

Schmidt Obstacle To Progress

Editor, Journal:

I have had the privilege of serving on the Park Ridge City Council for almost two years, and in my view the biggest obstacle to moving our community forward has been Ald. David Schmidt.

Unlike Mr. Schmidt, I will not sink to the depths of name-calling or misrepresentation, but offer these facts about his actions, which speak louder than do his words, which while smooth, are misleading at best, and mendacious at worst.

He voted against the welfare of our senior citizens when he voted against the Executive Plaza, an Uptown residential development. This development included a 30% senior housing component to be run by Presbyterian Homes, a premier retirement home developer. This quality development, when built, will serve the many seniors who would like to stay close to their families.

He violated the trust and privacy of city employees by disclosing closed session minutes to the public on personnel issues. Put yourself in the position of any employee and think about how you would feel if your private personnel issues were brought up in public. Alderman Schmidt's actions are not only illegal, but also insensitive and uncaring.

He gave our compassionate community a black eye, making this city the laughing stock of the Northwest suburbs by helping to derail the Park Ridge Ministerial Association's (PRMA) effort to help the homeless. He scared away PADS, an organization with an excellent track record of helping the homeless,

and the key to providing the PRMA with the management skills to creating a successful homeless program.

He manipulated the facts by accusing the mayor of "being asleep at the wheel" regarding increased aircraft noise levels along the BellePlaine Corridor: the truth is that the runways were approved by Congress in 1998 before Mayor Frimark ever ran for office. Today, thanks to the efforts of Mayor Frimark and volunteers from ORD-REST, our community volunteer group working to reduce aircraft noise, we have begun a new dialogue with the O'Hare Modernization Program.

Mayor Frimark has served our community unselfishly for over 30 years. He has helped children, seniors, and the physically challenged and many more. While Mayor Frimark may not have the skills of a gifted orator, he is worthy of our trust. He has a proven track record of helping others and serving this community, and he does not debase the dialogue of service in this community with name-calling or deception. The same cannot be said of David Schmidt. He has both misrepresented and manipulated the truth. Mr. Schmidt should understand that in this town, a silver tongue is not a prerequisite for leadership—nor is making decisions based on a crass assessment of what he believes will get him elected, rather than making decisions based on how best to serve the long-term needs of our community.

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Park Ridge