

I would like to introduce our newest contributor Gabe Gabrielsen. Gabe is a retired Air Force Officer and Local Administrator for multiple area's. His thoughts give some humorous insight to local government, and a way for you the Free Riders Press readers to get involved with you're thoughts through the monthly survey. Check out his website at www.betterpublicofficials.com and enjoy.

**Humor in Local Government**

by Gabe Gabrielsen, OEO

Courtesy of Local Government Resources

**Are You A Public Official?**

An elderly gentleman walked into the food court of a local mall, ordered a cup of coffee and sat down at a table. He had just finished speaking at the League of Woman Voters meeting and wanted to rest. Within a few minutes a young lady approached and asked if she could join him at the table. He nodded and she sat down. "Are you a government official?" she asked while she sipped her soft drink?

"Well I guess you could say that" he replied. "After high school I went into the Army for three years. When I was discharged I came home, got married and ran for a township office and served as a township officer for 10 years. When the children got older, I decided to run for the school board and served there till they graduated. When the kids left home the Misses and I moved to town and I was encouraged to run for city council. I served four terms as a Councilman then was elected Mayor. Five ago I was urged to run for the County Board and last year I was voted County Board Chairman so I guess you could say I am a government officials."

"Wow that's great!" she said. "I wish I could do something like you; all I am though is a lesbian. I wake up each morning wishing I could have breakfast with a naked woman. I then fantasize about taking a shower with a naked woman. When I walk down a street and see a cool car drive by I wish I were riding away in that car with a beautiful woman for a romantic weekend get away. When I come home at night I dream of curling up next to a naked woman in bed and making love all night." The two then sat quiet for several minutes then finally the young lady said "Thanks for the conversation Mister but I've got to run".

A few minutes passed then a young man approached the County Board Chair and said "Do you mind if I join you?" "Go right ahead" he replied. "Hey are you a government official?" the young man asked. "Well let me tell ya, for the last 35 years I kinda thought I was but it seems I am really a lesbian" he replied.

**Do You Have A second?**

A survey question courtesy of

Local Government Resources

Rumble Strips

A intersection located in a rural area has experienced four fatalities in the past three years. Family members and relatives of the latest fatality have petitioned your board to install rumble strips at this remote 4-way intersection. A public hearing is held and residents from the surrounding area come to share their opposition to rumble strips stating they will only create unbearable noise 24 hours a day. A highway engineer from the state DOT is on hand and makes it clear the DOT does not endorse rumble strips. DOT policy is to install flashing red lights.

At the conclusion of the public hearing one of your colleagues makes a motion to install rumble strips. Another makes a motion to install flashing red lights. As an elected official what would you do?

- A) Second the motion to install rumble strips?
- B) Second the motion to install flashing lights?
- C) Second neither of the motions?
- D) Propose a different alternative?

There are two ways you can cast your vote in this survey. 1) log on to www.betterpublicofficials.com and go to monthly reader poll, or 2) call 800-274-7757 and just leave your opinion.

Last months survey involved a School Board membe's motion "To ban faculty and staff from wearing blue jeans, T-shirts and sweat-shirts." 92% of last month's voters would not second such a motion. In real life the 5 of the 6 school board members did not to second the motion either.

**HONOR**

By R. 'Bingo' Cosby

*HONOR is a narrow line –*

*A line you should never cross!*

*Only you can read the 'sign' –*

*"Go over and you suffer the loss!"*

*It can be a crooked line*

*And it may zig zag like a Z –*

*But you know when you go over it –*

*It's there – for only you to see.*

*Maybe it's a little white lie –*

*A truth – that you might just 'bend' –*

*But ask yourself the question – WHY?*

*Is it worth losing a friend?*

*When your honor is gone it's GONE!*

*Nothing can ever replace it!*

*So remember as you travel on –*

*If you don't have honor – you don't have shit!*

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