

## Government Stinks

Dear Editor:

Supposedly the Harrison Multicultural Fest was to be a day of celebration, alliance and an opportunity to learn and enjoy the different cultures of other countries, such as their music, their food, their art, their customs, their folklore. But it was not to be this way. This was a day of intimidation and forceful abuse on behalf of some of our politicians.

It seems to me that those who did not support the person that the mayor had designated to be his puppet on the town council were punished gravely. They blocked our businesses with large trailers in order to humiliate and punish us, as well as making us lose our business. This was an intentionally immoral act. We desperately called Mayor McDonough several times so that these trailers could be removed from in front of our stores, and to this date, he did not have the courtesy to return the calls.

On the morning of the fest, I, Laly Mendes, owner of DaSilva Shop, personally complained to Councilman Art Pettigrew, and I asked him to please remove the trailer from in front of my store. Because he refused to do anything to assist me, I threatened to call the press, to which he responded that he did not care and that I could call whoever I wanted but that the trailer would not be moved and would continue to stay in front of my store. This proves what kind of people we have in our town government.

Many of my customers also felt offended and could not believe what they were seeing. They offered me their intentions to place themselves in front of the trailer in order to impede any form of business on the trailer. But I told them that we shouldn't do that, for we would be lowering ourselves to their level.

I believe that this is the only town that assists outside businesses against its own businesses in town. We are the businesses that belong to this town and consequently pay taxes and pay town employees which proves that our mayor and most of the town council must be idiotic.

I, on behalf of many other businesses in this town, would like to remind these politicians that we will remember this, come next election time.

When we vote for our mayor and council we do it with the belief that we will have someone with authority that will protect and support us; that we will have the ability to progress and make Harrison a better town. But it is not to be this way with the government body that we currently have. There is only the few that are privileged.

Let us not forget that the Harrison businesses are the heart of this town, and if we are continually threatened and abused we will close our doors and move out to other towns that will respect and value us. Before we do so, we are going to present our fight. We will not allow ourselves to be threatened or intimidated by the mayor nor by any other politician. We will place the signs of any candidate in our windows that will offer the businesses and the town of Harrison as a whole, his/her protection.

I take advantage of this opportunity to congratulate Councilman Anselmo Millan and to ask him to

continue to work for your community and our town. It is a shame that the mayor and the council work so hard and fruitlessly to copy the work that Councilman Millan has done throughout the years.

This multicultural fest could not be compared to Harrison fest of prior years. I would describe this multicultural fest as a poor "flea market." They forgot the opening ceremonial mass in Holy Cross Church in order to bless and honor the Harrison senior citizens. There were no free manicures, pedicures or hairdos for the seniors. There was no Family of the Year. There was no parade with representation of all the countries. There were no fireworks, no light arches, no participation by the Harrison High School Environmental Club. No raising of money for scholarships for Harrison High School students; paid town employees replaced the students that have always worked hard at the fest.

It seems to me that the mayor and council are not capacitated to create a successful fest. Or it could be that their intent is not to create a successful fest, but to destroy what others build.

Eulalia Mendes,

Owner of DaSilva Shop,

Harrison

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