have to plan, for example, how to use that very brief time in front of the commission most effectively.

I disagree with you that citizens around here are trying to regain control of their government. They may WANT that, but that's not what I see in the thread of discussion here, and that's not what I see from the blogs and from Commissioner London's behavior on the dais. Instead, I see only a lot of animosity and very little accomplishment.

Politics is a complicated game of creating alliances, gaining trust and communicating effectively. Despite Commissioner London's terrific and constant displeasure with the running of Hallandale's operations, he has entirely failed at at least those three aspects of successful politicking.

Please consider what has been discussed here in this on-line thread more carefully. It seems to me that you are jumping to conclusions based on confusion and mistrust rather than looking at the bigger picture of what it actually takes to organize a community towards a more positive outcome.

Those in power can sometimes be a lot more devious and clever than you expect them to be, and the process for citizen involvement can be a lot more sluggish and restrictive than people expect. So plan ahead, organize with others and and try to get them to cooperate with one another. And good luck with that around here, sweetheart.

Posted On: Sunday, Jul. 4 2010 @ 8:55PM

afraid-of-crooks says:

From what you have written before, I understand that you are very impressed and overly intimidated by Ms. Cooper.

No, I don't want to go to commissions' meetings where I can anticipate that the personality of Ms. Cooper will dominate above the other commissioners (except London for sure), against anything that she has already decided. It's not in my character.

This is not where I should be. We gave our commissioners a mandate. They should know what they're doing.

Now: if we have to fight every minute against our own commission for the sake of quality of life, less pollution, less indiscriminate construction, less taxes, less waste, then perhaps our mandate has gone to the wrong people.

Then, you agree with me that there is no way we can make things change when confronted with one pit-bull will, and then the rest of passive commissioners.

In my opinion, the only way that we can influence them is through a show of strength (or many).

With all the reserves about Mr. London's attitude that you have made, actually his shouting and screaming brought about the dismissal of Mike Good. Or at least contributed to this effect. I tend to believe that if done otherwise, Mr. Good would still be enjoying his employment.

Traffic cameras are just (I already said that) an example of arrogant misuse of power in the form of new taxation. It has been surreptitiously levied without an extensive research about what the people of Hallandale thinks about it.

It's surely not the most important issue we confront now. But it is a very unpopular venue and a sign of how our services have degraded and our expenses increased. In few words, bureaucracy and waste, paid for by new taxation.

Nobody can discuss that there has been mismanagement in our city. But our commissioners are there to stay till their term is up.

Unless we make them understand on our blogs, on in conversations between residents, our displeasure, and our demands, they have no reason to change.

My demands actually would include thrift and economies at the cost of a less flamboyant administration. More services, less bureaucracy. Less ridiculous levels of management that our small 40,000 residents city cannot afford. And keeping taxes low. Can we accomplish it? I am sure.

Just look at a city managed by a no-show manager during so many years. Would you affirm that it hasn't hurt city's finances?

Do we need an audit to anticipate that it wasn't for the best of our interests? And yes we should make some noise and let our voices heard on public forums, since they give us a miserable three-minutes speech on the stage.

I just invite you to organize and encourage people through these blogs and within your friends, so that they also make their voices heard. If you other ways, even better.

Please don't try to mitigate people's digression or displeasure.

If you have a real plan other than go stage our three-minutes shot at the meetings, let us know it.

I am an internet person. Internet Forums and Blogs are wonderful and easy ways of communicating. This one made me encounter a few interesting persons and I am sure that most of us are very well intentioned.

Posted On: **Monday, Jul. 5 2010 @ 1:48PM**

Andrew Markoff says:

No one reads these comments sections. A few commissioners may check out a few comments after an article appears, but it's unlikely that they follow up as more comments appear later on. Many Hallandale residents are elderly and rarely if ever go on line to check blogs like this. You are preaching only to the converted. I've checked out the other articles re: Hallandale, and it's mostly the same people commenting over and over again.

I am not impressed or overly-intimidated by our mayor. I simply acknowledge that she is the mayor, and she's who we have to work with. There are aspects about each and every commissioner that impress me, even if there are issues that upset or frustrate us in city politics otherwise.

You are very mistaken about those pathetic three minutes you get to speak at

commission meetings, however. That is the process in place to speak publicly to the commission, so use it.

I'm going to see if the budget meeting is televised tonight, though I won't be surprised if it isn't. There's so much flooding that I don't want to have to try to get over there to the chambers.

You can also always go to Shenanigans Restaurant at 3303 Sheridan St. and US 1 on any Wednesday and meet with whomever else show up for lunch at noon to discuss any local political issues. The lunch is hosted by Ken Gottlieb, who ran for state senator for our district and is currently running for Judge Group 20. There you can discuss and sound out your frustrations with dealing with our commission. Ken and others who go there had been a commission in Hollywood.

Posted On: Monday, Jul. 5 2010 @ 5:54PM

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